

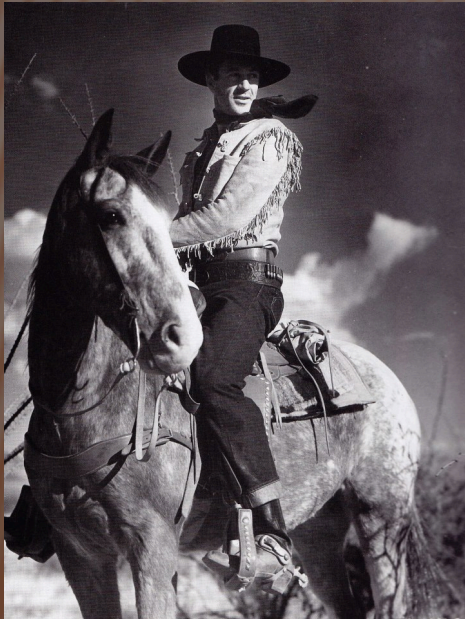


# GARY COOPER

American Film Actor and Icon  
1901–1961

*When Cooper played a cowboy you really believed he was a cowboy, and when he played an international man of sophistication, he was just as believable. That had a real effect on me, and what I found so interesting about him. He was at home in either role and always convincingly authentic. There weren't many actors that could do that, which is why Gary Cooper was not only the biggest star of his time, but also the definitive "American" movie star—handsome, honorable, honest.*

*-Ralph Lauren*



The Westerner (1940)



Morocco (1930)



# BIOGRAPHY

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Gary Cooper was born Frank James Cooper in Helena, Montana, one of two sons of an English farmer from Bedfordshire, who later became an American lawyer and judge, Charles Henry Cooper (1865-1946), and Kent-born Alice (née Brazier) Cooper (1873-1967). His mother hoped for their two sons to receive a better education than that available in Montana and arranged for the boys to attend Dunstable Grammar School in Bedfordshire, England between 1910 and 1913. Upon the outbreak of World War I, Cooper's mother brought her sons home and enrolled them in a Bozeman, Montana, high school.

When Cooper was 13, he injured his hip in a car accident. He returned to his parents' ranch near Helena to recuperate by horseback riding at the recommendation of his doctor. Cooper studied at Iowa's Grinnell College until the spring of 1924, but did not graduate. He had tried out, unsuccessfully, for the college's drama club. He returned to Helena, managing the ranch and contributing cartoons to the local newspaper. In 1924, Cooper's father left the Montana Supreme Court bench and moved with his wife to Los Angeles. Their son, unable to make a living as an editorial cartoonist in Helena, joined them, moving there that same year, reasoning that he "would rather starve where it was warm, than to starve and freeze too."

# BIOGRAPHY

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Failing as a salesman of electric signs and theatrical curtains, as a promoter for a local photographer and as an applicant for newspaper work in Los Angeles, Cooper found work as an actor in 1925. He earned money as an "extra" in the motion picture industry, usually cast as a cowboy. He is known to have had an uncredited role in the 1925 Tom Mix Western, Dick Turpin. The following year, he had screen credit in a two-reeler, Lightnin' Wins, with actress Eileen Sedgwick as his leading lady.

After the release of this short film, Cooper accepted a long-term contract with Paramount Pictures. He changed his name to Gary in 1925, following the advice of casting director Nan Collins, who felt it evoked the "rough, tough" nature of her native Gary, Indiana.

"Coop," as he was called by his peers, went on to appear in over 100 films. Cooper broke through in a supporting role in Wings (1927), the only silent film to win an Academy Award for Best Picture, following that with Nevada (1927) co-starring Thelma Todd and William Powell, based on the Zane Gray novel, which was remade in 1944 as an early Robert Mitchum vehicle, the only time Cooper and Mitchum played the same role.



# BIOGRAPHY

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He became a major star with his first sound picture, *The Virginian* (1929) opposite Walter Huston as the villainous Trampas. *The Spoilers* appeared the following year with Betty Compson, which was remade in 1942 with Compson lookalike Marlene Dietrich and John Wayne in Cooper's role. Cooper followed this action movie with his own Dietrich film entitled *Morocco* (1930) in which he played a Foreign Legionnaire. *Devil and the Deep* (1932) featured Cary Grant in a supporting role with Talullah Bankhead and Cooper in the leads alongside Charles Laughton.

