



Stanley Robinson's "Profiles"

~ A look at special persons in the Motion Picture industry ~

" Jodie Foster: Woman of Power "



Although she won an Oscar® in 1991 for the role of Clarice Starling in "*Silence of the Lambs*", (a role that actress Michelle Pfeiffer turned down), it was 1993's movie "*Sommersby*" also starring Richard

Gere, and the courtroom sequence that forever "linked" me to two time Academy Award® winner Jodie Foster. There are actors, producers, and directors on my list whose work I see based purely on their name. The "link" (seeing work based on a name attachment) was solidified for me with her portrayal of Ellie Arrowway in director Robert Zemeckis' "*Contact*" (1997).



Jodie Foster in "Flightplan"

With the huge box office success of her last film, "*Flightplan*", released on September 23, 2005 and a budget of 55 million dollars, which had worldwide grosses of \$208,949,988 (\$89,706,988 in U.S. box office receipts!), Jodie Foster once again takes center stage as a visible, viable, bankable force in the motion picture industry.

As an actress, her salary ranges from \$5,000,000 for "*Maverick*" (1994) also starring Mel Gibson to a high of \$15,000,000 for "*Anna and the King*" in 1999.

Her latest movie "*Inside Man*", directed by Spike Lee, written by Russell Gewirtz, and produced by Academy Award® winner Brian Grazer, is the story of a tough detective (Denzel Washington) who matches wits with a clever bank robber (Clive Owen) in the hostage thriller drama. As the story unfolds, a twist is apparent, a power broker (Jodie Foster) with a hidden agenda adds more instability to a volatile situation. "*Inside Man*" is well on its way to becoming another hit in the long and impressive resume of Jodie Foster.

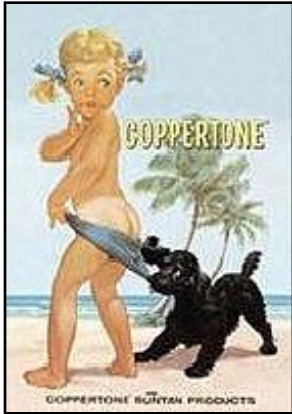


Denzel Washington and Jodie Foster in "Inside Man"

Jodie Foster's industry credentials are impressive both in front of the camera as an actor and behind the scenes producing and directing. She has approached both sides simultaneously, so, we'll start with the acting side of this "Woman of Power".

Jodie Foster, Actor...

Jodie Foster, known as an “instinctual actor” because she has not had a single acting lesson in her life, is a native of Los Angeles, born in November 1962. Jodie Foster’s career began at age three. A popular belief that



Jodie Foster was the original Coppertone toddler in the billboards is misleading. The toddler in the billboards was Cheri Brand. Jodie Foster did get her start in showbiz for Coppertone suntan lotion TV commercials in 1965.

She was three years old at the time and appeared in the TV ads as a toddler on a boat accompanied by her family. Acting jobs followed with appearances in *Mayberry RFD*, *The Courtship of Eddie's Father*, and *Gunsmoke* in the late 60's. By the 70's Jodie Foster was a staple in the popular TV series of the time with multiple appearances in *Daniel Boone*, *Adam-12*, *Ironside*, *Bonanza*, *Kung Fu*, *My Three Sons*, and *Medical Center*. Jodie Foster also hosted *Saturday Night Live* in 1976 at 14 years old!

The year of 1976 was the turning point in Jodie Foster's acting career. That year she starred in a total of five movies. *"Echoes of a Summer"*, *"Bugsy Malone"*, *"Freaky Friday"*, *"The Little Girl Who Lives Down the Lane"*, and *"Taxi Driver"*. Her performance in *"Taxi Driver"* as the teenage prostitute Iris, opposite Robert DeNiro, brought her right up front in the public eye as she received an Academy Award® nomination for Best Supporting Actress that year! During the next 10 years Jodie Foster worked on more 15 projects, both TV and movies most were for Disney.

In 1988, a smaller movie titled "The Accused" started to gain legs and the 'buzz' was in the air! At 26 years old and 12 years after her Oscar® nomination for best

supporting actress for *Taxi Driver*, she received a nomination for best actress as the character of Sarah Tobias in "The Accused", and won the Oscar®.

Three years later, Jodie Foster won her second Oscar® for Best Actress for her very moving and 'tour de force' performance as FBI Agent Clarice Sterling in "Silence of the Lambs", also starring Anthony Hopkins as Hannibal Lector.

In 1997 when *The X-Files* was at its height, Jodie's voice was the star of one of its highest rated shows, the voice of "Betty" in the famous episode titled "Never Again".

Jodie Foster, Director...

Ms. Foster has been involved in the production end of filmmaking since her first directing job in 1988 with the "Tales from the Dark Side" TV Series episode "Do not open this Box" (Season 4, episode 15 which aired May 15, 1988).

In 1990 Jodie Foster took a giant step in the industry and formed her production company, EGG Productions, as owner and chairperson. Her first project as a feature film director, "Little Man Tate" (91'), has become a representation of the "ultra drama" genre of the early 1990's. Besides directing, Jodie Foster also starred as Dede, a single mom, trying to bring up her son Fred (Adam Hann-Byrd). When it is discovered that Fred is a genius, Dede is determined to ensure that Fred has all the opportunities he needs, and that people who forget that his extremely powerful intellect is harbored in the body and emotions of a child. "Little Man Tate" set the tone for drama films dealing with the tough issues of single parenthood.

