

Queer Women in Hollywood's Golden Age

By: Kayla M. Clark

Queer women in Hollywood today are not difficult to find. Many are open about their sexuality, but that same openness was not the case during the Golden Age of Hollywood (1920s - 1950s for the purpose of this article). Being a queer woman would have destroyed women's careers in an already male-dominated/controlled environment. Although that was the case, that didn't mean that queer women didn't exist in Hollywood as much, or even more so, than they do now. To find an outlet for self-expression, the Old Hollywood Sewing Circle came to fruition.

The Sewing Circle was more of a euphemism than a club. It was a secret society where queer women in Hollywood could gather and enjoy each other's company away from the media and press. There are very famous names attached to the Sewing Circle that one may not have expected, including Joan Crawford, Katharine Hepburn, Marlene Dietrich, Greta Garbo, and yes, possibly Marilyn Monroe.

Perhaps, one of the most important things to remember about this group of women is that their lives were far from perfect. On-screen they appeared to have it all, off-screen they were involved in failing marriages, abusive situations, and intimate troubles nobody will ever know about. The Sewing Circle was a place for them to escape. They were all icons, and still are, but gathering as women who all had one little secret gave them the power to be who they wanted to be, even if it was just for a night.

Source: Collider