Jones, Jennifer (1919-) Encyclopedia Article

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Actress Jennifer Jones's affair with the renowned producer David O. Selznick attracted a great deal of attention and launched her career. He signed her to a long-term contract, changed her name, and prepared her for stardom. Her first screen lead was in *Song of Bernadette* (1943), a film whose popularity earned her an Academy Award. She was nominated for Oscars as best supporting actress in *Since You Went Away* (1944), *Love Letters* (1945) and *Love Is a Many Splendored Thing* (1955). While Jones played a wide variety of characters, including the innocent and placid as well as the tempestuous and sensuous, she was not considered a formidable actress. But she undoubtedly captured a mood Americans longed for because, ultimately, she became one of the most popular melodramatic actresses of the 1940s.

Further Reading:

Epstein, Edward Z. *Portrait of Jennifer: A Biography of Jennifer Jones.* New York, Simon & Schuster, 1995.