



APRIL 2018



WILLIAM HOLDEN CENTENARY
APRIL 17, 1918 - APRIL 17, 2018

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Dear Friends,

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of William Holden's birth, we are dedicating this entire newsletter to him.

Bill always referred to his work in Africa as his favorite pursuit and the one he was the proudest of, over and above the many iconic films in his resume. We have enclosed an article recalling the genesis of his involvement in conservation, which we hope you will find interesting.

We have also researched some little known history to share with you, along with some rare archival photographs.

We are happy to be working with Turner Classic Movies, the O'Fallon Historical Society and the South Pasadena Public Library on events in April to coincide with his birthday, April 17. Bill will be Turner Classic Movies Star of the Month in April, and during the month TCM will be featuring his films from 1939-1981 with introductions by myself and Ben Mankiewicz, (cousin of the late WHWF director; and writer, director and creative consultant of the HART TO HART franchise, Tom Mankiewicz). For a complete line-up of films, please visit www.tcm.com/schedule.

Due to my work schedule this spring and summer, in the fall of this year we will be presenting a day long film festival with guest speakers at the Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood on Oct. 23 to screen some of the films not seen on Turner Classic Movies in April. We are also pursuing the possibility of a similar event in association with the Gold Coast International Film Festival in New York sometime in November.

I hope you will enjoy this nostalgic journey and celebrate with us Bill's life and legacy.

Regards,

Stefanie Powers
President



On safari with Bill 1974

**Join Us At Either of These Upcoming Events
Honoring William Holden's Centenary
April 17, 2018**

The South Pasadena Public Library and
The Friends of the South Pasadena Public Library
Present

**A Free Film Screening of
THE COUNTRY GIRL**

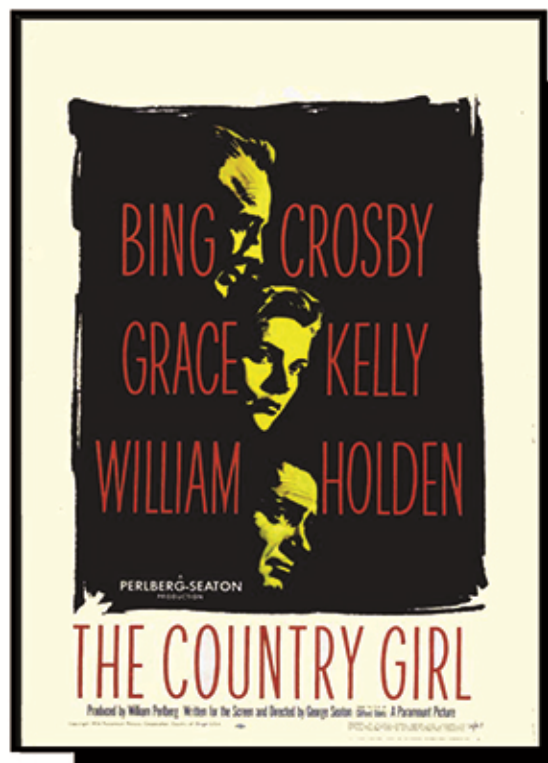
**Starring South Pasadena's own
WILLIAM HOLDEN**

**With a Video Introduction by
WHWF president and actress
Stefanie Powers**

**Tuesday, April 17, 2018 at 8 p.m./
Doors open at 7:30 p.m.
1115 El Centro Street
South Pasadena, CA 91030**

No Tickets Required

Birthday cake celebrating William Holden's Centenary will be served



William Holden Exhibit

**The O'Fallon Historical Society
Presents
A Celebration and
Reminiscing Program about
Actor
William Holden
O'Fallon's Own Golden Boy!**

**With A Video Greeting by
WHWF president and actress
Stefanie Powers**

**Tuesday, April 17, 2018 at 7 p.m.
O'Fallon Historical Society Museum
101 West State Street
O'Fallon, IL 62269**

No Tickets Required

The O'Fallon Historical Society is dedicated to the preservation of the history of O'Fallon, IL and operates a museum which is staffed by dedicated volunteers and boasts two floors of permanent exhibits, including an exhibit about Academy Award winning actor William Holden, which includes his baby crib, along with movie memorabilia covering his legendary career. Admission to the museum is free.

