

Video Production.
Mr. Stiles, Fall 2020

PLP Lesson 3 - Silent Film Stars:

This is your 7th assignment. - Due Friday 10/9, Value 30 Points

In this activity, you will analyze information about a silent era film star. Use text or Internet research to find an article about a silent film star. You may choose a male or female star who performed in silent films between the years 1912-1929. You can choose any silent film star from these years, but some choices to help you get started would be Mary Pickford or Charlie Chaplin. You will analyze the article to find the following points:

- 1. The star's real name and stage name**
- 2. The star's outstanding feature (physical or talent)**
- 3. What types of roles did the star play?**
- 4. Length of time in the industry**
- 5. What ended the star's career?**
- 6. Did the star leave a legacy outside of films?**

Complete the graphic organizer with the information that you have gathered concerning your silent film star. Remember to use correct spelling, grammar, and capitalization in your graphic organizer.

Name: _____

Exploring Cinema

Silent Era Stars Graphic Organizer

Directions: You will use a relevant text or use the Internet to find information about a silent-film star. You may choose a male or female star who performed in silent films between the years 1912 and 1929. Analyze your source to locate the following information:

1. List the star's real name and stage name.
2. Describe the star's outstanding feature (physical or talent).
3. What types of roles did the star play?
4. How long did the star work in the industry?
5. What caused the star's career to end?
6. Did the star leave a legacy outside of films?

You will complete the graphic organizer with the information that you have gathered about your silent-film star. Use correct spelling, grammar, and capitalization in your graphic organizer.

Stage Name:	Real Name:
Outstanding Feature or Talent:	
Types of Roles Played:	
Length of Time in the Industry:	
What Ended the Star's Career?	

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Subtopic Name: Silent Era Stars

SCORING RUBRIC

With these criteria, the lowest possible score is 0 (meets no criteria for evaluation), and the highest is 30_____ (clearly meets all criteria for evaluation).

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION RATING COMMENTS

The student researched an article about one silent film star from the years 1912-1929 to analyze.

The student wrote the answers to the following questions in a graphic organizer:•

The star's real name and stage name•

The star's outstanding feature (physical or talent)•

What types of roles did the star play?•

Length of time in the industry•

What ended the star's career?•

Did the star leave a legacy outside of films?

The student used proper spelling, grammar, and capitalization in the graphic organizer.

Silent Era Stars

In the **Silent Era** of cinema, the responsibility was on the actor or actress to show emotions through their facial expressions, hand gestures, and body language. The beautiful stars of this era, like Gloria Swanson, Mary Pickford, and Clara Bow, were expected to display fear, anger, disgust, sadness, happiness, excitement, and love, all through the use of their eye, cheek, and chin muscles. Each emotion they portrayed had to have been recognized by the audience. A backward tilt of the head with the back of the hand pressed against the forehead was a universal sign of distress. Crossed arms and furrowed brows were recognized as anger. Silent actresses were expected to use full facial and body motions in the actions, despite the use of heavy makeup, restrictive hairstyles, and sometimes burdensome costumes or hats. All the while, the silent actress must remain feminine and elegant.

Male actors were also expected to portray their characters through facial expressions and gestures. Dashing handsome stars, like Rudolph Valentino and Richard Barthelmess, were charged with heroic roles where their good looks and masculine appeal made female audiences swoon. Some male actors mastered the art of comedic faces and actions to become some of the best known comedians in history. Charlie Chaplin, Laurel and Hardy, and Buster Keaton have been studied by young, aspiring comedians for their amazing talent in the area of comedy.

Some silent film stars made the crossover to films with sound and continued to make movies well into the 1950s, but many failed to make the transition and have been long forgotten. Unfortunately, for some of the silent film stars, their voices were not conducive to the types of parts that they were known for playing. Silent actor John Gilbert, who was known for playing romantic leading man roles in silent films, was criticized by audiences who saw him in the new talking motion pictures because his voice was too high.

There are too many silent era stars to mention, but it should be noted that each has left behind an interestingly successful, or tragically unfortunate, legacy.