ALLUSIONS IN SUNSET BOULEVARD

The grinder would crank his organ in a public place. The grinder would often have as a companion a White-headed Capuchin monkey to do tricks and attract attention. The monkey would collect the money from the audience

The authorities often treated the organ grinders as beggars or public nuisances.

Organ Grinder



Salome the Daughter of Herodias (c AD 14 - between 62 and 71)

Christian traditions depict Salome as an icon of dangerous female seductiveness. According to Mark 6:21-29, Salome was the stepdaughter of King Herod, (the roman king who condemned Jesus) danced (the iconic dance of the seven veils), before him at the occasion of his birthday, Whereupon he promised with an oath, to give her whatsoever she wished. She asked for and received on a dish, the head of John the Baptist.

A significant character in the **Charles Dickens** novel, Great Expectations She is a wealthy spinster, who lives in her ruined mansion with her adopted daughter, Estella, while she herself is described as looking like "the witch of the place".

Miss Havisham



(May 6, 1895 – August 23, 1926)

Italian actor, sex symbol, and early pop icon. Known as the "Latin Lover. he was one of the most popular stars of the 1920s, and one of the most recognized stars from the silent movie era. Some of his best known roles include the silent films The Sheik and The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. His untimely death at age 31 caused mass hysteria among his female fans, propelling him into icon status.

Mentioned in Some Like It Hot

Rudolph Valentino



February 27, 1892 December 28, 1983

Prolific film and TV actor, who worked on over 140 films. He started in show business working in vaudeville, then moved on to Broadway. His film career began in 1926 and spanned the decades up to the 1970s. His most famous TV role was in My Three Sons from 1965 to 1972, which starred Fred MacMurray of The Apartment.

William Demarest



May 23, 1883 – December 12, 1939

American actor, noted for his swashbuckling roles in silent films such as The Black Pirate (1926). At one point, Fairbanks was known as "The King of Hollywood"

He married Mary
Pickford, America's
Sweetheart in 1920.
Together they are the
"Fairbanks" referred to
in Sunset Boulevard.

Mentioned in Some Like It Hot

Douglas Fairbanks



(April 8, 1892 – May 29, 1979)

Academy Award-winning motion picture star, as well as a co-founder of United Artists and one of the original 36 founders of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Known as "America's Sweetheart," "Little Mary" and "the girl with the curls,"

The American Film Institute named Pickford 24th among the greatest female stars of all time.

Mentioned in Some Like It Hot

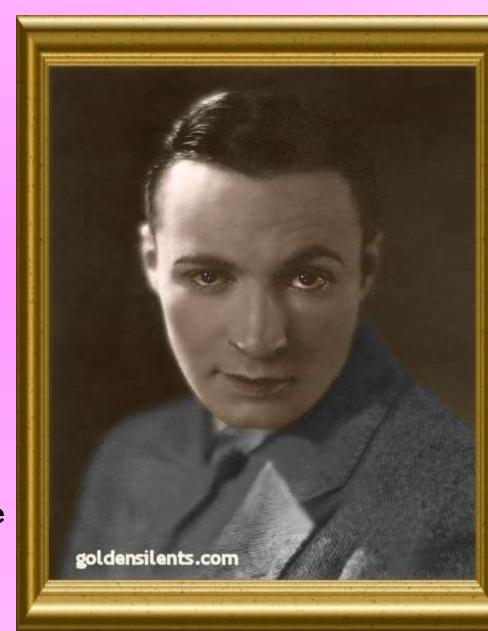
Mary Pickford



November 20 1898 October 15 1969

Rod performed in vaudeville as a teen, and by his twenties was signed up by Hollywood. Rod got his big break when he was hired by Cecil B. DeMille to star in his epic "The Ten Commandments" (1923). In 1927 married, silent screen star and actress Vilma Banky, in a huge, publicityfilled wedding, planned by Sam Goldwyn. Rod had made the transition to sound smoothly. By 1941 he made his last picture, the classic Meet John Doe.

