



John Ford

Birth Name: John Martin Feeney (Sean Aloysius O'Fearna)

Director, Producer

Birth Feb 1, 1895 (Cape Elizabeth, ME)
Death Aug 31, 1973 (Palm Desert, CA)
Genres Drama, Western, Romance, Comedy

Maine-born John Ford originally went to Hollywood in the shadow of his older brother, Francis, an actor/writer/director who had worked on Broadway.

Originally a laborer, propman's assistant, and occasional stuntman for his brother, he rose to become an assistant director and supporting actor before turning to directing in 1917. Ford became best known for his Westerns, of which he made dozens through the 1920s, but he didn't achieve status as a major director until the mid-'30s, when his films for RKO (*The Lost Patrol* [1934], *The Informer* [1935]), 20th Century Fox (*Young Mr. Lincoln* [1939], *The Grapes of Wrath* [1940]), and Walter Wanger (*Stagecoach* [1939]), won over the public, the critics, and earned various Oscars and Academy nominations. His 1940s films included one military-produced documentary co-directed by Ford and cinematographer Gregg Toland, *December 7th* (1943), which creaks badly today (especially compared with Frank Capra's *Why We Fight* series); a major war film (*They Were Expendable* [1945]); the historically-based drama *My Darling Clementine* (1946); and the "cavalry trilogy" of *Fort Apache* (1948), *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon* (1949), and *Rio Grande* (1950), each of which starred John Wayne. *My Darling Clementine* and the cavalry trilogy contain some of the most powerful images of the American West ever shot, and are considered definitive examples of the Western.

Ford also had a weakness for Irish and Gaelic subject matter, in which a great degree of sentimentality was evident, most notably *How Green Was My Valley* (1941) and *The Quiet Man* (1952), which was his most personal film, and one of his most popular. It also earned more Oscars and nominations than any other movie ever produced at Republic Pictures. Poor health dogged Ford's career during the 1950s, but he still managed to create *The Sun Shines Bright* (1953) — one of his favorite films, dealing with politics and race relations in the 19th century South — *Mogambo* (1953), and *The Searchers* (1956), which is considered one of the most powerful Western dramas ever made. *The Horse Soldiers* (1959) showed some of Ford's flair, but was marred by production problems, and Ford later directed the John Wayne/Harry Morgan section of *How the West Was Won* (1963). His concern with social justice, which manifested itself in *The Sun Shines Bright* also became more evident during the early '60s, in

films such as *Sergeant Rutledge* (1960), *Donovan's Reef* (1963), and *Cheyenne Autumn* (1964), all of which sought to address problems of racial prejudice.

Starting working in film for his brother in 1914.

Claimed to have worked as a "cowboy" and riding as one of the Klansmen in D.W. Griffith's *The Birth of a Nation* (1915)

The Iron Horse (1924), first Ford "Masterpiece".

First recipient of the American Film Institute Life Achievement Award [1973]

1939 Ford directs: *Stagecoach*, *Young Mr. Lincoln* (1939), *Drums along the Mohawk* (1939) and *The Grapes of Wrath* (1940) - all masterpieces.

May be the most influential director of sound films among other directors. Many of the greatest directors of all time point directly to him as their favorite or one of their favorite filmmakers: Orson Welles, Akira Kurosawa, Sergio Leone (and his own star, Clint Eastwood), Martin Scorsese, Steven Spielberg, Bernardo Bertolucci and any of members of the French New Wave or their disciples, from Jean-Luc Godard to François Truffaut.

His apparently madcap affair with Katharine Hepburn, when both were married, inspired his friend Dudley Nichols to write the script for *Bringing Up Baby* (1938).

Directed 10 different actors in Oscar-nominated performances: Victor McLaglen, Thomas Mitchell, Edna May Oliver, Jane Darwell, Henry Fonda, Donald Crisp, Sara Allgood, Ava Gardner, Grace Kelly and Jack Lemmon. McLaglen, Mitchell, Darwell, Crisp and Lemmon won Oscar for one of their roles in one of Fords movies.

Has won more Oscars than any other director in Academy History. 3rd highest number on nominations. 5 Nominations 4 Oscars (2 more honorary Oscars for World War II documentaries)

Oscars: *The Informer* (1935) *The Grapes of Wrath* (1940) *How Green Was My Valley* (1941) *The Quiet Man* (1952)

Also Nominated For:
Stagecoach (1939)

Note: Ford won his four Oscars for his pictures of social comment, rather than for his quintessential westerns. Only *How Green Was My Valley* (1941) also won Best Picture.

