

Рябченко Н.Н., студ. гр. 202а, ФК и СКД
БГУ культуры и искусств
Научный руководитель – Платонова Э.Е.,
ст. преподаватель

MARILYN MONROE AS AN ACTRESS, SINGER, MODEL AND WOMAN

Marilyn Monroe personified Hollywood glamour with an unparalleled glow and energy that enamored the world. Although she was an alluring beauty with voluptuous curves and a generous pout, Marilyn was more than a '50s sex goddess. Her apparent vulnerability and innocence, in combination with an innate sensuality, has endeared her to the global consciousness. Marilyn Monroe is truly one of the most famous women of the 20th century. Her life is very interesting for me, that's why I have decided to study the information this topic.

Probably the most celebrated of all actresses, Marilyn Monroe was born (Norma Jean Mortenson) on the first of June, 1926 in Los Angeles General Hospital. Her mother, Gladys, had entered into several relationships, further confusing her daughter as who her father was. Afterward, Gladys gave Norma Jean the name of Baker, a boyfriend she had before Mortenson. Poverty was a constant companion to Gladys and Norma. Gladys, who was extremely attractive and worked as a film cutter, suffered from mental illness and was in and out of mental institutions for the rest of her life.

Norma Jean spent most of her childhood in foster homes and orphanages until 1937, when she moved in with family friend Grace McKee Goddard. Grace McKee, became her [guardian](#). She told Monroe that someday she would become a movie star. Unfortunately, when Grace's husband was transferred to the East Coast in 1942, the couple couldn't afford to take 16-year-old Norma Jean with them. Norma Jean had two options: return to the orphanage or get married. In 1942, at the age of 16, Norma Jean married 21-year-old aircraft plant worker James

Dougherty. Norma Jean loved Jimmy, and they were happy together until he joined the Merchant Marines and was sent to the South Pacific in 1944.

In 1945 Norma Jean met Andre De Dienes, her preferred photographer, at the age of nineteen, and he immediately saw her potential. Andre immediately began photographing her, he said: "...she was wearing a skimpy sweater, her curly hair tied in a ribbon to match...she seemed unsure of herself. With her childlike smile...I immediately felt how much I could draw out of her still childlike face." [2]

After Jimmy left, Norma Jean took a job on the assembly line at the Radio Plane factory in Burbank, California. Several months later, photographer David Conover saw her while taking pictures of women contributing to the war effort for *Yank* magazine. He couldn't believe his luck. She was a "photographer's dream." Conover used her for the shoot and then began sending modeling jobs. The camera loved Norma Jean, and within two years she was a reputable model with many popular magazine covers to her credit. Jim Dougherty, seemed to forget about his wife's new job and only became aware of it when he discovered a shipmate of his admiring a photo of a sexy model in a magazine. The model was Norma Jean. Dougherty wrote her several letters telling her that once he returned from service she would have to give up her modeling. Jimmy's return meant Norma Jean had to make choice between her marriage and her career. Norma Jean divorced Jimmy in 1946, and signed her first studio contract with Twentieth Century Fox in August 1946. She earned \$125 a week. Soon after, Norma Jean dyed her hair blonde and changed her name to Marilyn Monroe. She decided to choose her mother's maiden name of Monroe.

Marilyn's first movie role was a bit part in 1947's [The Shocking Miss Pilgrim](#). Her next production was not much better. From then on Marilyn worked steadily in movies such as: [Let's Make It Legal](#), [As Young As You Feel](#), [Monkey Business](#) (where she was seen for the first time as a platinum blonde, a look that became her trademark) and [Don't Bother to Knock](#). It was her performance in 1953's [Niagara](#), however, that made her a star. Marilyn's success in *Niagara* was followed with lead roles in the wildly popular [Gentlemen Prefer Blondes](#) and [How to Marry a Millionaire](#). *Photoplay* magazine voted Marilyn the Best New Actress of 1953, and at 27 years old she was undeniably the best-loved blonde bombshell in Hollywood.

In January 1954, Marilyn married baseball superstar [Joe DiMaggio](#) at San Francisco's City Hall. During their Tokyo honeymoon, Marilyn took time to perform for the service men stationed in Korea. Her presence caused some mess among the troops, and Joe was uncomfortable with thousands of men looking at his new bride. Unfortunately, Marilyn's fame and sexual image became a theme that haunted their marriage. Nine months later in October 1954, Marilyn and Joe divorced.

The film [The Seven Year Itch](#) (1955), showcased her considerable comedy talent and contained what is arguably one of the most memorable moments in cinema history: Marilyn standing above a subway grating and the wind from a passing subway blowing her white dress up. In 1956, Marilyn started her own motion picture company, Marilyn Monroe Productions. The company produced two films: [Bus Stop](#) and [The Prince and the Showgirl](#). These films allowed her to demonstrate her talent and versatility as an actress.

The director Logan wrote: "I found Marilyn to be one of the great talents of all time... she struck me as being a much brighter person than I had ever imagined, and I think that was the first time I learned that intelligence and, brilliance have nothing to do with education." [1]

During filming of Some Like It Hot (1959) Monroe was pregnant, but suffered from the second miscarriage in 1958, as filming was completed. The film became a resounding success, and was nominated for five Academy Awards. Monroe was acclaimed for her performance and won the Golden Globe Award for Best Actress of Motion Picture Musical or Comedy.

Monroe's health became worse during this period, and she began to see a Los Angeles psychiatrist, Dr. Ralph Greenson. He later recalled that during this time she frequently complained of insomnia, and told Greenson that she visited several medical doctors to obtain some drugs. He concluded that she was progressing to the point of addiction, but also noted that she could give up the drugs for extended periods, without suffering any symptoms.

In May 1962, she attended the birthday celebration of President John F. Kennedy at Madison Square Garden. Monroe performed "Happy Birthday" along with a specially written verse based on Bob Hope's "Thanks for the Memory". Kennedy responded to her performance with the remark, "Thank you. I can now retire from politics after having had 'Happy Birthday' sung to me in such a sweet, way." [3]

The fifth of August 1962, police sergeant Jack Clemmons received a call in the early morning from Dr. Ralph Greenson, Monroe's psychiatrist, proclaiming that Monroe was found dead at her home in Los Angeles, California. She was 36 years old. The doctor recorded the cause of death as "acute poisoning," resulting from a "probable suicide".

According to the people who knew Marilyn, she was a sweet, innocent young woman who got caught up in the glamour of show business. Emotionally she was very sensitive, dreamy, gentle, and easily influenced. Marilyn was attracted to

foreigners, exotic places, traveling, and to people who can expand her horizons, teach her something, or show Monroe places and worlds she has never experienced before. Sharing a philosophy or ideal with her love partner was important to her. Marilyn Monroe loved to laugh, celebrate, and to enjoy herself with her companions. Emotionally open and easygoing, Marilyn considered just about anyone a friend or potential friend. Her good humor and friendliness make her quite popular and well-liked.

As fame took hold of her, she became less and less herself, and more and more “Marilyn”. This persona created by the media was glamorous, outspoken, and sexy. This image was created, killing the true spirit inside of this woman, and eventually killing this woman altogether.

Список использованной литературы:

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