

audrey hepburn in the 60s

Audrey Hepburn in the 60s marked a transformative decade for the iconic actress, who not only solidified her status as a Hollywood legend but also became a symbol of elegance and grace. The 1960s saw Hepburn navigating a rapidly changing cultural landscape while continuing to captivate audiences with her performances on screen. This article delves into her cinematic achievements, personal life, fashion influence, and humanitarian efforts during this vibrant decade.

Cinematic Achievements

The 1960s were pivotal for Audrey Hepburn in terms of her film career. Following her success in the 1950s, she starred in several notable films that showcased her versatility as an actress.

Key Films of the 1960s

1. Breakfast at Tiffany's (1961)
 - Directed by Blake Edwards, this film became one of Hepburn's most iconic roles. She played Holly Golightly, a quirky and charming socialite navigating her way through New York City. Her portrayal earned her an Academy Award nomination for Best Actress.
 - The film is also famous for its unforgettable opening scene featuring Hepburn in a black Givenchy dress, embodying style and sophistication.
2. The Children's Hour (1961)
 - This film, directed by William Wyler, saw Hepburn take on a serious role as Karen Wright, a teacher whose life is turned upside down by a student's malicious rumor. The film tackled themes of love, betrayal, and societal judgment, showcasing Hepburn's dramatic range.
3. Two for the Road (1967)
 - In this romantic drama, Hepburn starred alongside Albert Finney, exploring the complexities of marriage and love through a series of flashbacks. The film was notable for its non-linear storytelling and Hepburn's poignant performance.
4. Wait Until Dark (1967)
 - In a departure from her typical roles, Hepburn played a blind woman named Susy, who becomes entangled in a deadly game of cat and mouse with criminals. Her performance was intense and gripping, earning her critical acclaim and a nomination for the Academy Award for Best Actress.

Box Office Success

The films of the 1960s not only showcased Hepburn's talent but were also significant box office successes. Here are some notable achievements:

- Breakfast at Tiffany's grossed over \$14 million in its initial release, making it one of the highest-grossing films of the year.

- The Children's Hour received critical acclaim, and while it didn't perform as well commercially, it garnered significant attention for its brave subject matter.
- Wait Until Dark proved to be a box office hit, showcasing Hepburn's ability to draw audiences even in a thriller genre.

Fashion Icon

Audrey Hepburn's influence on fashion during the 1960s was profound. She was not just an actress; she was a style icon whose choices shaped trends and inspired generations.

Signature Styles

- The Little Black Dress: Hepburn made the little black dress famous with her portrayal of Holly Golightly. This timeless piece became synonymous with elegance and sophistication.
- Chic Accessories: Hepburn often accessorized with pearls, oversized sunglasses, and elegant hats, which became staples of her fashion identity.
- Casual Wear: In the 1960s, Hepburn's style evolved to include more casual outfits. Her chic yet effortless approach to fashion made her relatable to women around the world.

Influence of Hubert de Givenchy

Hepburn's collaboration with designer Hubert de Givenchy played a crucial role in defining her fashion legacy.

- Signature Looks: Givenchy designed many of Hepburn's most famous outfits, including the pink dress she wore in Funny Face and the black dress in Breakfast at Tiffany's.
- Timeless Collaborations: Their partnership was not only professional but also deeply personal, with Hepburn considering Givenchy a close friend.

Personal Life

The 1960s were also a time of significant changes in Hepburn's personal life, including her relationships and family dynamics.

Marriage and Motherhood

- Marriage to Mel Ferrer: Audrey Hepburn was married to actor Mel Ferrer from 1954 to 1968. During the 1960s, their marriage faced challenges, leading to their eventual separation. Despite the difficulties, they remained friends and co-parents to their son, Sean Ferrer.
- Life as a Mother: In 1960, Hepburn welcomed her second son, Luca Dotti, with her partner Andrea Dotti. Balancing her career and motherhood was a

significant theme during this decade, as she often spoke about the joys and challenges of being a mother.

