

The Buffalo Film Seminars

4/5/2000

Angelika & Theater

Bonnie and Clyde

(1967)

Director Arthur Penn
Script Robert Benton, David Newman,
Robert Towne
Producer Warren Beatty
Original music Charles Strouse
Cinematographer Burnett Guffey
Film Editor Dede Allen
Art Director Dean Tavoularis

Warren Beatty Clyde Barrow
Faye Dunaway Bonnie Parker
Michael J. Pollard C.W. Moss
Gene Hackman Buck Barrow
Estelle Parsons Blanche Barrow
Denver Pyle Frank Hamer
Dub Taylor Ivan Moss
Evans Evans Velma Davis
Gene Wilder Eugene Grizzard
Morgan Fairchild double for Faye Dunaway

Bonnie and Clyde won two Academy Awards (Best Cinematography Burnett Guffey, Best Supporting Actress Estelle Parsons) and was nominated for eight others: actor (Beatty), actress (Dunnaway), costume design (Theadora Van Runkle), director (Penn), picture (Beatty, supporting actor (Hackman and Pollard) and screenplay written directly for the screen (Benton and Newman).

ARTHUR PENN (27 September 1922, Philadelphia) still makes an occasional film but his best work was done in the 1960s and 1970s: *Night Moves* (1975), *Little Big Man* (1970), *Alice's Restaurant* (1969), *The Chase* (1966), *Mickey One* (1965), *The Miracle Worker* (1962). He also made two of the looniest westerns: *The Left-Handed Gun* (1958), in which Paul Newman plays a hyperbolically sensitive Actors Studio Billy the Kid, and the terminally pretentious *The Missouri Breaks* (1976), in which Marlon Brando plays an itinerant hit man who sometimes dresses in drag and sings Kaddish to his horse.

WARREN BEATTY (Henry Warren Beaty, 30 March 1937, Richmond, Virginia) seemed determined to count coup on every female movie star in Hollywood, with the possible exception of his sister, Shirley McLaine, but then he and Annette Bening struck fire while they were making *Bugsy* and it's been sweet monogamy and paternity ever since. Beatty is a polymath: actor, director, writer, producer. He takes big risks that sometimes pay off (*Reds*) and sometimes fall flat (*Ishtar*). These are some of the films he's acted in (the letters d, w, p indicate his additional functions): *Bulworth* (1998 pwd), *Bugsy* (1991 pwd), *Dick Tracy* (1990 pwd), *Ishtar* (1987 p), *Reds* (1981 pwd), *Heaven Can Wait* (1978 pwd), *Shampoo* (1975 pw), *The Parallax View* (1974), *McCabe & Mrs. Miller* (1971), *Mickey One* (1965), *Lilith* (1964), *Splendor in the Grass* (1961). He won the Motion Picture Academy's Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award in 2000, and the Academy Award for best director for *Reds*, and nominations for *Bulworth* (screenplay), *Bugsy* (actor, best picture), *Reds* (actor, screenplay), *Heaven Can Wait* (actor, director, picture, screenplay), *Shampoo* (screenplay). He was also nominated for the Razzie Award's Worst Picture for



Ishtar.

1967 was a good year for **FAYE DUNAWAY** (14 January 1941, Bascom, Florida): she began her film career with two good roles, *Bonnie and Clyde* and *Hurry Sundown*, one of them terrific the other a real dog. Since then she has been in about 65 other films, and she's maintained the same balance, though lately the dogs seem in ascendance. She received a best actress Academy Award for her performance in *Network* (1976) and nominations for *Chinatown* (1974) and *Bonnie and Clyde*. She was the Hasty Pudding Woman of the Year in 1974. She received Razzie nominations as worst supporting actress for *Albino Alligator* 1996, *The Chamber* 1996, *Dunston Checks In* 1996, and *The Temp* 1993 (she won that one). In 1990, she was nominated for the Razzie for Worst Actress of the Decade. She was nominated for Razzie Worst Actress for *Supergirl* 1984, *The Wicked Lady* 1983, *Mommie Dearest* 1981 (won, tied with Bo Derek in *Tarzan the Ape Man*), and *The First Deadly Sin* 1980. Some of her other films are *Don Juan DeMarco* (1995), *The Handmaid's Tale* (1990), *Barfly* (1987), *Three Days of the Condor* (1975), *Little Big Man* (1970), *The Arrangement* (1969), and *The Thomas Crown Affair* 1968 (she had a minor role in the 1999 remake).

GENE HACKMAN (30 January 1930, San Bernadino, California) stays busy: he has three films coming out this year (*The Replacements*, *Under Suspicion* and *Breakers*), and will star in at least one the following year (2001). He was Lex Luthor in three of the four *Superman* films 1978, 1980, 1987, and Popeye Doyle in *The French Connection* 1971, 1975). He first worked with Warren Beatty in his first credited film role, *Lilith* 1964 (he had an uncredited bit as a cop in *Mad Dog Coll* 1961). He once said he wasn't going to appear in any more westerns, but Clint Eastwood talked him into playing Little Bill Daggett in *Unforgiven* 1992. He won a best supporting actor Academy Award for that performance, which is probably why three of his next four films were westerns: *The Quick and the Dead* 1995, *Wyatt Earp* 1994, and *Geronimo: An American Legend* 1993. Some of his other films are *Absolute Power* (1997), *Get Shorty* (1995), *Mississippi Burning* (1988), *No Way Out* (1987), *Hoosiers* (1986), *Under Fire* (1983), *Reds* (1981), *Night Moves* (1975), *The Conversation* (1974), *Young Frankenstein* (1974), *The Poseidon Adventure* (1972), *I Never Sang for My Father* (1970), and *Downhill Racer* (1969). He was nominated for best actor academy award for *Mississippi Burning* and won it for *The French Connection*.



Bonnie and Clyde met in January 1930, when he was 21 and she was 19. He went to jail on a burglary charge, escaped with a gun she smuggled in to him, he was recaptured and stayed locked up until February 1932. Clyde's brother, Ivan M. "Buck" Barrow, was killed in Iowa on July 29, 1933, only four months after he had been released from a Texas prison. In January 1934, Bonnie and Clyde engineered one of the most famous jailbreaks in Texas prison history. They hid pistols in a drainage ditch on Eastham prison farm where they could be picked up by Barrow's friend Raymond Hamilton, who was then serving a 200-year sentence. Hamilton got the guns, Barrow came in with a BAR, two guards were shot and several long-term prisoners escaped. In addition to Hamilton, Barrow took Henry Methvin (who is named C. W. Moss in the film). A few months later, the FBI got word that the Barrows were visiting Methvin's family in southern Louisiana. Bonnie and Clyde were ambushed in the early morning of May 23, 1934, by a posse composed of Texas and Louisiana police officers, one of whom was Texas Ranger Frank Hamer.

For more on the real life Bonnie and Clyde visit www.dallashistory.org/html/bonnie_clyde.html, www.fbi.gov/yourfbi/history/famcases/clyde/clyde.htm, or www.crimelibrary.com/americana/bonnie/main.htm.

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