WILLIAM HOLDEN was born William Franklin Beedle, Jr. in O'Fallon, IL on April 17, 1918. He had two younger brothers, Robert and Richard. Their mother, Mary Blanche Ball Beedle, was a school teacher and a direct descendant of Mary Ball, George Washington's mother. Mary's father was cousin to Senator Warren G. Harding, who later became the 29th President of the United States.

Their father, William Franklin Beedle, Sr., was an industrial chemist who moved the family from O'Fallon to South Pasadena, CA where he opened his own chemical laboratory. Misdiagnosed with heart disease, which allegedly would lead to an early death, William Beedle, Sr. was a workaholic who had little time to engage with his elder son, whose curiosity led him to pursue after school activities such as sports, gymnastics and local radio.

After graduating from high school Bill appeared in amateur theatricals. One production in 1937, directed by Gilmor Brown of the Pasadena Playhouse, had Bill appearing as an old man. A talent scout from Paramount Pictures happened to see this production and invited Bill to Paramount to test for their talent program. It was a long ride on his motorcycle from South Pasadena to Melrose and Gower Streets where Paramount Pictures was located, but it was the most important motorcycle ride of his life.



Beginning with his first major role as the young violinist / boxer in **GOLDEN BOY** in 1939 until his final film **S.O.B.** in 1981, he amassed a legendary body of work. The appearance in **GOLDEN BOY** was followed by the role of 'George Gibbs' in the film adaptation of **OUR TOWN**. When Columbia Pictures picked up half of his contract, he starred in several pictures for both Paramount and Columbia before serving as a 2nd lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II.

Returning after the war he was put to work at Paramount and Columbia co-starring with Glenn Ford in **THE MAN FROM COLORADO**, **RACHEL AND THE STRANGER** with Robert Mitchum and Loretta Young. **THE DARK PAST** reunited him with Lee J. Cobb and the first of his two collaborations with Lucille Ball in **MISS GRANT TAKES RICHMOND**.



The Brothers: Richard, Robert and Bill

In 1950 an old friend from his early days at Paramount, Billy Wilder, called him regarding a role as 'Joe Gillis' in **SUNSET BOULEVARD**, which launched Bill's career into top star billing, and earned him an Oscar nomination.

Bill entered the most productive time of his acting career with starring roles in the prime properties at both his studios and a few others: **UNION STATION**, **BORN YESTERDAY**, **FORCE OF ARMS**, **SUBMARINE COMMAND**, **BOOTS MALONE** and **THE TURNING POINT**, among others.

When he reunited with Billy Wilder for a second time in **STALAG 17**, it resulted in Bill's Academy Award for Best Actor.

FOREVER FEMALE with Marion Ross followed, and in 1954 one of his favorite films, **EXECUTIVE SUITE** reunited him with Barbara Stanwyck. **SABRINA** came out next and was the first of two films he would do with Audrey Hepburn, **PICNIC** with Kim Novak, **THE PROUD AND PROFANE** with Deborah Kerr, **THE BRIDGE ON THE RIVER KWAI**,

THE KEY with Sophia Loren, THE HORSE SOLDIERS with John Wayne and Constance Towers, THE WORLD OF SUZIE WONG with Nancy Kwan, and THE COUNTERFEIT TRAITOR with his dear friend Lilli Palmer.

THE LION, co-starring Capucine, was filmed in Kenya with the cast, crew and an American lion all living at the Mt. Kenya Safari Club for the duration of the filming.

THE 7th DAWN was a story Bill helped to create as a film. He had as his co-star Richard Widmark in ALVAREZ KELLY, THE DEVIL'S BRIGADE with Tom Troupe, followed by THE WILD BUNCH, WILD ROVERS with Ryan O'Neal, BREEZY with Kay Lenz and directed by Clint Eastwood, and THE TOWERING INFERNO with Paul Newman, Steve McQueen and Robert Wagner.

