Wray, Fay (1907-) Encyclopedia Article

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Despite a long, versatile career, Canadian-born actress Fay Wray is indelibly etched on the public mind as the shrieking heroine in the grasp of a giant ape climbing the Empire State Building in the film *King Kong* (1933). For 40 years she acted in 78 motion pictures as well as on the Broadway stage and television. She also co-authored a play with Nobel Prize winner Sinclair Lewis. Although she proved her acting ability in such films as *The Affairs of Cellini* (1934), opposite Frederic March, she was doomed to be typecast as the champion screamer and bedeviled heroine. In the 1950s she played in the television series *Pride of the Family* as the wife of Paul Hartman and mother of Natalie Wood. "When I'm in New York," she once said with a laugh, "I look at the Empire State Building and feel that it belongs to me—or vice versa."

Further Reading:

Parish, James Robert, and William T. Leonard. *Hollywood Players: The Thirties.* New Rochelle, New York, Arlington House, 1976.

Ragan, David. *Movie Stars of the '30s: A Complete Reference Guide for the Film Historian or Trivia Buff.* Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, Prentice-Hall, 1985.