Ford, Glenn (1916-) Encyclopedia Article

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Contents

Ford, Glenn (1916-) Encyclopedia Article.....1

Contents.....2

Ford, Glenn (1916—).....3

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One of the most pleasing, consistent, thoughtful, and prolific of screen actors, Glenn Ford (born Gwyllym Newton in Quebec) was a regular feature of the Hollywood landscape, particularly the sagebrush, given the large number of Westerns in which he starred. Initially a leading man of the second rank, he enjoyed full stardom from 1946 until the late 1950s. He owed his elevation to *Gilda,* Charles Vidor's classic *film noir* in which he tangled angrily and enigmatically with Rita Hayworth in a seedy South American nightclub, and subsequently demonstrated his worth and versatility in a wide range of material. He subsumed his natural likability to play hard men (e.g. *3.10 to Yuma,* 1957) and revealed comedy talent in *Teahouse of the August Moon* (1956), but his most memorable performances were as the revenge-obsessed detective in Fritz Lang's *The Big Heat* (1953) and the teacher dealing with delinquents in *The Blackboard Jungle* (1955). His star waned in the 1960s, owing to poor material, but he proved his durability on TV and made a noteworthy appearance in *Superman* (1978).

Further Reading:

Ford, Glenn, and Margaret Redfield. *Glenn Ford, RFD.* Beverly Hills, Hewitt House, 1970.

Shipman, David. *The Great Movie Stars: The International Years.* London, Angus & Robertson, 1980.