



Legends of Hollywood: The Life of Olivia de Havilland

Charles River Editors

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*Includes pictures.

*Includes de Havilland's quotes about her own life and career.

*Includes a bibliography for further reading.

Olivia de Havilland is one of the last few living actresses who worked during the Golden Era of Hollywood, but also one of the most decorated, winning dozens of awards over the course of a 50 year career. Among those, she most notably won the Academy Award for Best Actress for *To Each His Own* (1946) and *The Heiress* (1949), more than a decade after she got her start as an 18 year old in Hollywood. Ironically, de Havilland was in California in part because the young British girl who had been born in Tokyo stopped in the States for medical treatment.

Of course, de Havilland isn't well remembered for any of those accolades or other movies but because she played Melanie Hamilton in *Gone With the Wind* (1939), perhaps the most famous movie in American history. Although she was a veteran actress at the time, de Havilland's career hadn't progressed much since she started, and rumor has it that she eventually got the role after her own sister, Joan Fontaine, was asked to audition for the part and recommended Olivia instead. Olivia was ultimately nominated for an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress and became a household name in her adopted country overnight.

Having been typecast in light romantic comedies before *Gone With the Wind*, that performance ensured de Havilland subsequently had a long, productive and versatile career making everything from Westerns and dramas. Of those movies, she is perhaps most closely associated with the enigmatic Errol Flynn, another foreign-born actor who was more notorious for his roles off the screen than on it. Before his untimely death, they appeared in several films together and became one of Hollywood's most popular on-screen couples.

Legends of Hollywood: The Life of Olivia de Havilland profiles the life and career of one of Hollywood's most beloved actresses. Along with pictures of important people, places, and events, you will learn about de Havilland like never before, in no time at all.

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