The following year, Cooper was the second lead in the sophisticated Ernst Lubitsch comedy production of Noël Coward's *Design for Living*, billed under Fredric March in the kind of fast-talking role Cooper never played again after Cary Grant staked out the light comedy leading man field with his persona-changing *The Awful Truth* four years later. The screen adaptation of *A Farewell to Arms* (1932), directed by Frank Borzage, and the title role in Frank Capra's *Mr. Deeds Goes to Town* (1936) furthered Cooper's box office appeal

# BIOGRAPHY

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Cooper was producer David O. Selznick's first choice for the role of Rhett Butler in the 1939 film *Gone with the Wind*. When Cooper turned down the role, he was passionately against it. He is quoted as saying, "Gone with the Wind is going to be the biggest flop in Hollywood history. I'm glad it'll be Clark Gable who's falling flat on his nose, not me". Alfred Hitchcock wanted him to star in *Foreign Correspondent* (1940) and *Saboteur* (1942). Cooper later admitted he had made a "mistake" in turning down the director. For the former film, Hitchcock cast look-alike Joel McCrea instead.

Cooper cemented his cowboy credentials again in *The Westerner* (1940) opposite Walter Brennan as Judge Roy Bean and followed that immediately afterward with the lavish *North West Mounted Police* (1940), directed by Cecil B. DeMille and featuring Paulette Goddard.

In 1942, Cooper won his first Academy Award for Best Actor for his performance as the title character in *Sergeant York*. Alvin York refused to authorize a movie about his life unless Cooper portrayed him. *Meet John Doe* was released earlier the same year, a smash hit under the direction of Frank Capra. Ingrid Bergman had just made *Casablanca* when she and Cooper collaborated on *For Whom the Bell Tolls* (1943), based on a novel by Cooper's close friend Ernest Hemingway.



# BIOGRAPHY

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In 1953, Cooper won his second Best Actor Academy Award for his performance as Marshal Will Kane in *High Noon*, arguably considered his finest role. Shooting a film deep in the mountains of Mexico, Cooper wasn't present to receive his Academy Award in February 1953. He asked John Wayne to accept it on his behalf, a bit of irony in light of Wayne's stated distaste for the film.

Cooper continued to play the lead in films almost to the end of his life. Among his later box office hits were the stark Western adventure *Garden of Evil* (1954) with Susan Hayward and Richard Widmark; *Vera Cruz* (1954), an extremely influential Western in which he guns down villain Burt Lancaster in a showdown; his portrayal of a Quaker farmer during the American Civil War in William Wyler's *Friendly Persuasion* (1956); and Anthony Mann's *Man of the West* (1958), a hard-edged action Western with Lee J. Cobb. His final motion picture was a British film, *The Naked Edge* (1961), directed by Michael Anderson. Among his final projects was narrating an NBC documentary, *The Real West*, in which he helped clear up myths about the early west.

# MARIA COOPER JANIS



Maria Cooper Janis was born in Los Angeles, California and lived there with her parents, the actor Gary Cooper and his wife Veronica Cooper. She followed a painting career in New York and in 1966 married the world renowned concert pianist, Byron Janis. Although Mr. Janis' busy schedule has led them all over the world, Mrs. Janis has enjoyed a successful career as an artist. She pursues her paintings with great energy, exhibiting in the United States as well as Europe and Asia.

Maria Cooper Janis is involved with the American Arthritis Foundation of which her husband, Byron Janis is the National Spokesperson and she sits on the board of Pro Musicis, an organization committed to furthering the careers of young musicians. She also works with the Neuropathy Foundation and is an active board member of the ASPR (American Society for Psychical Research).

She has collaborated on three television specials, one produced by TNT "Gary Cooper, American Life, American Legend," another, part of TNT's Biography Series entitled "The Life and Times of Gary Cooper" and she has worked with A&E to contribute to a special on her father for their Biography program titled, "Gary Cooper: The Face of a Hero" which was aired in March of 1998. She has collaborated abroad with a PBS/French production of "Frederick Chopin: A Voyage with Byron Janis." Mrs. Janis frequently lectures around the country on such topics as, "Growing Up in Hollywood" often with her longtime friend Joan Benny.