In 1995 she directed (also produced) the poignant drama "Home for the Holidays". This movie established Jodie Foster as a director who could tackle complex issues and relate to her actors. The story featured Holly Hunter as Claudia Larson, who loses her job, finds out that her daughter plans to spend Thanksgiving with her boyfriend, and has to face spending the holiday with her family, while wondering if she can survive. The all-

star cast included: Holly Hunter, Robert Downey Jr., Anne Bancroft, Charles Durning, Dylan McDermott, Geraldine Chaplin, Steve Guttenberg, Cynthia Stevenson, Claire Danes, Emily Ann Lloyd, Zack Duhamel, Austin Pendleton, and David Strathairn.

Jodie Foster's schedule as a director is already filling up. Announced is her next directing project titled "Sugarland". She'll star along side Robert De Niro, who she worked with so many years before in "Taxi Driver (76)", in a story of a recent law school graduate who teams with an experienced public-interest attorney to take on a sugar baron on behalf of exploited migrant workers, and is set for a 2007 release.

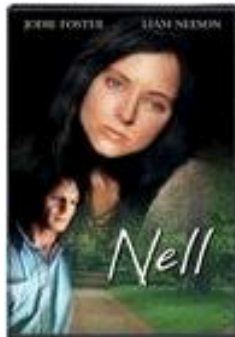
Jodie Foster, Producer...



We've just taken a look at the directing side of Jodie Foster. Keep in mind, the previous was happening while she was progressing in her acting career.

She was an actor in some, the director of others, and a few projects as both director and actor. Add producing to the equation. Her producing skills came to light in 1986 when she co-produced and starred in "Mesmerized" (86'), the story of an orphaned New Zealand girl (Foster) married to an older, wealthy businessman, as she learns to deal with his strange sexual desires. Co-producing "Mesmerized" (86') was the start of Jodie Foster's slow and steady climb on the production end, to become a woman of power in the industry.

By 1994, with a multitude of projects as an actor, she once again went to the production end, and produced "Nell", which she also starred as 2 twin sisters. Jodie Foster's talent



is telling stories that aren't considered mainstream but linger right up front in the public consciousness. Nell's story is a girl who's lived in an isolated world. The only person she knew was her mother and twin sister. They lived together in a cottage in the forest. No one has ever met Nell. After her mother's death, she's discovered, she speaks a mangled language, developed by her and her sister. A psychology student wants Nell observed in a laboratory. A judge decides the student gets three months, to observe her in the forest, after which he'll decide Nell's fate.

The following year in 1995, as producer and director, came the popular "Home for the Holidays". As producer/director, Ms. Foster realized the creative power as well as business muscle that will keep a project true to her vision on what a finished film should be...

In 1998, Jodie Foster took another giant step up the ladder of power, Executive Producing. As executive producer, she was the guiding force behind the made-for-TV movie "The Baby Dance" which tackled the difficult issue of non-traditional adoption practices and received 3 Golden Globe® nominations. She followed, again as executive producer, this time on the big screen with the feature film "Waking the Dead" (2001) and the haunting story of a congressional candidate who questions his sanity after seeing the love of his life, presumed dead, suddenly return.

In 2002, Jodie Foster delivers another human, moving story. As producer and star of "Dangerous Lives of Alter Boys", a story that takes place in mid-1970s Savannah, GA, two bright but rebellious boys, Francis Doyle and Tim Sullivan, fight boredom, hormones and harsh teachers as they struggle to find something meaningful beyond the walls of their parish school. Francis, an exceptional artist whose imaginative forays into a fictional universe of good and evil fill his notebooks with comic-book imagery, creates a netherworld of superhero alter egos for the two boys. When the ultra-strict Sister Assumpta (Jodie Foster), seizes their artwork

one day, the boys follow an obsessed trail of revenge that ultimately changes their lives.



Jodie Foster, with successful projects as an actor, producer, director, and an executive producer, solidifies and certifies her producing skills in the motion picture industry. Jodie Foster is truly, a “Woman of Power”...

Feature film credits as an actress: Sugarland (2007), The Brave One (2007), Inside Man (2006), Flightplan (2005), A Very Long Engagement (2004), Panic Room (2002), The Dangerous Lives of Altar Boys (2002), Anna and the King (1999), Contact (1997), Nell (1994), Maverick (1994), Sommersby (1993), Shadows and Fog (1992), Little Man Tate (1991), The Silence of the Lambs (1991), The Accused (1988), Stealing Home (1988), Siesta (1987), Five Corners (1987), Mesmerized (1986), The Hotel New Hampshire (1984), Carny (1980), Foxes (1980), Candleshoe (1977), Freaky Friday (1976), Buggy Malone (1976), Taxi Driver (1976).

As producer: Sugarland (2007) (*announced*) (producer), Flora Plum (2006) (*filming*), The Dangerous Lives of Altar Boys (2002) (producer), Waking the Dead (2000) (executive producer), The Baby Dance (1998) (TV) (executive producer), Home for the Holidays (1995) (producer), Nell (1994) (producer), Mesmerized (1986) (co-producer).

As Director: Sugarland (2007) (*announced*), Flora Plum (2006) (*filming*), Home for the Holidays (1995), Little Man Tate (1991), "Tales from the Darkside" TV series; "Do Not Open This Box" (1988).

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Statistical data, source reference material: Bravo: Actors Studio; IMDB.com; Leonard Maltin's Movie Encyclopedia; Variety.com/BoxOffice, CNN Money-Online, Movies.com/Grosses, WorldwideBoxOffice.com, 3Dgear.com, Hollywood Reporter International

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