



The Bette Davis Foundation is a nonprofit, tax-exempt foundation created to raise funds to award scholarships to aspiring actresses and actors, as well as talented students in a cross section of related fields within the entertainment industry.

The Foundation honors Bette Davis' seven decades of enormous and enduring achievements while simultaneously providing aspiring young artists with the financial means to follow the trail of artistic excellence that she blazed. Each year since 1999 the Foundation has awarded a Bette Davis scholarship and a Bette Davis prize to a theatre student at Boston University College of Fine Arts.

In 1999, the Foundation awarded a Bette Davis Lifetime Achievement Award to Meryl Streep and in 2002 to Prince Edwards, Earl of Wessex. In 2008, the Foundation awarded a Medal of Honor to Lauren Bacall and a Lifetime Achievement Award to Susan Sarandon.

The Board of Directors is seeking financial contributions, both personal and corporate, to support the creative dreams of students. We ask you to contribute generously to the Better Davis Foundation so that worthy students will have the means, and encouragement, to follow in the starring footsteps of my mother, Bette Davis.

Maureen W. Merrill
President, Board of Directors



BETTE DAVIS 1908-89

Born: Ruth Elizabeth Davis, April 5, 1908, in Lowell, Massachusetts

Education: John Murray Anderson School of Theatre and the Mariarden School of Dancing; studied acting with Robert Bell, George Currie and Robert Milton; studied dance with Michael Mordkin, Roshanara, and Martha Graham

Debut: Lyceum Theatre, Rochester, New York (1928); Provincetown Playhouse (1929); Broadway, Bijou Theatre (1929)

Major Tours: "Two's Company," U.S. cities (1952-53), "The World of Carl Sandburg," U.S. cities (1959-60), Tennessee Williams' *The Night of the Iguana*, Broadway (1961), "An Informal Evening with Bette Davis," London Palladium (1975), also U.S., Canadian and New Zealand cities.

Major Awards: Academy Awards (nominated ten times for best actress): *Dangerous* (1935) and *Jezebel* (1938); Venice Film Festival "Coppa Volpi" (1937); Cannes Film Festival "Best Actress" (1951); American Film Institute's "Lifetime Achievement Award" (1977); Emmy Award: *Strangers: The Story of a Mother and Daughter* (1979); Kennedy Center Honors (1987); French Ministry of Culture "Legion of Honor" (1987); Switzerland "Merit of Achievement Award" (1988); San Sebastian Film Festival "Premio donostia Award" (1989)

Memorable Performances from a career which included over 100 major motion pictures: *All About Eve*; *Dangerous*; *Dark Victory*; *Hush...Hush*; *Sweet Charlotte*; *Jezebel*; *The Letter*; *The Little Foxes*; *Madame Sin*; *Mr. Skeffington*; *Now, Voyager*; *Of Human Bondage*; *The Whales of August*; *What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?*

Autobiographies: *The Lonely Life: An Autobiography* (1962); *Mother Goddam: The Story of the Career of Bette Davis* (1974); and *This 'n That* (1987)

Died: October 6, 1989 in Neuilly-sur-Seine France



THE BETTE DAVIS FOUNDATION



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Bette Davis, a New England girl who became a Hollywood legend, acted on the stage and in films during seven decades. She was honored nationally and internationally for her performances and career. She was known for independence and fiery determination. Her characters were larger than life and her lines, often quoted, became movie classics.

“Fasten your seat belts,” she warned with an ominous glint in her eyes in *All About Eve*, “It’s going to be a bumpy night”...and who would disagree?

When she realized Hollywood did not create good and challenging roles for actresses later in life, she quipped, “Old age isn’t for sissies”...and she continued to work into her eighties.

Bette Davis also knew how to put a smile into her words. “I’d like to kiss you but I just washed my hair,” she mischievously remarked in *The Cabin in the Cotton*.

It is because of her unforgettable career and personality that The Bette Davis Foundation, a nonprofit corporation, has been established. The Foundation will perpetuate the ideals and indomitable spirit that Bette Davis embodied by awarding scholarships in her name to talented and needy college students.

These students, with the Foundation’s support, will be able to pursue their dreams of achieving stardom. They will take strength from Bette Davis’ honesty, integrity, and the undiluted emotional energy that typified her performances.

Bette Davis was a leader and a pioneer, particularly for young actresses who wanted to take their own path. She proved that a family and career could work and that giving back to one’s community was essential. Bette Davis remains one of Hollywood’s lasting role models.



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THE BETTE DAVIS FOUNDATION

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 c/o Merrill & McGeary
 100 State Street, Suite 200
 Boston, MA 02109



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