FILMOGRAPHY (Partial)

Director - filmography

([1970s](#)) ([1960s](#)) ([1950s](#)) ([1940s](#)) ([1930s](#)) ([1920s](#)) ([1910s](#))

1. [Chesty: A Tribute to a Legend](#) (1976)
... aka Chesty (USA: informal English title)
2. [Vietnam! Vietnam!](#) (1971)
3. [7 Women](#) (1966)
4. [Young Cassidy](#) (1965) (uncredited)
5. [Cheyenne Autumn](#) (1964)
... aka John Ford's Cheyenne Autumn (USA: complete title)
6. [Donovan's Reef](#) (1963)
7. [How the West Was Won](#) (1962) (segment "The Civil War")
8. ["Alcoa Premiere"](#)
- [Flashing Spikes](#) (1962) TV Episode
9. [The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance](#) (1962)
10. [Two Rode Together](#) (1961)
11. ["Wagon Train"](#)
... aka Major Adams, Trail Master
- [The Colter Craven Story](#) (1960) TV Episode
12. [Sergeant Rutledge](#) (1960)
13. [The Horse Soldiers](#) (1959)
14. [Korea](#) (1959)
15. [The Last Hurrah](#) (1958)
16. [Gideon's Day](#) (1958)
... aka Gideon of Scotland Yard (USA)
17. [The Rising of the Moon](#) (1957)
18. [The Wings of Eagles](#) (1957)
19. [The Searchers](#) (1956)
20. ["Screen Directors Playhouse"](#)
- [Rookie of the Year](#) (1955) TV Episode
21. [The Bamboo Cross](#) (1955) (TV)
22. [Mister Roberts](#) (1955)
23. [The Long Gray Line](#) (1955)
24. [Mogambo](#) (1953)
25. [The Sun Shines Bright](#) (1953)
26. [What Price Glory](#) (1952)
27. [The Quiet Man](#) (1952)
28. [This Is Korea!](#) (1951) (as Rear Admiral John Ford USNVR Ret.)
29. [Rio Grande](#) (1950)
... aka John Ford and Merian C. Cooper's Rio Grande (USA: complete title)

30. [Wagon Master](#) (1950)
31. [When Willie Comes Marching Home](#) (1950)

32. [She Wore a Yellow Ribbon](#) (1949)
33. [Pinky](#) (1949) (uncredited)
34. ["Fireside Theatre"](#) (1949) TV Series
35. [3 Godfathers](#) (1948)
36. [Fort Apache](#) (1948)
... aka War Party
37. [The Fugitive](#) (1947)
... aka Fugitivo, El (Mexico)
38. [My Darling Clementine](#) (1946)
... aka John Ford's My Darling Clementine (USA: complete title)
39. [They Were Expendable](#) (1945)
40. [December 7th](#) (1943)
... aka December 7th: The Movie (video title (restored version))
41. [We Sail at Midnight](#) (1943)
42. [The Battle of Midway](#) (1942)
43. [Sex Hygiene](#) (1942)
44. [Torpedo Squadron](#) (1942)
45. [How Green Was My Valley](#) (1941)
46. [Tobacco Road](#) (1941)
47. [The Long Voyage Home](#) (1940)
48. [The Grapes of Wrath](#) (1940)

49. [Drums Along the Mohawk](#) (1939)
50. [Young Mr. Lincoln](#) (1939)
51. [Stagecoach](#) (1939)
52. [Submarine Patrol](#) (1938)
53. [Four Men and a Prayer](#) (1938)
54. [The Adventures of Marco Polo](#) (1938) (uncredited)
55. [The Hurricane](#) (1937)
56. [Wee Willie Winkie](#) (1937)
57. [The Plough and the Stars](#) (1936)
58. [Mary of Scotland](#) (1936)
59. [The Prisoner of Shark Island](#) (1936)
60. [Steamboat Round the Bend](#) (1935)
... aka Steamboat Bill
61. [The Informer](#) (1935)
62. [The Whole Town's Talking](#) (1935)
... aka Passport to Fame (UK)
63. [Judge Priest](#) (1934)
64. [The World Moves On](#) (1934)
65. [The Lost Patrol](#) (1934)
66. [Doctor Bull](#) (1933)
67. [Pilgrimage](#) (1933)
68. [Flesh](#) (1932) (uncredited)

69. [Airmail](#) (1932)
70. [Arrowsmith](#) (1931)
71. [The Brat](#) (1931)
72. [Seas Beneath](#) (1931)
73. [Up the River](#) (1930)
74. [Born Reckless](#) (1930)
75. [Men Without Women](#) (1930)