Rod La Rocque



(1898 - 1991)

Vilma was dubbed "The Hungarian Rhapsody", and starred in some of the most successful films of the silent era, including "The Dark Angel" (1925), with Ronald Colman, "The Eagle" (1925) and "The Son of the Sheik" (1926) opposite Rudolph Valentino. Vilma's wedding to Rod La Rocque was an extravagant event paid for by Goldwyn. Sound destroyed Vilma's film career, since she barely spoke English, and she had a distinct accent which would have limited her American roles in any case. Her last American film was a sound picture with Edward G. Robinson called "A Lady to Love" (1930); after that she went to Germany and made two more films before retiring from the screen, her last film being "The Rebel" (1933).

Vilma Bánky



May 5, 1914 November 15, 1958

known sometimes as "Ty Power", was an American film and stage actor who appeared in dozens of films from the 1930s to the 1950s, often in swashbuckler roles or romantic leads such as The Mark of Zorro, The Black Swan, Prince of Foxes, The Black Rose, and Captain from Castile.

Tyrone Power



November 9, 1895 February 23, 1930

American film actress and the most popular screen comedienne of the silent film era. Her later career was marked by several successive scandals, including the murder of director William Desmond Taylor.

"Norma Desmond", which has been cited as a combination of the names Mabel Normand and William Desmond Taylor.

Mabel Normand

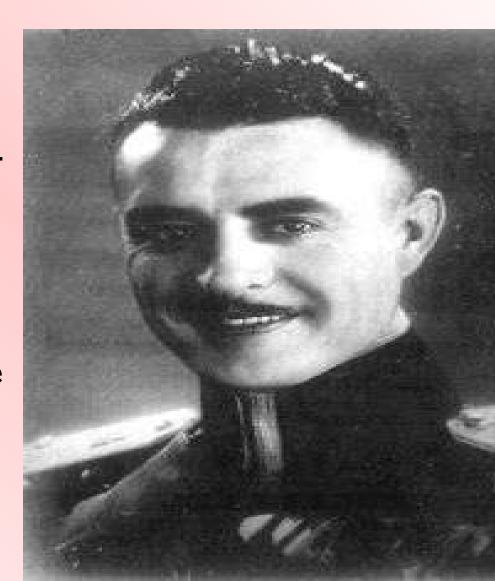


July 10, 1895 January 9, 1936

Actor and major star of the silent film era.

Known as "the great lover," he rivaled even the great Rudolph Valentino as a box office draw. Though he was often cited as one of the high profile examples of an actor who was unsuccessful in making the transition to talkies.

John Gilbert



February 18, 1890 October 29, 1963

American actor whose career spanned silent films and talkies, appearing in The Sheik, A Woman of Paris, and A Star is Born.

"Suave" and "debonair" are synonymous with Adolphe Menjou. The epitome of knavish, continental charm and sartorial opulence, Menjou, was known for his trademark waxy black mustache, and tailored Suits and Tuxedos. Adolphe was a "friendly" witness for th House on Un-**American Activities** Committee.

ADOLPHE MENJOU



Elsa

She was best known as a hostess to the celebrities of her day. In her own words, she was

"... a short, fat, homely piano player from Keokuk, Iowa, with no money or background, [who] decided to become a legend and did just that."



Wallace Reid might have made the perfect F. Scott Fitzgerald character, a Dick Diver or even a Gatsby, an eighteen-karat-gold Princeton man -- flaming, gentle, beautiful, and doomed. Conflicting accounts abound as to the origins of his morphine addiction, but of general accord is that, after suffering an injury during location filming, he was given morphine to dull the pain and continue shooting. Reid's drug related death was only the beginning of a string of scandals that rocked Hollywood.

Wallace Reid



February 26, 1921 March 11, 2007

American film actress and singer.

Hutton made 19 films between 1942 and 1952 including a hugely popular The Perils of Pauline. She was billed over Fred Astaire in the 1950 musical Let's Dance. 1950 was her biggest year, and she was one of the industries biggest star in 1950. Hutton's greatest screen triumph was Annie Get Your Gun.