Bill was praised for his Oscar-nominated leading performance in Sidney Lumet's NETWORK. In 1980 he starred in THE EARTHLING with Ricky Schroder. Ricky later named one of his sons Holden. His last film was S.O.B., which was directed by Blake Edwards, co-starring Julie Andrews and was a Golden Globe-nominated picture.

Many have asked which of the extraordinary films Bill worked in was his favorite. It was THE BRIDGES OF TOKO-RI, which reunited him with Fredric March, his co-star from EXECUTIVE SUITE. Bill loved working with Fredric, whom he considered a consummate actor's actor, and he adored Grace Kelly, but it was the film's story that was most attractive to Bill because he played an ace fighter pilot in the Korean War charged with an impossible mission to blow up bridges. Bill was touched by the story and the role which he saw as a homage to his brother. During World War II Robert 'Bob' Beedle, a decorated ace fighter pilot for the Navy, was shot down near an island in the chain of New Guinea during the South Pacific campaign on January 5, 1945. Sadly, in 1964 Bill's remaining brother, Richard, who had moved to Peru with his family, perished in a plane crash off the coast of Lima. Both brothers disappeared into the sea with no trace of wreckage.



Bill with his brother Richard on the set of STALAG 17



Three generations: Bill Sr., West and Bill 1944





The original Mawingo Hotel

considerable amount of time and an equally considerable amount of cash and included going after the "Big 5" - elephant, rhino, lion, leopard, and buffalo. Bill and his friends were prepared to spend many weeks in Kenya despite the fact that there was unrest in the country. The Mau Mau Freedom Fighters of the Kikuyu tribe were launching their war of independence. The Mau Mau hid in the mountain forests of the Aberdares and Mt. Kenya, located in the northern part of the country. This was also the destination of Bill's safari.

Because of the way the game department organized the hunting areas with numbered "blocks", hunters were only allowed to get certain numbers and species of trophy animals in designated "blocks", so every so often Bill's elaborate safari camp had to be disassembled and moved to a new hunting block miles away. This process of disassembling and reassembling took days, so the clients - in this case our 3 'intrepid boys' - went off to "repair" themselves at an up-country inn called the Mawingo Hotel. Because of the Mau Mau, few, if any, locals were traveling around the countryside, especially not going near the area surrounding Mt. Kenya where the Kikuyu gangs were camped.

The Mawingo Hotel was located overlooking Mt. Kenya, very near the forest. There was only one other guest staying at the hotel, the writer Robert Ruark, who was working on his third best seller. On every occasion the three friends would return to the Mawingo, they would have drinks overlooking Mt. Kenya and marvel at the beauty of the hotel and the site.

It was well known that the hotel was up for sale at a good price, so after rounds of drinks and fantasies of what could be done with the Mawingo, Robert Ruark declared 'put up or shut up'. Checkbooks were produced and in one night they became owners of a hotel. The Mawingo was transformed into the Mt. Kenya Safari Club, which became the jewel in the crown of destinations in East Africa and the clients were a who's who of the 50s, 60s and 70s.

The club was surrounded by a farm owned by a Major Nicholson. Bill became consumed by the idea that it was more important to save animals than to hunt them. The Nicholson's nearly 2,000 acres was an ideal place to house and protect small herds of a variety of game that would clearly be affected by the impending population explosion. When the farm became available Bill bought it, along with two minority partners Don Hunt and Julian McKeand, and a door opened to Bill that changed the course of his life ...



Bill with Samburu trackers and Don Hunt, Partner of the Mt. Kenya Game Ranch

KENYA. In the mid 1950s Bill went to Africa on a hunting safari with two friends, American oil man Ray Ryan and Swiss banker Carl Hirschmann. It was a time well before the independence of sub-Saharan Africa, well before mass tourism and well before the word "conservation" was in popular use.

It was a time when East Africa was a destination for intrepid travelers, soldiers of fortune, settlers, and hunters.

Safari is a KiSwahili word meaning trip. Safaris were mostly associated with hunting trips. A "proper" safari would take a



Excerpts from WILLIAM HOLDEN's Introduction "Journey Through Kenya"

(Limited hardcover books are available, please see page 8.)

