

LAUREN BACALL,

A SCREEN GODDESS OF THE SHADOWS



This April 14, 2011 file photo shows a signed photograph of Lauren Bacall at Bonhams and Butterfields in Los Angeles, California, during a preview before an auction on April 20, 2011.

Anybody got a match? was Lauren Bacall's first line, in Howard Hawks' "To Have and Have Not," and, ever since, captive moviegoers have been desperately fumbling for a light. Bacall, who died Tuesday in New York at age 89, seemed to live in black and white. Her slinky sultriness rose like an apparition from the dark shadows of 1940s film noir, her leopard-like eyes beaming from the dark, her smoky voice oozing wisdom beyond her years from the very start.

And what a start it was. Bacall arrived a fully formed screen goddess in 1944's "To Have and Have Not." She was only 19 (less than half as old as Bogart) and had been plucked by Hawks from fashion (his wife, Slim Hawks, saw her in a magazine). But never mind. Bacall was already eye to eye with Bogart - not merely his girl, but an equally commanding presence. The movie promoted Bacall as "The ONLY kind of woman for his kind of man." "She's a real Joe," Bogart once said. "You'll fall in love with her like everybody else."

He did. They did. Everyone did. When Bacall, as Slim in "To Have and Have Not," left Bogart's character for the night, she etched herself in movie history.

"You know you don't have to act with me, Steve," she purred. "You don't have to say anything, and you don't have to do anything. Not a thing. Oh, maybe just whistle. You know how to whistle, don't you, Steve? You just put your lips together and blow."

Bogart, gob smacked, seemed to fall for Bacall right on film. Their subsequent romance - perhaps the most fabled in Hollywood - lasted more than 12 years until his death. Bacall put a gold whistle in his urn with an inscription that read, "If you need anything, just blow." Bacall followed up one of the most self-assured, intoxicating screen debuts with a remarkable string of films. Few actors have ever emerged so resoundingly: the labyrinthine William Faulkner co-scripted private eye tale "The Big Sleep," the perspective-shifting "Dark Passage," and the stormy Florida noir "Key Largo" by John Huston.

partnership both professionally and personally. Their romance carried along on the screen; in "The Big Sleep" (again with Hawks), they again jostled with bristling dialogue. In one famous scene, they flirted with horse-racing double-entendres:

Bogart: "You've got a touch of class but I don't know how far you can go."

Bacall: "A lot depends on who's in the saddle."

Their marriage, Bacall later speculated, was not good for her career. While she recalled their time together as the most happy of her life, Bacall made no more than a film a year and distanced herself from Hawks' star-molding. (He had urged her to keep her voice deep and low.)

Bacall outlasted Bogart, who died in 1957, and went on to make a number of notable films, including 1957's "Designing Woman" and 1974's "Murder on the Orient Express." She was one of the last of the great stars of Hollywood's Golden Age, which enabled her some unlikely late entries, like a violent cameo as herself on TV's "The Sopranos." Her career also included a National Book Award for her autobiography "By Myself," two Tony Awards, an Academy Award nomination at age 71 and an honorary Oscar in 2009.

But it was those early black-and-whites where Bacall - nicknamed "The Look" - most thrived. She was in many ways our last tether to a bygone era of Hollywood where movies were sumptuously shaded and the dialogue cracked. In both, Bacall - a match that burned brightest when first struck - had few peers.—AP

Strong partnership

She starred in all with Bogart, forging an uncommonly strong

LAUREN BACALL

in her own words,
on and off screen

Hollywood legend Lauren Bacall, who died Tuesday, is survived by some of the most memorable lines ever spoken on the silver screen, as well as some razor-sharp opinions of her own. Here is a selection, drawn from the IMDB.com online entertainment database unless otherwise noted.

From her movies:

1- "You know you don't have to act with me, Steve. You don't have to say anything, and you don't have to do anything. Not a thing. Oh, maybe just whistle. You know how to whistle, don't you, Steve? You just put your lips together and blow." (as Marie "Slim" Browning, to Humphrey Bogart's Harry Morgan, in "To Have and Have Not")

2- "So you're a private detective. I didn't know they existed, except in books, or else they were greasy little men snooping around hotel corridors. My, you're a mess, aren't you?" (as Vivien Rutledge, to Bogart's Philip Marlowe, in "The Big Sleep")

3- "Charlie! Charlie Winook and his family, Crawfish Island. Charlie's a prince of the Seminole Nation. His ancestors go back to the gods. He sells sea shells by the sea shore." (as Nora Temple, in "Key Largo")

4- "That old fella". "Look at Roosevelt. Look at Churchill. Look at that old fella what's his name in 'The African Queen'" (as Schatze Page, in "How to Marry a Millionaire," talking about older men who wed younger women—like Bogart, her husband at the time)

From real life:

1- "I never believed marriage was a lasting institution. I thought that to be married for five years was to be married forever."

