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Richard Harris movies: 15 greatest films ranked from worst to best - GoldDerby

Nigel Davenport replaced him. He was considered for the lead role in Young Cassidy that went to Rod Taylor. He turned down Robert Prosky 's role in Far and Away He was a candidate to play Borusa in Doctor Who before the character was removed from the script. He was considered for James Coburn 's role in Mr. Patman The two co-starred in Major Dundee It shows Harris at the age of eighteen playing squash. The sculptor was Seamus Connolly and the work was unveiled by Russell Crowe. Harris was an accomplished squash player, winning the Tivoli Cup in Kilkee four years in a row from to , a record unsurpassed to this day. Harris was a member of the Roman Catholic Knights of Malta, and was also dubbed a knight by the Queen of Denmark in In an interview with the Toronto Star in , Harris expressed his concern that his association with the

Harry Potter films would outshine the rest of his career.

He explained, "Because, you see, I don't just want to be remembered for being in those bloody films, and I'm afraid that's what's going to happen to me. His casting as Oliver Cromwell in Cromwell was deemed odd, as Harris was patriotic Irish hellraiser and Cromwell was a puritan whose military campaign in Ireland was called genocidal or near-genocidal. Harris took the role because the money was too good to pass up. In interviews he said he admired Cromwell for making Britain more democratic. He was considered for Lloyd Bridges role in Blown Away He was a candidate to play Gandalf in "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy. Concerning his role as Dumbledore in the Harry Potter films, Harris had stated that he did not intend to take the part at first, since he knew that his health was in decline, but he relented and accepted it because his year-old granddaughter threatened never to speak to him again if he did not take it.

He had such a miserable time making Mutiny on the Bounty that he refused to attend the premiere. He described the shoot as "nightmarish" and called the film "a total fucking disaster". He was originally cast in Nicol Williamson 's role in Spawn , but dropped out. He was initially considered for the lead role in Barry Lyndon An avid fan of American football, his favorite team was the Pittsburgh Steelers. Harris was the very first person to record songwriter Jimmy Webb 's "Macarthur Park" and scored a top ten hit in both the U. K with his rendition in Was vocal in his intense dislike for Michael Caine, both as an actor as well as a person. In , while looking for a bedsit in London, he saw a board behind the window of a shop that listed all the rooms it had for rent. On that board was a sign that offered a room for thirteen shillings a week, which read "No Irishmen or black need to apply".

He got so infuriated by this that he wrapped his jersey around his hand, punched through the glass and took the sign, which he kept for the rest of his life. Around the time of his death, he worried he'd only be remembered for his role as Professor Dumbledore in the first two Harry Potter movies. There are too many prima donnas in this business and not enough action. I'm not interested in reputation or immortality or things like that. I don't care what I'm remembered for. I don't care if I'm remembered. I don't care if I'm not remembered. I don't care why I'm remembered. I genuinely don't care. No one gave me anything. I fought TB, I fought the devil. But I made people laugh. I don't want immortality. I've lived it all. I've done it all. No one trusts me any more. I spent half the movie [Maigret] arguing with people and I was accused of causing big on-set rows. But what they won't tell you is I fought for [author Georges Simenon].

I fought for the maintenance of quality. I don't believe in lying down on the job. I've seen these so-called "nice" actors. But they're like bank managers. So sweet and careful. Who needs them? We are suffering a plague of good taste. Give me Sean Penn and Mickey Rourke any day. They project danger. That's what makes acting--and life--interesting. I would give up all the accolades--people have occasionally written and said nice things--of my showbiz career to play just once for the senior Munster team. I will never win an Oscar now, but even if I did I would swap it instantly for one sip of champagne from the Heineken Cup.

