

North Carolina Center for Creative Retirement: College for Seniors

Dancers of the Golden Age of Hollywood

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A spellbinding course covering the dancers and choreographers from the earliest short films of the 1890s through the Golden Age of Hollywood (1927-1957). Let your heart dance with exquisite memories of the masters of dance on the silver screen: Fred, Ginger, Eleanor and Gene.

The birth of the Golden Age of Hollywood is often taken to be the late 1920s with the coming of the first movies with sound – the “talkies.” The end of the Golden Age of Hollywood is often taken to be the late 1950s. We start with 1927 which marks the year of the first feature film with sound, *The Jazz Singer* starring Al Jolson. We then go 30 years, a nice round number, to 1957.

Selections of Films with Dance from the Birth of Movies through the Golden Age of Hollywood

Date	Movie or Description	Dancers or Description	Choreographers
1878	Muybridge's Horse Movie	Are all feet off the ground?	(First Movie - From Stills)
1880s	Muybridge Dance Movie	Kate Larrigan	(First Dance - From Stills)
1888	Louis Le Prince	Roundhay Garden Scene	(First Movie Filmed)
1894	Edison Studio	Carmencita	
1895	Edison Studio	Annabelle	Loie Fuller (Serpentine)
1895	Edison Studio	Princess Ali	
1896	Lumière	Serpentine Dancer	In the Style of Loie Fuller
1897	Edison Studio	Bowery Waltz	
1897	Edison Studio	Crissie Sheridan	Another Serpentine Dance
1898	Edison Studio	Ella Lola	
1903	American Mutoscope	Ameta	
1903	American Mutoscope	Franchonetti Sisters	
1904	American Mutoscope	Princess Rajah	
1910	The Wonderful Wizard of Oz	Bebe Daniels	
1916	Vaudeville (not by choice)	Ruth St. Denis, Ted Shawn	Modern Dance Pioneers
1916	<i>Intolerance</i>	Denishawn Dancers	Ruth St. Denis, Ted Shawn
1916	<i>The Dumb Girl of Portici</i>	Anna Pavlova	
1919	<i>Don't Change Your Husband</i>	Gloria Swanson, Elliott Dexter, and Dancers	Theodore Kosloff, Ted Shawn
1921	<i>The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse</i>	Rudolph Valentino and Beatrice Dominguez	The Tango
1927	<i>The Jazz Singer</i>	Al Jolson	Ernest Belcher
1928	<i>Our Dancing Daughters</i>	Joan Crawford	
1929	<i>The Cocoanuts</i>	Mary Eaton	Robert Florey, Joseph Santley, Erna Kay
1929	<i>Glorifying the American Girl</i>	Mary Eaton, Dan Healy	Ted Shawn
1929	<i>The Hollywood Revue of 1929</i>	Joan Crawford	Ernest Belcher, George Cunningham, Sammy Lee, Natacha Natova, Albertina Rasch
1929	<i>The Love Parade</i>	Lillian Roth and Lupino Lane	