She has written a book Gary Cooper off Camera: A Daughter Remembers which gives an inside look into the persona of one of the greatest movie stars of all time. She has collaborated with author Bruce Boyer on Gary Cooper Enduring Style, published in November of 2011 by powerHouse Books with an introduction by Ralph Lauren.

Maria Cooper Janis has been working on a feature film documentary, "The True Gen," about the special 20-year friendship between Gary Cooper and Ernest Hemingway, the score of which is composed by Byron Janis. She has just finished work as a consultant on the PBS documentary produced by Peter Rosen, The Byron Janis Story, about the life of Byron Janis which is currently being aired nationally and contributed to his new autobiography, Chopin and Beyond: My Extraordinary Life in Music and the Paranormal.

In addition to film projects, she continues her work as a painter and also works with American Indian interests, something that was very close to her father's heart, and has started the Gary Cooper Scholarship for American Indian Students in Film and Television at the USC School of Cinematic Arts.



*“It was Gary Cooper who became the enduring American icon because he so adroitly combined the down-to-earth touch of time common man with the sharp elegance of a film hero.” – Bruce Boyer*

## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES



Sergeant York (1941)

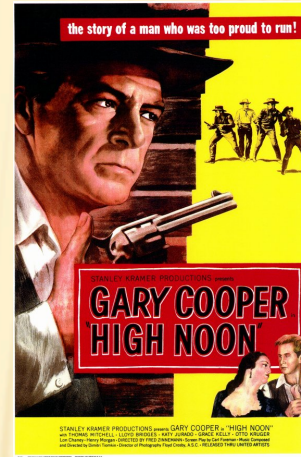


High Noon (1952)

# AWARDS



1961 – The 33<sup>rd</sup> Academy Award Honorary Oscar for a Lifetime Achievement in the film industry.



1952 – Academy Award for Best Actor in High Noon



1941 – Academy Award for Best Actor in Sergeant York



# MILESTONES

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**1928:** First feature film with speaking part, "The Shopworn Angel"

**1930:** Portrayed sardonic, independent soldier, too taciturn to spell out his love for Marlene Dietrich in Josef von Sternberg's "Morocco"

**1936:** Received first of five Academy Award nominations as Best Actor for "Mr. Deeds Goes to Town", directed by Frank Capra and co-starring Jean Arthur

**1941:** Earned first Best Actor Oscar for Howard Hawks' "Sergeant York", the biopic of the WWI hero

**1942:** Portrayed baseball great Lou Gehrig in "The Pride of the Yankees"; nominated for an Academy Award as Best Actor

**1947:** Testified as a "friendly witness" before the House Committee on Un-American Activities (HUAC), investing Communism in Hollywood

**1952:** Collected second Best Actor Oscar for his performance in "High Noon"

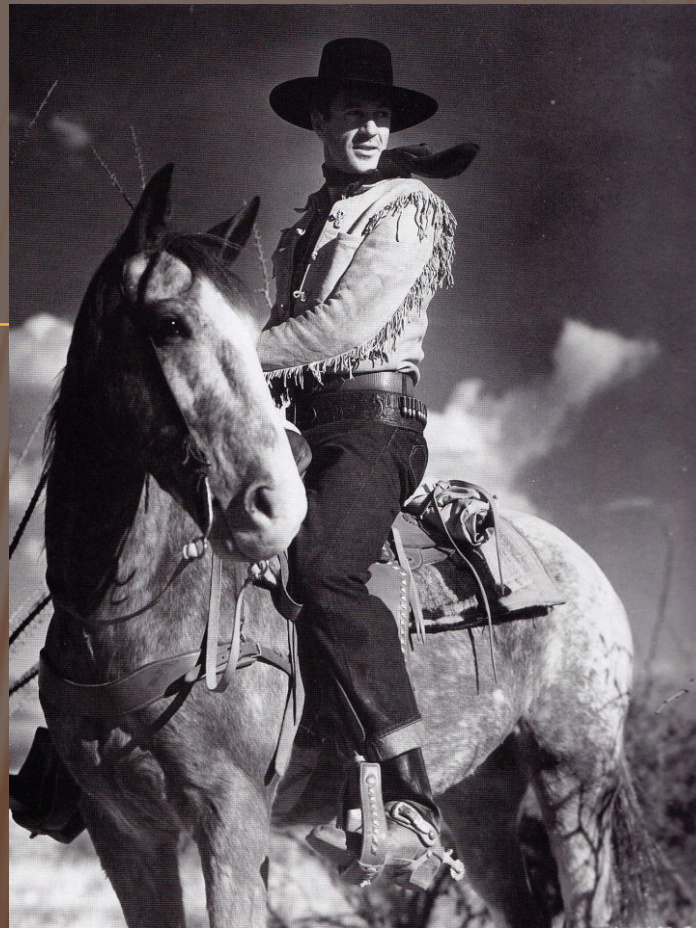
**1956:** "Told" his memoirs to SATURDAY EVENING POST writer George Scullins, and they appeared in eight installments, entitled "Well, It Was This Way"

