

# Cecil B. DeMille

"I'm ready for my close-up, Mr. DeMille."

--Gloria Swanson in Billy Wilder's SUNSET BOULEVARD

Cecil B. DeMille's career as a director and producer spans five decades of motion pictures. After directing his first film, the 1914 silent *THE SQUAW MAN*, DeMille went on to make seventy features, including westerns, adventures, musical comedies and war pictures before his death in 1959. He gave many actors such as Gloria Swanson their start in films, earning him a reputation as a starmaker. A consummate showman, who knew better than anyone how to promote his films and himself, DeMille is best known as the creator of visually lush epics such as *THE TEN COMMANDMENTS*, *THE CRUSADES*, *CLEOPATRA* and DeMille's own favorite, *THE KING OF KINGS* as well as sophisticated comedies such as *THE AFFAIRS OF ANATOLE*, *THE CHEAT*, and *MADAME SATAN*.

Many of Cecil B. DeMille's films are available for study and research at the UCLA Film and Television Archive. With generous assistance from the Cecil B. DeMille Trust, the Archive



Claudette Colbert plays the title role in DeMille's *Cleopatra* (1934).

has restored and preserved several DeMille films, including *CLEOPATRA*, *THE GODLESS GIRL*, *KING OF KINGS*, *THE LITTLE AMERICAN* and two versions of *THE SIGN OF THE CROSS*; the original 1932 release and the re-edited 1944 version. The DeMille prints that the Archive has preserved have been shown in festivals worldwide. Also available for study are clips of DeMille

directing a scene from *THIS DAY AND AGE*, a promotional short showing D. W. Griffith visiting DeMille on the set of *THE KING OF KINGS* and Paramount newsreel footage featuring DeMille.

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## FILMS

(this is only a partial list – consult the Archive Research and Study Center for further listings)

*The Cheat* (1915). Jesse L. Lasky Feature Play Co. Scenario, Hector Turnbull and Jeanie Macpherson. Silent. Study Copy: VD710 M

*The Little American* (1917). Mary Pickford Film Corp-Artcraft Pictures Corp. Screenplay, Jeanie Macpherson. Silent. Study Copy: VA18076 M

*Male and Female* (1919). Famous Players-Lasky Corp. Scenario, Jeanie Macpherson. Silent. Inventory Number: M57667

*The Affairs of Anatol* (1921). Famous Players-Lasky. Scenarist, Jeanie Macpherson. Silent. Study Copy: VA946 M

*The Road to Yesterday* (1925). DeMille Pictures. Adaptation, Jeanie Macpherson and Beulah Marie Dix. Silent. Study Copy: VA10375 M

*King of Kings* (1927). DeMille Pictures. Story/Screenplay, Jeanie Macpherson. Silent with music track. Study Copy: DVD8654 M

*The Godless Girl* (1929). C. B. DeMille Productions. Story/Dialogue, Jeanie Macpherson. Titles, Beulah Marie Dix and Macpherson. Silent with music score. Study Copy: DVD4054 M

*Squaw Man* (1931). Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. Writers, Lucien Hubbard and Lenore Coffee. Dialogue, Elsie Janis. Study Copy: VA18695 M

*Cleopatra* (1934). Paramount. Writers, Waldemar Young and Vincent Lawrence. Study Copy: VA11307 M

*Greatest Show on Earth* (1952). Paramount. Writers, Fredric M. Frank, Barre Lyndon, Theodore St. John. Study Copy: VA4194 M

*Ten Commandments* (1956). Paramount. Writers, Aeneas MacKenzie, Jesse L. Laskey, Jr., Jack Gariss, and Fredric M. Frank. Study Copy: DVD3859 M - DVD3860 M

## PRINT RESOURCES

(for more information consult the UCLA Arts Library)

DeMille, Cecil B. *The Autobiography of Cecil B. DeMille*. London: W.H. Allen, 1960.

Higham, Charles. *Cecil B. DeMille*. New York: Scribner, 1973.

Ringgold, Gene and DeWitt Bodeen. *The Films of Cecil B. DeMille*. New York: Citadel Press, 1969.