2- "I put my career in second place throughout both my marriages and it suffered. I don't regret it. You make choices. If you want a good marriage, you must pay attention to that. If you want to be independent, go ahead. You can't have it all."

3- "A legend involves the past. I don't like categories. This one is great and that one is great. The word 'great' stands for something."

4- "I think your whole life shows in your face and you should be proud of that."

5- "Welcoming to everyone." "Being a liberal is the best thing on earth you can be. You are welcoming to everyone when you're a liberal." (in a 2005 interview with TV talk show host Larry King)

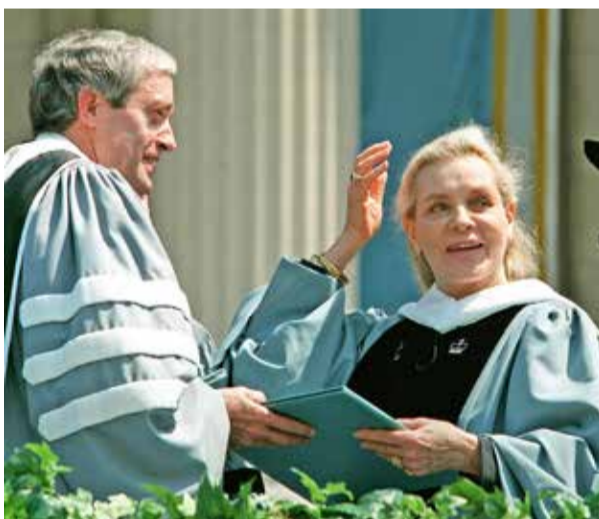
6- "Yes, I saw 'Twilight.' My granddaughter made me watch it. She said it was the greatest vampire film ever. After the 'film' was over I wanted to smack her across her head with my shoe... Watch 'Nosferatu' instead."

7- "As long as I can remember, I guess I wanted to be something that I wasn't." (appearing on BBC radio's "Desert Island Discs" in 1979)—AFP

This Jan 14, 1981 file photo shows actress Lauren Bacall rehearsing with Eivind Harum, for the musical "Woman of the Year," in New York.



This May 7, 2005 file photo shows US actress Lauren Bacall signing copies of her autobiography at a book shop in Paris, France.



This May 20, 1998 file photo shows US actress Lauren Bacall receiving an honorary degree from Columbia University President George Rupp in New York.



This January 24, 1999 file photo shows US actress Lauren Bacall after presenting US actor Jim Carey with the best actor award in a drama for his role in the film "The Truman Show" during the 56th Annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, CA.



Flowers and mementos are seen on actress Lauren Bacall's star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, August 12, 2014 in Hollywood, California.



This January 19, 1996 file photo shows US actress Lauren Bacall holding her award for Best Supporting Actress in a Motion Picture Comedy for her role in "The Mirror Has Two Faces" during the 54th Annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, California.

Facts about actress Lauren Bacall

1- She was born Betty Joan Perske but took on a version of her mother's last name, Bacal, after her parents divorced. Director Howard Hawks gave her the stage name Lauren but friends always called her Betty.

2- She first came to the attention of Hawks' wife, who spotted a picture of Bacall modeling in Harper's Bazaar magazine and pointed it out to her husband.

3- Bacall's first movie was "To Have and Have Not" in 1944 and a year later she married her co-star, Humphrey Bogart, when she was 20 and he was 45. They also appeared together in "The Big Sleep," "Dark Passage" and "Key Largo." After Bogart's death from cancer in 1957, Bacall was married to Jason Robards for eight years.

4- In "How to Marry a Millionaire," Bacall's character referred to Bogart by saying: "I've always liked older men ... Look at that old fellow what's-his-name in 'The African Queen.' Absolutely crazy about him."

5- Bacall was nominated for an Oscar in 1997 for "The Mirror Has Two Faces." She won Tonys for best leading actress in a musical in 1970 for "Applause" and 1981 for "Woman of the Year." In 2009, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences awarded her an honorary Oscar "in recognition of her central place in the Golden Age of motion pictures."—Reuters



This Feb 1950 file photo shows actor Humphrey Bogart, left, and his wife actress Lauren Bacall appear at the Stork Club in New York.



This May 1945 file photo shows actor Humphrey Bogart, left, with his wife actress Lauren Bacall.



This July 13, 1997 file photo shows US actress Lauren Bacall during a fashion show in Rome in a long black evening dress created by Italian stylist Gai Mattiolo.