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1929	<i>Sunnyside Up</i>	Sharon Lynn and Chorus	Seymour Felix
1929	<i>Tanned Legs</i>	June Clyde	Pearl Eaton
1929	<i>A Ziegfeld Midnight Frolic</i>	Ziegfeld Dancers	Sammy Lee
1930	<i>March of Time (unreleased)</i>	Albertina Rasch Dancers	Albertina Rasch, Sammy Lee
1930	<i>Whoopee!</i>	Ethel Shutta and Chorus	Busby Berkeley
1931	<i>Dance, Fools, Dance</i>	Joan Crawford, Chorus	
1931	<i>Palmy Days</i>	Eddie Cantor, Goldwyn Girls	Busby Berkeley
1932	<i>Walt Disney's Silly Symphony: "Flowers and Trees" Cartoon</i>	Introduces the Three-Strip Technicolor Process (Full Color) - A Dance Scene	
1933	<i>42nd Street</i>	Ruby Keeler	Busby Berkeley
1933	<i>Broadway to Hollywood</i>	Mickey Rooney	Sammy Lee, Albertina Rasch
1933	<i>Dancing Lady</i>	Fred Astaire, Joan Crawford	Sammy Lee, Eddie Prinz
1933	<i>Footlight Parade</i>	Chorus	Busby Berkeley, completed by Larry Ceballos
1933	<i>Gold Diggers of 1933</i>	Ginger Rogers, Chorus	Busby Berkeley
		Ruby Keeler, Dick Powell	
1934	<i>Dames</i>	Ruby Keeler, Dick Powell, Chorus	Busby Berkeley, Ruby Keeler
1934	<i>Kid Millions</i>	Harold Nicholas, Goldwyn Girls	Seymour Felix, George Murphy, Fayard Nicholas
1934	<i>The Gay Divorcee</i>	Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers	Fred Astaire, Dave Gould, Hermes Pan(agiotospoulos)
1934	<i>Walt Disney's Silly Symphony: "The Big Bad Wolf" Cartoon</i>	Another Technicolor Film, Dancing Scene with Pigs and Little Red Riding Hood	
1935	<i>Becky Sharp</i>	Dance Scene in First Feature Film to Use Three-Strip Technicolor (Full Color)	Russell Lewis (Dance Director)
1935	<i>Roberta</i>	Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers	Fred Astaire, Hermes Pan
1935	<i>Top Hat</i>	Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers	Fred Astaire, Hermes Pan
1936	<i>Born to Dance</i>	Eleanor Powell	David Gould, Eleanor Powell
1936	<i>Modern Times</i>	Charlie Chaplin	Charlie Chaplin
1936	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	Norma Shearer	Agnes de Mille
1936	<i>Swing Time</i>	Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers	Fred Astaire, Hermes Pan
1936	<i>The Great Ziegfeld</i>	"A Pretty Girl is Like a Melody" Dance Number	Seymour Felix (Ray Bolger for his own solo work elsewhere in the movie)
1937	<i>Shall We Dance</i>	Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers	Astaire, Pan, Harry Losee
1937	<i>Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs</i>	Disney Cartoon Film	Marge Champion (Disney teenage dance model)
1938	<i>Rebecca of Sunnybrook</i>	Shirley Temple, Bill Bojangles Robinson	Nick Castle, Bill Robinson, Geneva Sawyer
1938	<i>Tarnished Angel</i>	Ann Miller	Ann Miller
1938	<i>You Can't Take It With You</i>	Ann Miller	Aida Broadbent
1939	<i>Gone With the Wind</i>	Vivien Leigh, Clark Gable	Eddie Prinz, Frank Floyd
1939	<i>Honolulu</i>	Eleanor Powell	Bobby Connolly, Sammy Lee, Eleanor Powell

