**The 1910s**

**Sessue Hayakawa**

You probably don’t know Sessue Hayakawa, but he was a really big Hollywood star in the 1910s and 1920s. Americans thought that this Japanese actor was exotic and dangerous, and that made him very sexy! At first he played bad guys. Then he played romantic heroes. He became very rich: he had a “castle” (= hrad) and a gold-plated (=pozlacené) car!

**Florence Lawrence**

The Canadian actress Florence Lawrence was “the first movie star”. She starred in almost 300 movies. In 1909 she worked for a producer called Carl Laemmle. Laemmle told the newspapers that Lawrence died in an accident. It was big news! Then he told the newspapers that she was alive and making a movie. It was Hollywood’s first publicity stunt. Thousands of fans came to see her. It was the first time that a movie actor was famous.

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**The 1920s**

**Rudolph Valentino**

Rudolph Valentino was “the Latin Lover”. He was young and very beautiful. He had black hair, soft skin, and passionate eyes. Valentino had a new scandal almost every week. Once, he was married to two women at the same time! He was Hollywood’s first real superstar. When he died aged 31, about 100,000 people stood in the streets to watch his funeral.

There are so many good-looking Hollywood stars that we had to share more of them with you. Read on to learn about this second group of Hollywood beauties from the 20th century and enjoy the view!

PAUL FARRINGTON-DOUGLAS (UK)
Clara Bow was very unhappy when she was at school. She was a tomboy (= uličnice). She wanted to be a movie star, but Hollywood did not want strong women. Then, in the 1920s, young women started listening to jazz and wanting to be strong and daring. Clara Bow was the perfect actress for this time. The Hollywood studio heads did not like her because she was a rebel, but everyone else loved her. In 1929 she was so famous that she got more than 45,000 fan letters (= dopisy od fanoušků) in one month.

The 1960s

Raquel Welch was in the 1966 movie One Million Years BC, a silly fantasy about cavemen (= neadrtáci) and dinosaurs. She has only three lines in the whole movie – but her costume was a deerskin (= jelenní kůže) bikini. The picture of her in this bikini made her really famous in the 1960s. Unfortunately, most of her movies were really bad!

The 1970s

Steve McQueen

Brando was cool, but the “King of Cool” was Steve McQueen. He starred in some of the first modern action films. Bullitt (1968) has the first great car chase in cinema history. McQueen was also famous for racing cars and motorcycles. The movie The Great Escape (1963) has a motorcycle chase scene, and McQueen did most of the riding himself.

Raquel Welch

Kim Basinger

Kim Basinger was a model in the 1970s. She earned $1,000 a day, but she hated the work. Her first big movie role was in the James Bond movie Never Say Never Again (1983). Like Arnie and Burt Reynolds, she was also in a famous nude photograph (in Playboy, not Cosmopolitan!). This made her the most famous sex symbol of the 1980s Hollywood. Lots of celebrities had plastic surgery because they wanted “Kim Basinger lips”.

THE “IT GIRL”

“IT Girl” means a woman who is fashionable, stylish, and cool at one time (like Angelina Jolie or Scarlett Johansson). Clara Bow was the first “IT Girl”. This was because she starred in a movie named It (1927). The movie was lost for many years. In 1960, it was found – in Prague!
Daniel Craig

In the 2005 James Bond movie *Casino Royale*, Daniel Craig walks out of the sea in only his swimming trunks. We can see all of his perfect muscles. It is a very famous scene, but it was an accident! Craig stood up at the end of a scene, and every woman on the beach said “Wow!”. The director used the scene in the movie, and Craig was the new Sexiest Man Alive.

Scarlett Johansson

In both 2006 and 2013, *Esquire* magazine said Scarlett Johansson was “The Sexiest Woman Alive”. She began acting when she was a child, and she was in her first movie when she was only 10 years old. When she was 16, she starred in a movie about big spiders! In the 2013 movie *Her*, she plays the role of a computer program. You do not see her face at all. You only hear her voice, but she is still very sexy!

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**Vocabulary**

1. hero [ˈhɪərəʊ] – hrdina
2. publicity stunt [ˈpʌblɪsɪtɪ ˈstʌnt] – akce pro upoutání pozornosti
3. passionate [ˈpeʃəs] – vášnivý
4. funeral [ˈfjuərənl] – pohřeb
5. daring [ˈdeərɪŋ] – odvážná
6. chase [tʃeɪz] – honička
7. silly [ˈsɪli] – hloupá
8. swimming trunks [ˈswɪmɪŋ ˈtrʌŋks] – plavky
9. accident [ˈækseɪdənt] – náhoda

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**Language Point**

The prefix super- is like adding “very” to a word. A superstar is very famous.