**1961:** Narrated and appeared in the excellent documentary "The Real West", produced as part of NBC-TV's "Project 20" series; aired on March 26

**1961:** Presented with honorary Oscar for lifetime achievement on April 17; accepted by longtime friend Jimmy Stewart because Cooper was too ill to attend

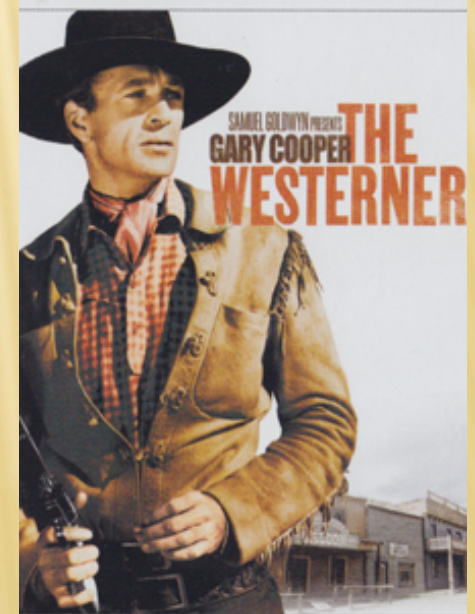
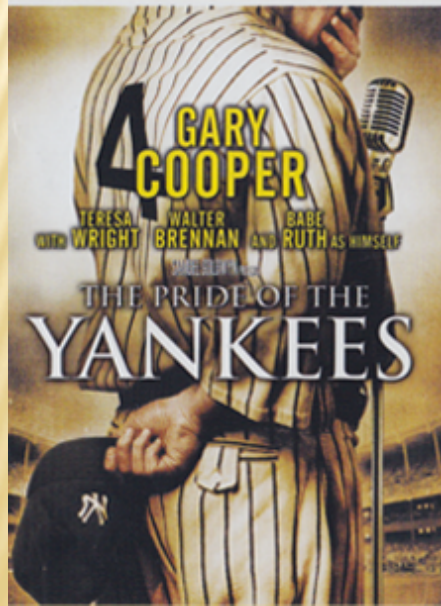
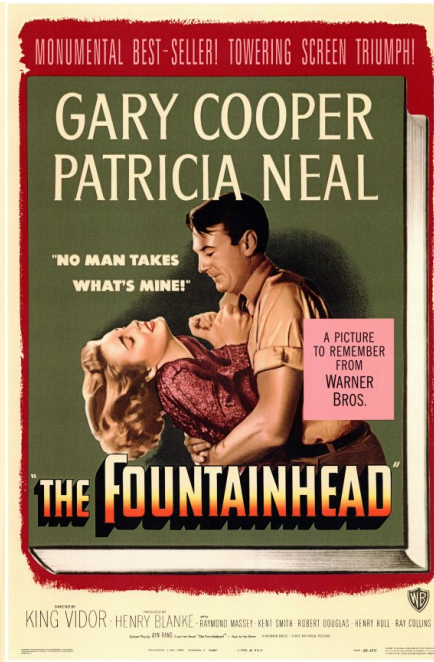
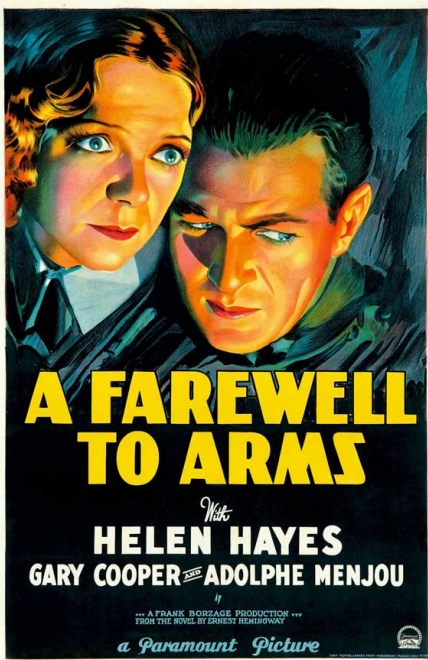
# FILMOGRAPHY