Romantic Relationships

- Following her separation from Ferrer, Hepburn became romantically involved with several notable figures, including actor Ben Gazzara and Italian psychiatrist Andrea Dotti. Her relationships during this time reflected her desire for companionship and love amidst the pressures of fame.

Humanitarian Efforts

As the 1960s progressed, Hepburn began to shift her focus from acting to humanitarian work, which would define much of her later life.

Involvement with UNICEF

- In 1963, Hepburn was appointed as a Goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF, a role that allowed her to advocate for children's rights and welfare around the globe.
- She traveled to various countries, including Ethiopia and Turkey, to raise awareness about the plight of children in impoverished regions. Her experiences deeply impacted her, and she used her platform to bring attention to global issues.

Legacy of Philanthropy

- Hepburn's humanitarian work earned her numerous accolades, including the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award in 1993. Her dedication to helping others became a significant aspect of her legacy.
- She often stated that her work with UNICEF was more fulfilling than any of her film roles, emphasizing her commitment to making a difference in the world.

Cultural Impact

Audrey Hepburn's influence extended beyond the silver screen and into the realms of culture and society.

Symbol of the 60s

- Hepburn epitomized the shift in women's roles during the 1960s, representing independence, empowerment, and grace. Her characters often challenged traditional gender norms, resonating with the growing feminist movement.
- The decade saw a rise in the popularity of films featuring strong female

leads, and Hepburn was at the forefront of this movement.

Enduring Legacy

- Hepburn's impact on fashion, cinema, and humanitarian efforts continues to be felt today. She is frequently cited as an inspiration by designers, actresses, and activists alike.
- Her dedication to humanitarian work has inspired many to follow in her footsteps, demonstrating that celebrity can be a powerful tool for positive change.

In conclusion, Audrey Hepburn in the 60s was a decade marked by significant achievements, challenges, and transformations. Her films during this time solidified her legacy as an actress, while her fashion choices and humanitarian efforts showcased her multifaceted character. Hepburn remains a beloved figure, representing elegance, compassion, and resilience, ensuring her place in history as one of the most iconic women of the 20th century.

Frequently Asked Questions

What were some of Audrey Hepburn's most iconic films in the 1960s?

In the 1960s, Audrey Hepburn starred in several iconic films, including 'Breakfast at Tiffany's' (1961), 'Charade' (1963), 'My Fair Lady' (1964), and 'Two for the Road' (1967).

How did Audrey Hepburn's fashion influence the 1960s?

Audrey Hepburn's fashion choices, particularly her little black dress in 'Breakfast at Tiffany's', set trends that defined 1960s style, emphasizing elegance, simplicity, and sophistication.

What humanitarian work did Audrey Hepburn engage in during the 1960s?

During the 1960s, Audrey Hepburn became increasingly involved in humanitarian work, particularly with UNICEF, where she served as a Goodwill Ambassador, advocating for children's rights and welfare.

How did the role of Holly Golightly in 'Breakfast at Tiffany's' impact Audrey Hepburn's career?

The role of Holly Golightly in 'Breakfast at Tiffany's' solidified Audrey Hepburn's status as a fashion icon and a leading lady in Hollywood, earning her critical acclaim and a lasting legacy in film history.

What themes were prevalent in Audrey Hepburn's films

during the 1960s?

The films Audrey Hepburn starred in during the 1960s often explored themes of love, identity, and social challenges, blending romance with elements of comedy and drama.

Did Audrey Hepburn receive any awards for her performances in the 1960s?

Yes, Audrey Hepburn received several awards in the 1960s, including an Academy Award for Best Actress for her role in 'My Fair Lady' (1964), as well as numerous Golden Globe nominations.

What was Audrey Hepburn's personal style like in the 1960s?

Audrey Hepburn's personal style in the 1960s was characterized by minimalist elegance, often featuring tailored dresses, chic accessories, and her signature hairstyle, which became a symbol of the era.

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