Someone asked me once "What is the difference between Tom Cruise now and you when you were a major star? Look at a photograph of me from the old days and I'm going to one of my film premieres with a bottle of vodka in my hand. Tom Cruise has a bottle of Evian water. That's the difference--a bottle of Evian water. What I hate about our business today is the elitism. So-called stars ride in private jets and have bodyguards and dietitians and beauticians. Tom Cruise is a midget and he has eight bodyguards all 6'10", which makes him even more diminutive. It's an absolute joke. I can see the difficulties of making a movie. Directors and producers have to put up with a lot of rubbish from temperamental actors. The trouble with him is he doesn't think he's a hired actor, like the rest of us.

He thinks he's the entire production. He used to sit there in the mornings and clock us with a stopwatch. I was a sinner. I slugged some people. I hurt many people. And it's true, I never looked back to see the casualties. But the chances of all three of those factors remaining constant are pretty slim. I hate movies. They're a waste of time. I could be in a pub having more fun talking to idiots rather than sitting down and watching idiots perform. I consider a great part of my career a total failure. I went after the wrong things--got caught in the '60s. I picked pictures that were way below my talent. Just to have fun. I was numb, and it didn't seem to matter. Actors take themselves so seriously. Samuel Beckett is important, James Joyce is--they left something behind them.

But even Laurence Olivier is totally unimportant. Acting is actually very simple, but actors try to elevate it to an art. If ever I was miscast in my life, it was in the role of husband. I was the worst husband in the world. When I'm in trouble, I'm an Irishman. When I turn in a good performance, I'm an Englishman. I have no friends in this business. I don't go to their clubs, don't go to their hangouts and don't mix at all. I am part of the business but I am apart from it.

If anyone ever asks my advice, I tell them, "Don't take yourself too seriously". I came to England first in looking for a bedsit, a room to sleep in while going to my academy. And outside the Earl's Court tube station there was a little tobacco-list and paper shop and they had a board. A glass-filled in board with rooms for rent. And I saw one for 13 shillings a week and it said, "No Irishmen or black need apply" and I took my jersey and I put it down over my hand and I put my hand right through the glass and I took it out and I kept it for the rest of my life.

That's how we were treated here in That would cause me grievance. That would cause me anger. But I laugh at that, and say to anyone with that view that I didn't fulfil their idea of my talent. I didn't fulfil the dreams that they had for me. Not because they're not grand, I know they're great. I love the script, but I don't read fiction, it's as simple as that. There's more fiction in my life than in books, so I don't bother with them. Do I care? Not in the slightest. I hope he does us all a favor and wears the bloody thing in front of his face wherever he goes. I don't care what he says. But don't characterize Richard Burton , Peter O'Toole and me as drunks as if that's all we achieved in our life, because he could live 20 fucking lives and he couldn't achieve as much as we three have achieved.

On Charlton Heston He'd played in Shakespeare and to listen to him, you'd think he helped the Bard with the rewrites. He was a prick, really, and I liked tackling pricks. Winning the Pulitzer is not that big a deal. I have seen hundreds of plays that have won the prize and you couldn't sit half way through it. He was accepted by the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art and then went to work for Joan Littlewood's Theatre Workshop, stepping on to the London stage for the first time in Three sons were born during that stormy marriage, which ended in divorce. He

made his first film, Alive and Kicking, in and swiftly made the transition to Hollywood. But Harris will be best remembered for his King Arthur in the film Camelot. His hell-raising reputation did not help his career. He had just been given 18 months to live unless he quit drinking, and decided to say farewell to alcohol in style. Please update your payment details to keep enjoying your Irish Times subscription.

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Actor Richard Harris dies aged 72

After the less than glorious middle period of the s and s, during which time he had become self-parodic, he won renewed respect for his Oscar-nominated performance as "Bull" McCabe, an irascible farmer fighting to save his land in The Field , and for imposing appearances as the Emperor Marcus Aurelius in Gladiator and as Albus Dumbledore also Oscar-nominated in Harry Potter And The Sorcerer's Stone , a role he repeated in the new Harry Potter And The Chamber of Secrets At 26, he made a considerable West End impact in The Ginger Man, adapted by JP Donleavy from his novel, turning the incorrigible louse Sebastian Dangerfield, living in a bedsitter and up to his neck in debt, into a loveable scoundrel. Harris, whose ambition to become a rugby league professional had been ended by a bout of tuberculosis, was given free rein to display his animalism as Frank Machin, an aggressive and inarticulate rugby player who develops an amour fou for his dowdy and bitter landlady - a relationship as violent as the game he plays.