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1939	<i>The Story of Vernon and Irene Castle</i>	Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers	Fred Astaire, Hermes Pan
1939	<i>The Wizard of Oz</i>	Ray Bolger (Scarecrow)	Busby Berkeley, Ray Bolger, Bobby Connolly
1940	<i>Broadway Melody of 1940</i>	Fred Astaire, Eleanor Powell, Chorus of Sailors	Fred Astaire, Bobby Connolly, George Murphy, Eleanor Powell, Albertina Rasch
1940	<i>Down Argentine Way</i>	Fayard Nicholas, Harold Nicholas (brothers)	Nick Castle, Fayard Nicholas, Geneva Sawyer
1941	<i>A Little Jive is Good for You</i>	Martha Tilton, Slate Brothers	
1941	<i>Babes on Broadway</i>	Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney	Busby Berkeley
1941	<i>Hellzapoppin</i>	Frankie Manning and Whitey's Lindy Hoppers	Frankie Manning, Richard Barstow, Nick Castle, Eddie Prinz
1941	<i>Lady be Good</i>	Eleanor Powell and Her Dog Buttons	Busby Berkeley, Berry Bros, Eleanor Powell
1941	<i>Pot o' Gold</i>	Paulette Goddard, Chorus	Larry Ceballos
1941	<i>Sun Valley Serenade</i>	Nicholas Brothers Fayard & Harold, Dorothy Dandridge	Fayard Nicholas, Hermes Pan, Geneva Sawyer
1941	<i>Two-Faced Woman</i>	Greta Garbo, Robert Alton	Robert Alton
1941	<i>You'll Never Get Rich</i>	Fred Astaire, Rita Hayworth	Fred Astaire, Robert Alton
1942	<i>For Me and My Gal</i>	Gene Kelly, Judy Garland	Busby Berkeley, Bobby Connolly, Gene Kelly, George Murphy
1942	<i>Footlight Serenade</i>	Betty Grable, Hermes Pan	Hermes Pan
1942	<i>My Gal Sal</i>	Rita Hayworth, Hermes Pan	Hermes Pan, Val Raset
1942	<i>Orchestra Wives</i>	Nicholas Brothers Fayard and Harold	Nick Castle, Fayard Nicholas
1942	<i>Ship Ahoy</i>	Eleanor Powell	Bobby Connolly
1942	<i>Yankee Doodle Dandy</i>	James Cagney and Chorus	Seymour Felix, LeRoy Prinz, John Boyle
1942	<i>You Were Never Lovelier</i>	Fred Astaire and Rita Hayworth	Fred Astaire, Hermes Pan, Val Raset, Peggy Carroll
1943	<i>I Dood It</i>	Eleanor Powell	Bobby Connolly
1943	<i>Stormy Weather</i>	Nicholas Brothers Fayard and Harold	Nick Castle, Katherine Dunham, Fanchon, Fayard Nicholas, Bill & Clarence Robinson
1943	<i>Thousands Cheer</i>	Gene Kelly	Gene Kelly, Don Loper, Eleanor Powell
1944	<i>Cover Girl</i>	Rita Hayworth, Gene Kelly, Phil Silvers	Stanley Donen, Seymour Felix, Gene Kelly, Val Raset
1944	<i>Duffy's Tavern</i>	Miriam Nelson, Johnny Coy	Billy Daniel, Danny Dare
1944	<i>Hail the Conquering Hero</i>	Miriam Nelson (uncredited)	Miriam Nelson most likely.
1944	<i>Pin Up Girl</i>	Betty Grable, then Brothers Frank and Harry Condos	Condos Brothers, Fanchon, Gae Foster, Hermes Pan, Alice Sullivan
1945	<i>Duffy's Tavern</i>	Miriam Nelson and Johnny Coy	Billy Daniel, Danny Dare, Miriam Nelson (assistant)

