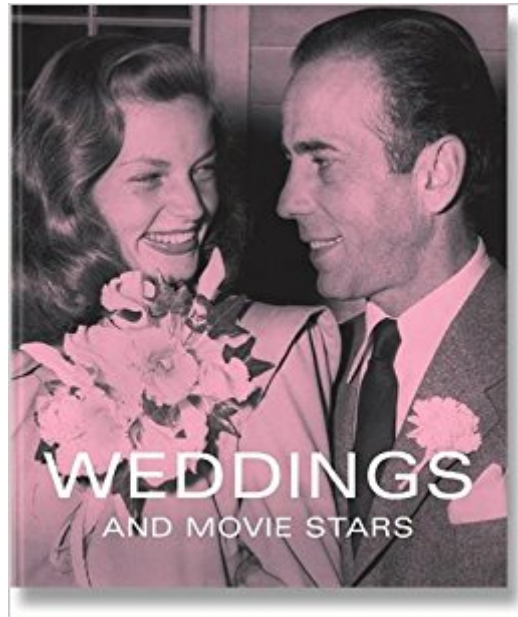




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Weddings And Movie Stars



Synopsis

Movie star weddings run the gamut from studio cover-ups to Hollywood endings but whether your taste is for the explosive or the fairy tale, *Weddings and Movie Stars* will quench your thirst for impeccable glamour and salacious gossip. A movie lover's encyclopedia of weddings, *Weddings and Movie Stars* is exhaustively compiled over 288 pages and features many previously unreleased images. It is a tribute to the most iconic Hollywood stars from the 1920s onwards in ceremonies from the low key to the lavish. With weddings to rival epic studio productions, gowns by designers from Givenchy and Balmain, to Dior and Vivienne Westwood, *Weddings and Movie Stars* is an unprecedented opportunity to peek behind the scenes and witness many of the secret ceremonies that to this point have remained under wraps. From closeted Rock Hudson's arranged marriage to his agent's secretary to Madonna and Sean Penn's four letter warning to circling paparazzi written in the sand, the public has been shown an often cultivated glimpse of the mega star wedding day, until now. Of an age shrouded in myth, here are our greatest movie stars at their most candid: Shirley Temple, marrying at age 17, Elizabeth Taylor's 700 wedding guests, unseen footage of Mia Farrow at home with Frank Sinatra, Marilyn and Joe DiMaggio, Marilyn and Arthur Miller, the incredible pairing of Ava Gardner and Mickey Rooney, Bardot, Jagger, John and Yoko, to modern day power couples including Sarah Jessica Parker and Matthew Broderick. Also featured are on-screen stills from classic movie weddings such as Dustin Hoffman in *The Graduate* and Cary Grant and Katharine Hepburn in *The Philadelphia Story*. For many film fans, however, the real-life context of stills such as Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn's on-screen vows in *Woman of the Year* lends the image a heartbreaking quality, as this fictional marriage sparked the beginning of a real life affair lasting thirty years. Indeed, we now know the tumultuous path ahead of Rita Hayworth and Orson Welles, the blueprint for longevity carved out by Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall, the tragedy awaiting Roman Polanski and Sharon Tate, whose weddings feature in the book. *Weddings and Movie Stars* succeeds in preserving our most beloved stars at their most vibrant, off-screen and in love and celebrates the wedding in motion pictures. In a year gripped by wedding fever, from Kate Middleton to Kate Moss, the most dramatic and elegant ceremonies, on and off screen, are captured in these images, published for the first time by Reel Art Press.

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Customer Reviews

"Mesmerises with the most celebrated and fabulous marriages of all time..." ---Vogue "A glorious compendium of Hollywood happy days." ---The Wall Street Journal "From true romance to timely engagement ... the pictures ooze glamour, lavishness and old time Hollywood." ---The Independent "Expect glamorous gowns galore." ---Brides Magazine "If you want a dose of real glamour, look no further." ---Sabotage TimesReview by --Joan Collins, The Sunday Telegraph, April 24, 2011 I guess I know a thing or two about weddings. As I told Ivana Trump when she asked if I would be one of her 25 bridesmaids at her last nuptials: "Darling, I'm afraid I can't - you see I'm always the bride, never the bridesmaid." I've been wed five times and although that seems a lot I discount two marriages. After all, I started when I was 18, because in those days a young girl got married and did not sleep around. I had admired the photograph of 18-year-old Elizabeth Taylor a couple of years previously at her marriage to hotel heir Nick Hilton. How pure and virginal she looked in her satin gown, and obviously madly in love. The shot is among a selection of wedding photographs of Hollywood stars from the Twenties onwards, in a forthcoming book entitled *Weddings and Movie Stars*. But the marriage was not to last. A few months later my Aunt Pauline told me she had been on the beach in Cannes where the Hiltons were honeymooning and had seen a miserable Elizabeth sitting alone while her new groom preferred spending his days gambling at the casino. Needless to say the union lasted less than a year, but she went on to have seven more! A fabulous Sixties wedding given at the louche venue that was the Playboy Club in London was that of Roman Polanski and Sharon Tate. All the women wore micro-mini dresses, patterned tights and enormous hair, while the men featured a variety of moustaches, long sideburns and flowered shirts. But none of the women could hold a candle to the gorgeous bride. In a short, white minidress, with masses of flowers in her luxuriant blonde locks, she was the absolute picture of joy and happiness. It was a