76. [Salute](#) (1929) (uncredited)
77. [The Black Watch](#) (1929)
... aka King of the Khyber Rifles (UK)
78. [Strong Boy](#) (1929)
79. [Riley the Cop](#) (1928) (uncredited)
80. [Napoleon's Barber](#) (1928)
81. [Hangman's House](#) (1928) (uncredited)
82. [Four Sons](#) (1928)
83. [Mother Machree](#) (1928) (uncredited)
84. [Upstream](#) (1927)
... aka Footlight Glamour (UK)
85. [The Blue Eagle](#) (1926) (uncredited)
86. [3 Bad Men](#) (1926)
87. [The Shamrock Handicap](#) (1926)
... aka 1732
88. [The Fighting Heart](#) (1925)
... aka Once to Every Man (UK)
89. [Thank You](#) (1925)
90. [Kentucky Pride](#) (1925)
91. [Lightnin'](#) (1925)
92. [Hearts of Oak](#) (1924)
93. [The Iron Horse](#) (1924) (uncredited)
94. [Hoodman Blind](#) (1923)
95. [North of Hudson Bay](#) (1923) (as Jack Ford)
... aka North of the Yukon (UK)
96. [Cameo Kirby](#) (1923)
97. [Three Jumps Ahead](#) (1923) (as Jack Ford)
98. [The Face on the Bar-Room Floor](#) (1923) (as Jack Ford)
... aka The Love Image (UK)
99. [The Village Blacksmith](#) (1922) (as Jack Ford)
100. [Silver Wings](#) (1922) (as Jack Ford) (prologue only)
101. [Little Miss Smiles](#) (1922) (as Jack Ford)
102. [Jackie](#) (1921) (as Jack Ford)
103. [Sure Fire](#) (1921) (as Jack Ford)
104. [Action](#) (1921) (as Jack Ford)
... aka Let's Go
105. [Desperate Trails](#) (1921) (as Jack Ford)
106. [The Wallop](#) (1921) (as Jack Ford)
107. [The Freeze-Out](#) (1921) (as Jack Ford)

108. [The Big Punch](#) (1921) (as Jack Ford)
109. [Just Pals](#) (1920) (as Jack Ford)
110. [Hitchin' Posts](#) (1920) (as Jack Ford)
... aka The Land of Promise (UK)
111. [The Girl in Number 29](#) (1920) (as Jack Ford)
... aka The Girl in the Mirror
112. [The Prince of Avenue A](#) (1920) (as Jack Ford)

113. [Marked Men](#) (1919) (as Jack Ford)
... aka Trail of Shadows
114. [A Gun Fightin' Gentleman](#) (1919) (as Jack Ford)
... aka The Gun-Fighting Gentleman (USA: review title)
115. [Rider of the Law](#) (1919) (as Jack Ford)
... aka Jim of the Rangers
116. [Ace of the Saddle](#) (1919) (as Jack Ford)
117. [The Outcasts of Poker Flat](#) (1919) (as Jack Ford)
118. [The Last Outlaw](#) (1919)
119. [Riders of Vengeance](#) (1919) (as Jack Ford)
120. [By Indian Post](#) (1919) (as Jack Ford)
... aka The Love Letter
121. [The Gun Packer](#) (1919) (as Jack Ford)
... aka Out Wyoming Way
122. [Gun Law](#) (1919) (as Jack Ford)
... aka The Posse's Prey
123. [Bare Fists](#) (1919) (as Jack Ford)
... aka The Man Who Wouldn't Shoot
124. [A Fight for Love](#) (1919) (as Jack Ford)
... aka Hell's Neck
125. [The Fighting Brothers](#) (1919) (as Jack Ford)
... aka His Buddy
126. [Roped](#) (1919) (as Jack Ford)
127. [Rustlers](#) (1919) (as Jack Ford)
... aka Even Money
128. [Three Mounted Men](#) (1918) (as Jack Ford)
... aka Three Wounded Men (USA)
129. [The Craving](#) (1918)
130. [A Woman's Fool](#) (1918) (as Jack Ford)
131. [Hell Bent](#) (1918) (as Jack Ford)
... aka The Three Bad Men (USA: bowdlerized title)
132. [The Scarlet Drop](#) (1918) (as Jack Ford)
133. [Thieves' Gold](#) (1918) (as Jack Ford)
134. [Wild Women](#) (1918) (as Jack Ford)
135. [The Phantom Riders](#) (1918) (as Jack Ford)
136. [Bucking Broadway](#) (1917) (as Jack Ford)
... aka Slumbering Fires (UK)
137. [A Marked Man](#) (1917) (as Jack Ford)

138. [The Secret Man](#) (1917) (as Jack Ford)
 ... aka [The Round Up](#)
 ... aka [Up Against It](#)
139. [Straight Shooting](#) (1917) (as Jack Ford)
 ... aka [Joan of the Cattle Country](#)
 ... aka [Straight Shootin' \(USA: cut version\)](#)
 ... aka [The Cattle War](#)
140. [The Soul Herder](#) (1917) (as Jack Ford)
 ... aka [The Sky Pilot](#)
141. [Cheyenne's Pal](#) (1917) (as Jack Ford)
 ... aka [A Dumb Friend](#)
 ... aka [Cactus My Pal](#)
142. [The Scrapper](#) (1917) (as Jack Ford)
143. [Trail of Hate](#) (1917)
144. [The Tornado](#) (1917) (as Jack Ford)
145. [Red Saunders Plays Cupid](#) (1917)