



FILM & ENTERTAINMENT

The Last Queen of Tinseltown: Sophia Loren Turns 90 With Style, Grace

Loren captivated Hollywood and inspired generations with her timeless beauty and extraordinary talent.



“There is a fountain of youth: it is your mind, your talents, the creativity you bring to your life and the lives of people you love. When you learn to tap this source, you will truly have defeated age.”

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Born in Rome on Sept. 20, 1934, Sophia Loren — the Italian queen of Tinseltown — is one of the last surviving stars from the Golden Age of Hollywood. Encouraged to enroll in acting lessons after entering a beauty pageant, Loren began her film career at age 16 in 1950.

She appeared in several bit parts and minor roles in the early part of the decade, until her five-picture contract with [Paramount](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paramount_Pictures) (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paramount_Pictures) in 1956 launched her international career. Notable film appearances around this time include *The Pride and the Passion*, *Houseboat*, and *It Started in Naples*, according to [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sophia_Loren) (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sophia_Loren).

SOPHIA LOREN through the years – always stunning. Credit: [@GrowingUpItalia](https://twitter.com/GrowingUpItalia) (https://twitter.com/GrowingUpItalia?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [pic.twitter.com/EreqRD29Ok](https://t.co/EreqRD29Ok) (https://t.co/EreqRD29Ok)

— All The Right Movies (@ATRightMovies) [September 20, 2024](https://twitter.com/ATRightMovies/status/1837076738200981903?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) (https://twitter.com/ATRightMovies/status/1837076738200981903?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

But critics didn't fall in love with Loren until her performance as Cesira in Vittorio De Sica's *Two Women*. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Two_Women) Loren's performance earned her the [Academy Award for Best Actress](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academy_Award_for_Best_Actress) (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academy_Award_for_Best_Actress) in 1962 and made her the first actress to win an Oscar for a foreign-language performance.

Seemingly overnight, Loren went from a girl in poverty to silver screen royalty.

She holds the record for having earned six David di Donatello Awards for Best Actress: *Two Women*; *Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*; *Marriage Italian Style* (for which she was nominated for a second Oscar); *Sunflower*; *The Voyage*; and *A Special Day*.

After starting a family in the early 1970s, Loren chose to make only occasional film appearances. In later years, she has appeared in films such as *Grumpier Old Men* (1995), *Nine* (2009) and *The Life Ahead* (2020).

Aside from the Academy Award, she has won a Grammy Award, five special Golden Globes, a BAFTA Award, a Laurel Award, the Volpi Cup for Best Actress at the Venice Film Festival, the Best Actress Award at the Cannes Film Festival and an Honorary Academy Award in 1991.

In 1995, she received the Golden Globe Cecil B. DeMille Award for lifetime achievements. In 1999, Loren was named by the American Film Institute as one of the 25 [greatest female stars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AFI%27s_100_Years...100_Stars) (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AFI%27s_100_Years...100_Stars) of Classic Hollywood Cinema, and at age 90, she is the only living actress on the list.

It's incredible how, at 90, Sophia Loren has preserved that composed, sweet, graceful, and playful manner that is so rare to see these days 🌹

Young girls, take note, please 😊 [pic.twitter.com/wGtMXAr4QR](https://t.co/wGtMXAr4QR) (https://t.co/wGtMXAr4QR)

— Mambo Italiano (@mamboitaliano_) [September 21, 2024](https://twitter.com/mamboitaliano_/status/1837606947979235699?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) (https://twitter.com/mamboitaliano_/status/1837606947979235699?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

In late 2023, Loren fell at her home in Geneva, Switzerland. She suffered several fractures, including to her femur and hip. She underwent a successful surgery and has recovered from her injuries.

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