*"The only achievement I am really proud of is the friends I have made in this community."*



The Westerner (1940)







# ALL FILMOGRAPHY

Hollywood On Trial (1976)

The Naked Edge (1961)

They Came to Cordura (1959)

Alias Jesse James (1959)

The Wreck of the Mary Deare (1959)

The Hanging Tree (1959)

Man of the West (1958)

Ten North Frederick (1958)

Love in the Afternoon (1957)

Friendly Persuasion (1956)

The Court-Martial of Billy Mitchell (1955)

Vera Cruz (1954)

Garden of Evil (1954)

Blowing Wild (1953)

Return to Paradise (1953)

It's a Big Country: An American Anthology (1952)

Springfield Rifle (1952)

High Noon (1952)

Starlift (1951)

Distant Drums (1951)

You're in the Navy Now (1951)

Dallas (1950)

Bright Leaf (1950)

It's a Great Feeling (1949)

Task Force (1949)

The Fountainhead (1949)

Good Sam (1948)

Unconquered (1947)

Variety Girl (1947)

Cloak and Dagger (1946)

Saratoga Trunk (1946)

Along Came Jones (1945)

The Story of Dr. Wassell (1944)

Casanova Brown (1944).

The Pride of the Yankees (1943)

For Whom the Bell Tolls (1943)

Ball of Fire (1942)

Sergeant York (1941)

Meet John Doe (1941)

North West Mounted Police (1940)

The Westerner (1940)

Beau Geste (1939)

The Real Glory (1939)

The Cowboy and the Lady (1938)

The Plainsman (1937)

Souls at Sea (1937)



# ALL FILMOGRAPHY

Desire (1936)

The General Died at Dawn (1936)

Hollywood Boulevard (1936)

Mr. Deeds Goes to Town (1936)

Peter Ibbetson (1935)

The Lives of a Bengal Lancer (1935)

The Wedding Night (1935)

Operator 13 (1934)

Now and Forever (1934)

Today We Live (1933)

Design for Living (1933)

Alice in Wonderland (1933) a

One Sunday Afternoon (1933)

If I Had a Million (1932)

Make Me a Star (1932)

A Farewell to Arms (1932)

Devil and the Deep (1932)

Fighting Caravans (1931)

City Streets (1931)

His Woman (1931)

I Take This Woman (1931)

Paramount on Parade (1930)

Morocco (1930)

Seven Days Leave (1930)

Galas de la Paramount (1930).

The Texan (1930)

Only the Brave (1930)

A Man From Wyoming (1930)

The Spoilers (1930)

Betrayal (1929)

Wolf Song (1929)

The Virginian (1929)

The Shopworn Angel (1929)

Half a Bride (1928)

Doomsday (1928)

The First Kiss (1928)

Legion of the Condemned (1928)

Beau Sabreur (1928).

Lilac Time (1928)

The Last Outlaw (1927)

Children of Divorce (1927)

Nevada (1927)

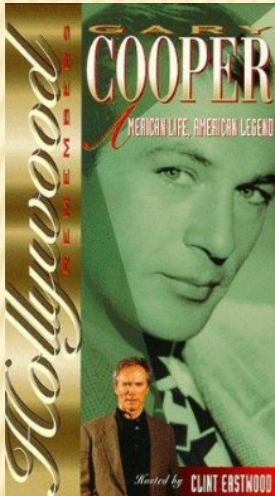
It (1927)

Wings (1927)

Arizona Bound (1927)

The Winning of Barbara Worth (1926)

# DOCUMENTARY



## **GARY COOPER: AMERICAN LIFE, AMERICAN LEGEND** – Narrated by Clint Eastwood (1991)

Gary Cooper was one of Hollywood's best loved and perhaps most iconic American stars. His fans loved him because he was one of them, a regular Joe. Cooper represented an idealized version of ourselves and, in a simpler time, our country. As host Clint Eastwood says in the documentary Gary Cooper: American Life, American Legend, "[we] saw in his face the face of all America."