Betty Hutton



September 3, 1913 January 29, 1964

Alan Ladd

American film actor. He was famous for his emotionless demeanor and small stature.

Films include: Shane and The Great Gatsby



April 16, 1889 - December 25, 1977 **Academy Award-winning** English comedy actor. Chaplin became one of the most famous actors as well as a notable director, composer and musician in early Hollywood. He is considered to have been one of the finest mimes and clowns ever caught on film and has greatly influenced performers in this field.

Charles Chaplin



Elizabeth Short July 29, 1924 January 15, 1947

Victim of a gruesome and much-publicized murder. Nicknamed the Black Dahlia, Short was found severely mutilated, with her body severed, on January 15, 1947 in Leimert Park, Los Angeles, California. The Black Dahlia murder has been a baffler. It is the most infamous unresolved homicide in LAPD history.

Black Dahlia



The Wax Works

Buster Keaton

October 4, 1895 – February 1, 1966)

Academy Awardwinning American comic actor and filmmaker. Best known for his silent films, his trademark was physical comedy with a stoic, deadpan expression on his face, earning him the nickname "The **Great Stone Face" One** of the Wax works he as largely forgotten by the public in 1950.



Born March 30, 1888 Died in Hemet, California Anna Q. Nilsson February 11, 1974

Swedish actress who achieved success in American silent movies. With sound films, Nilsson's career went into a sharp decline, although she continued to play small, often uncredited parts in films into the 1950s. Her best known performance in a sound film is as "herself", as one of the "waxworks" in Sunset Boulevard.



October 26, 1875 - 21 December 21, 1958

Warner began his film career in silent films in 1914, He played lead roles, culminating in the role of Jesus Christ in Cecil B. DeMille's silent 1927 film epic, The King of Kings. Other films include: You Can't Take It with You (1938), Mr. Smith Goes to Washington and It's a Wonderful Life

H. B. Warner



Mack Sennett Bathing Beauties

The picture to the right features Gloria Swanson (on top) when she was one of Mack Sennett's Bathing Beauties.

The Sennett Bathing Beauties were pin-up girls for the doughboys of the First World War.



Gloria Swanson (Norma) and Phyllis Haver in 1917

Pearl White

(March 4, 1889 – August 4, 1938) American film actress, the socalled "Stunt Queen" of silent films, most notably in The Perils of Pauline.



As Themselve

S

August 12, 1881 January 21, 1959

Academy Award-winning American filmmaker known for the flamboyance and showmanship of his movies.

In Sunset Boulevard,
DeMille plays himself on
the set of one of his
biblical epics, Samson
and Delilah. Other films
include: The Ten
Commandments in 1923
and 1956 and The
Greatest Show on Earth
1951.

C B DeMille



May 2, 1885 February 1, 1966

Gossip columnist, whose long-running feud with friend turned arch-rival Louella Parsons became at least as notorious as many of Hopper's columns.

Hedda plays herself in Sunset Boulevard.

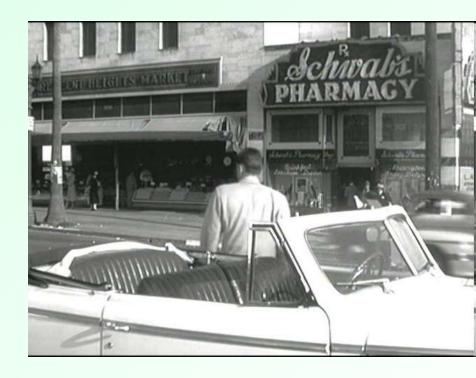
Hopper courted controversy as well for "naming names" of suspected or alleged Communists during the Hollywood Blacklist.

Hedda Hopper



A meeting place of movie actors and dealmakers from the 1930s through the 1950s. Insiders referred to it as "headquarters". Hollywood legend holds that Lana **Turner** was discovered there.

Schwab's Drug Store, at 8024 Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood, California,



Norma Desmond is driven in an antique Isotta-Fraschini by her chauffeur Max.