Wildlife has fascinated me for as long as I can remember. In the vast savannahs of Africa there is a dimension of space and time that is an echo of our own beginnings and which reminds us that we were not born initially to live in the concrete jungle.

For more than twenty-five years I have counted Kenya as a second home and high on the slopes of old Kirinyaga, the sacred mountain of the Kirikuyu tribe, Mount Kenya, I can watch the sun slide over the Aberdare Mountains within the sound of the call of the jackal and the

leopard. I have a game ranch on the mountain. We have taken a lovely piece of Africa and have built a private reserve as a home and safe haven for more than 1,000 animals of twenty-six species. We have a capture unit that captures and exports animals to zoos and safari parks throughout the world.

We also work closely with the Kenya Government to capture animals in areas where they are threatened by poaching or the crush of civilization, and translocate them to African national parks and reserves where they will be safe. Some of my most memorable safaris have been capturing game in the vast Northern Frontier areas and moving the animals to protected areas or back to our game ranch. It gives me great pleasure that some of the offspring of the animals we have rescued over the years can be seen and enjoyed by all in such far away places as the Los Angeles Zoo or the International Wildlife Park in Dallas, Texas where they provide a very true and living image of what lies in store for the visitor to Kenya.

When Adam got up and walked on his hind legs as *Homo erectus* more than a million years ago, elephants and many other beasts were much bigger than their descendants today. Man's initial footsteps were the first unconscious stage in cutting the lord of the jungle down to man size; more's the pity perhaps. There is something infinitely wise about the elephant. But now it is in peril, for man's footsteps were to affect every living thing on earth no matter how big or small.

President Jomo Kenyatta, Kenya's first head of state, declared: "The natural resources of this country - its wildlife which offers such an attraction to visitors from all over the world, the beautiful places in which animals live, the mighty forests which guard the water catchment areas so vital to the survival of man and beast - are a priceless heritage for the future ..."

I have been fortunate enough to count Kenya as my home for a great number of years and have come to love its untouched wilderness beauty, and to find in its wide open spaces something of the harmony and equilibrium reflected in the nomads who roam the north.

William Holden

Mt. Kenya Game Ranch
Nanyuki, Kenya



*Bill on the set of THE LION
filmed at the Mt. Kenya Game Ranch*

WHWF Limited Commemorative Merchandise

Honoring William Holden

(all items signed by Stefanie Powers)



WHWF 2018 Calendar

Thanks to the generosity of world-renowned photographer Harry Benson and his wife Gigi, exclusive never-before-seen photographs of William Holden and Stefanie Powers grace the WHWF 2018 calendar. \$40.00



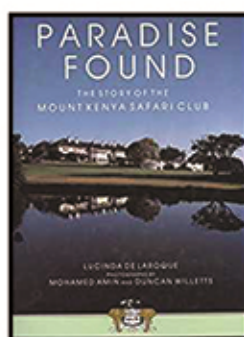
Posters

Features William Holden's profile against a Kenya map drawing and it is mounted and mailed out flat, ready for immediate framing. \$35.00



Journey Through Kenya

Hardcover Book
Introduction by William Holden, photographs by Mohamed Amin and Duncan Willetts and Brian Tetley's words paint a vivid and exciting picture of an unforgettable nation. \$75.00



Paradise Found: The Story of the Mt. Kenya Safari Club

Hardcover Book
Foreword by Stefanie Powers, photographs by Mohamed Amin and Duncan Willetts and Lucinda deLaroque's writing bring to life the colorful history of the club. \$75.00

You can Donate and Shop online at www.whwf.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

I want to carry on with the work of the William Holden Wildlife Foundation.

Enclosed is my contribution of: ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ Other \$_____

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These 4 items are available online at www.whwf.org/whcommemorative.html. If you would like any items gift wrapped and sent as gifts, along with a card that indicates it is from you, please supply the full names and mailing addresses of recipients, as well as who the gifts are from. Call our office with any questions.

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2018 Calendar	\$40		\$6.50	\$15	
WHWF Poster	\$35		\$15	\$25	
Journey Through Kenya	\$75		\$15	\$55	
Paradise Found	\$75		\$15	\$40	
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