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1945	<i>Sensations of 1945</i>	Chorus, Eleanor Powell	Sammy Lee, David Lichine, Charles O'Curran, Eleanor Powell
1946	<i>Blue Skies</i>	Fred Astaire	Fred Astaire, Hermes Pan, David Robel
1946	<i>Gilda</i>	Rita Hayworth	Jack Cole
1946	<i>Love Laughs at Andy Hardy</i>	Mickey Rooney and Dorothy Ford	Jack Donohue
1946	<i>Rhythm and Weep (The Three Stooges)</i>	Gloria Patrice, Ruth Godfrey, and Nita Bieber	Most likely the three women dancers themselves.
1946	<i>Yolanda and the Thief</i>	Fred Astaire, Lucille Bremer	Fred Astaire, Eugene Loring
1946	<i>Ziegfeld Follies</i>	Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly	Robert Alton, Fred Astaire, Gene Kelly, Eugene Loring, Charles Walters
1948	<i>Easter Parade</i>	Ann Miller, Fred Astaire	Ann Miller, Fred Astaire, Robert Alton, Nick Castle, Charles Walters
1949	<i>The Barkleys of Broadway</i>	Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers	Robert Alton, Fred Astaire, Hermes Pan
1949	<i>On the Town</i>	Frank Sinatra, Gene Kelly, Jules Munshin, Vera-Ellen, Betty Garrett, Ann Miller	Stanley Donen, Gene Kelly, Ann Miller
1950	<i>Let's Dance</i>	Fred Astaire: Piano Dance	Fred Astaire, Hermes Pan
1950	<i>Summer Stock</i>	Gene Kelly, Judy Garland, and Chorus	Gene Kelly, Nick Castle, Charles Walters
1950	<i>The Daughter of Rosie O'Grady</i>	June Haver and Gene Nelson	Gene Nelson, Miriam Nelson, Eddie Prinz
1951	<i>An American in Paris</i>	Gene Kelly, Leslie Caron	Gene Kelly
1951	<i>Lullaby of Broadway</i>	Doris Day, Gene Nelson	Gene Nelson, Miriam Nelson, Eddie Prinz, LeRoy Prinz, Al White
1951	<i>Royal Wedding</i>	Fred Astaire, Jane Powell	Fred Astaire, Nick Castle
1952	<i>April in Paris</i>	Doris Day, Ray Bolger	Ray Bolger, LeRoy Prinz, Donald Saddler
1952	<i>Lovely to Look At</i>	Marge and Gower Champion	Gower Champion, Ann Miller, Hermes Pan
1952	<i>Singing in the Rain</i>	Gene Kelly, Debbie Reynolds, Donald O'Connor, Cyd Charisse	Stanley Donen and Gene Kelly
1953	<i>The Band Wagon</i>	Fred Astaire, Cyd Charisse	Fred Astaire, Michael Kidd
1953	<i>Gentlemen Prefer Blondes</i>	Marilyn Monroe, Jane Russell	Jack Cole
1953	<i>Give a Girl a Break</i>	Debbie Reynolds and Bob Fosse	Gower Champion, Stanley Donen, Bob Fosse, Bill Foster
1953	<i>The Affairs of Dobbie Gillis</i>	Bob Fosse, Debbie Reynolds, Bobby Van, Barbara Ruick	Bob Fosse, Alex Romero
1953	<i>Kiss Me Kate</i>	Ann Miller, Tommy Rall, Bob Fosse, Carol Haney, Bobby	Hermes Pan, Ann Miller, Bob Fosse

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		Van, Jeanne Coyne	
1954	<i>Seven Brides for Seven Brothers</i>	Barn Dance Scene	Michael Kidd
1954	<i>There's No Business Like Show Business</i>	Ethel Merman, Dan Dailey, Johnnie Ray, Donald O'Connor, Mitzi Gaynor, Marilyn Monroe	Robert Alton for Stage Numbers, Jack Cole working with Marilyn Monroe (uncredited)
1954	<i>White Christmas</i>	Danny Kaye, Vera-Ellen	Robert Alton
1955	<i>Guys and Dolls</i>	Marlon Brando, Jean Simmons, Goldwyn Girls	Michael Kidd
1955	<i>It's Always Fair Weather</i>	Gene Kelly, Dan Dailey, Michael Kidd, Cyd Charisse	Stanley Donen, Gene Kelly
1955	<i>My Sister Eileen</i>	Bob Fosse, Tommy Rall	Bob Fosse
1956	<i>Anything goes</i>	Donald O'Connor, Mitzi Gaynor	Nick Castle, Maggie Banks (assistant), Ernest Flatt, Roland Petit
1956	<i>Carousel</i>	"June is Bustin' Out All Over" Scene	Rod Alexander, Agnes de Mille
1956	<i>Picnic</i>	Kim Novak, William Holden	Miriam Nelson
1957	<i>Les Girls</i>	Gene Kelly, Mitzi Gaynor	Jack Cole, Gene Kelly
1957	<i>Silk Stockings</i>	Fred Astaire, Cyd Charisse	Fred Astaire, Eugene Loring, Hermes Pan