joyous wedding and we had great fun. Tragically, too short a time later, I also attended her funeral, after a beautiful and pregnant Sharon was viciously murdered in their Hollywood home. One of the funniest weddings I ever attended was that of Liza Minnelli to David Gest. Held at New York's massive Collegiate Church, it was attended by a galaxy of disparate stars, from Jane Russell and Mickey Rooney to David Hasselhoff, Donny Osmond and, of course, Elizabeth Taylor and Michael Jackson. The bride had 20 maids of honour and the groom had 20 assorted groomsmen of all ages and types. They were allowed to wear whatever they liked so the amount of diversity of costume was highly amusing. Strapless ball gowns and miniskirts were popular - among the women, of course. We sat in the pews for a long time waiting for the ceremony to begin, wondering what the delay was and we subsequently heard what had happened. Matron of honour Elizabeth Taylor had travelled down in her bedroom slippers, but had forgotten her shoes to change into! She, best man Michael Jackson and others in the wedding party sat on stage. (It's the only church in New York that has more of a stage than an altar, and the sacristy where the wedding party waited was called "the green room".) When Liza walked in and met David at the altar they were obviously enchanted with each other. David kept attempting to kiss the bride well in advance of his cue, prompting the pastor several times to break them apart like dogs in heat. When it came time for the official "you may kiss the bride", David launched himself on Liza to gasps of astonishment from the attendants and sucked her face like he was trying to vacuum her golden tonsils out. In spite of such a forceful and passionate kiss, the marriage lasted barely a year, with the final divorce coming shortly after. Long lasting happy marriages in Hollywood are as rare as hen's teeth, but one of the happiest and most long-lasting was Paul Newman's to Joanne Woodward. I knew them well for more than 50 years and they were the perfect Hollywood couple until his death. But I guess they weren't exactly Hollywood, as they lived in Connecticut - maybe that's the secret. So as the magical day approaches for Prince William and Kate Middleton, I only hope that their marriage will be as long and fulfilling as his grandmother's is. Please don't take after great Aunt Margaret, or Auntie Anne, or Uncle Andrew and definitely not your father, Charles. William and Kate look like soul mates - may they last a lifetime together.

Tony Nourmand is a co-founder of Reel Art Press and editor of all R|A|P publications. Tony launched Reel Art Press in the spring of 2010, with inaugural publications, The Rat Pack and Bill Gold: PosterWorks, released in the autumn of that year to worldwide press acclaim. The company continues to go from strength to strength and 2011 has already seen the release of the celebrated Weddings and Movie Stars. Hollywood And The Ivy Look is

the fourth book released by R|A|P. Tony is also the author of a further sixteen books on entertainment-related imagery. They have sold over a million copies worldwide and are recognized as authoritative texts. Titles include *James Bond Movie Posters*, *Audrey Hepburn: The Paramount Years*, *The Godfather in Pictures* and *Stars and Cars*. He also co-authored *Hitchcock Poster Art* and co-edited a series of books with Graham Marsh on movie poster art by the decade and by genre. Before launching Reel Art Press, Tony was renowned as a world expert on original vintage film posters. He co-owned The Reel Poster Gallery in London for twenty years and was also the Christie's London consultant for Vintage Film Posters. Graham Marsh is an art director, illustrator and writer. He has written and art directed many ground-breaking visual books, including *The Cover Art of Blue Note Records, Volumes I and II*, *East Coasting* and *California Cool*. He has co-authored and art directed *Denim: From Cowboys to Catwalks* and a series of books with Tony Nourmand on movie posters. More recently, he has released *The Ivy Look* and an illustrated children's book, *Max and the Lost Note*. Graham's illustrations have appeared in magazines, newspapers and on many CD and album covers. He has contributed to numerous publications including *Country Life* and *Financial Times*. He lives in Greenwich, South East London. Graham is the Art Director of R|A|P publications, *The Rat Pack* and *Weddings and Movie Stars*. He is also the Art Director and writer of *Hollywood And The Ivy Look*.

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