## **GARY COOPER: THE FACE OF A HERO (1998)**

Known for his personification of the Western Hero, it was Montana-born Cooper's horse-riding skills that first brought him bit parts in movies. Though he rarely played a villain and was an adept comedian, Cooper is best remembered for his strong, silent heroes. Over 100 movies brought him five Academy Award Nominations and two Academy Awards. Daughter Maria Cooper Janis and actors George C. Scott, Charlton Heston, Patricia Neal and Joan Leslie are among those appearing in this profile of one of Hollywood's greatest stars.

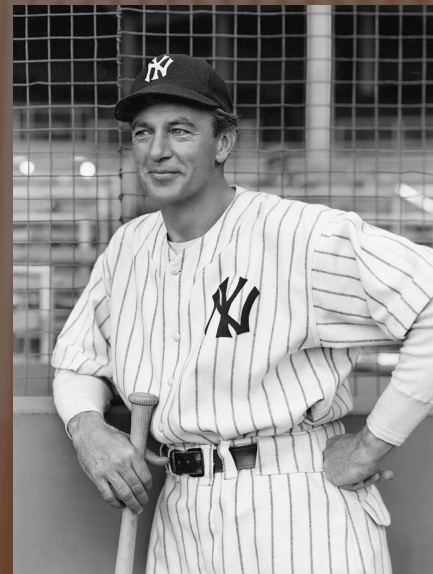


*"Today's leading men should take notice of Gary Cooper: Enduring Style."  
-Wall Street Journal*

# BOOKS



Love in the Afternoon (1957)



Pride of the Yankees (1947)

**Enduring Style** is the first ever monograph focused on the timeless fashion and allure of this leading man who was a fashion inspiration to his Hollywood peers, clothing designers then and now, and generations of stylish men of every social strata, across the globe. Compiled of unpublished, never-before-seen personal photographs, shot primarily by his wife Rocky, Gary Cooper captures the cars, the mansions and ranches, the guns and gear, and of course the endless outfits for every occasion that this Hollywood icon ensconced himself in throughout the years. Whether hunting with close friend Ernest Hemingway, lounging with Cary Grant, horseback, poolside, or on the beach, on-set or after-hours, in the company of royalty or cowboys, Cooper had the perfect outfit for every occasion, embodying a type of refined masculinity rarely seen and in high demand to this day.

## ***ENDURING STYLE***

By G. Bruce Boyer and Maria Cooper Janis

Design by Ruth Ansel

Introduction by Ralph Lauren

**GARY COOPER**



**Enduring Style**



## GARY COOPER OFF CAMERA



*Maria Cooper Janis  
with an introduction by Tom Hanks*

Gary Cooper (1901-1961) is an American icon—an actor whose handsome features and unstudied poise made him one of the great stars of Hollywood's Golden Era. Now, his only child gives us an extraordinary memoir—a book that reveals the Gary Cooper only she knew. Illustrated throughout with 175 photographs, including many never-before-published family pictures, Maria Cooper Janis' heartfelt book offers an unprecedented look at her father's private side, from his Montana boyhood and his Hollywood home life to his friendships with Ernest Hemingway, Pablo Picasso, and Jimmy Stewart, among others. Filled with anecdotes that capture the off-screen humor and warmth of this avid outdoorsman and great humanitarian, *Gary Cooper Off Camera* is an unforgettable portrait of a great star and a beloved father.

## GARY COOPER OFF CAMERA

By Maria Cooper Janis

Introduction by Tom Hanks

*"This fellow is the worlds greatest actor. He does without effort what the rest of us spend our life trying to learn---namely, to be natural."— John Barrymore*

## **GARY COOPER: AN AMERICAN ICON**