When she dies, Harris, who provided an emotional power rarely attained in British films, sinks to his knees in mental pain. Pain pervades the film, on the rugby field and in the dentist's chair, where Machin is having his broken teeth ruggedly extracted. The s saw him becoming an international star. Harris, dubbed and adrift in one of his rare introspective roles, hated making the film. More to his liking was Captain Tyreen, a flamboyant and ambivalent confederate prisoner in Sam Peckinpah's Major Dundee , clashing - on and off screen - with Charlton Heston. Heston recalled that Harris was "very much the professional Irishman, and an occasional pain in the posterior"; Harris thought his co-star "so square". There followed a mixed bag of parts: a fervent Norwegian resistance fighter in The Heroes Of Telemark ; Julie Andrews's former lover in Hawaii ; Cain, in The Bible ; and, woefully miscast and seeming to be wearing blue eye shadow as an industrial spy, in Caprice , opposite Doris Day.

But, in the same year, Harris took one of the most significant roles in his career, which was eventually to make him a multi-millionaire. Although the Lerner-Loewe musical Camelot , in which he portrayed King Arthur with touching sincerity and an acceptable singing voice, was an expensive flop, he would later play the role - created by Richard Burton - many times on stage, both on Broadway and in London in the s, and buy its rights. Divorced from his first wife, Elizabeth Rees-Williams, after a year marriage that produced three sons, in Harris provided a warts-and-all impersonation in the title role of Cromwell, and was A Man Called Horse. The latter was a blond, 19th-century English aristocrat, who, captured by the Sioux, rises from being a beast of burden to espousing their cause.

The somewhat pretentious film, and its sequel The Return Of A Man Called Horse , contained a sadistic sun-vow ritual with the hero suspended by clamps from his pectoral muscles. For the rest of the decade, Harris was as visible as he was risible. I picked pictures that were way below my talent. Just to have fun. Among these pictures were Echoes Of A Summer as the father of year-old Jodie Foster, dying of a terminal disease; The Cassandra Crossing , a disaster movie in which he tried to counteract a plague on a train; and Orca , where he was a shark hunter incurring the wrath of a killer whale and Charlotte Rampling, to whom he says, "I resent it when a pretty and intelligent woman tells me I'm dumber than a fish. There were, however, concerns about insuring O'Toole for the six remaining films in the series. It shows Harris at the age of eighteen playing the sport of squash. The sculptor was Seamus Connolly and the work was unveiled by Russell Crowe.

Another life-size statue of Richard Harris, as King Arthur from his film, Camelot , has been erected in Bedford Row, in the centre of his home town of Limerick. In Harris was honoured with a commemorative Irish postage stamp for the "Centenary of Irish Cinema", a four-stamp set featuring twelve Irish actors in four Irish films. From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. Irish actor, singer, film director and writer. For other people named Richard Harris, see Richard Harris disambiguation. Limerick , Ireland. Bloomsbury , London , England. Elizabeth Rees-Williams. Ann Turkel. The Irish Times. Retrieved 25 July Irish Independent. Retrieved 10 December The New York Times. Retrieved 8 November BBC News. Retrieved 10 November Retrieved 25 May The Times. London, England. The Book of Golden Discs 2nd ed. London: Barrie and Jenkins Ltd. ISBN Ballantine Books. Chicago Tribune.

Los Angeles Times. The Guardian. Associated Press. Retrieved 3 October Retrieved 12 May Richard Harris: Sex, Death and the Movies. London: Robson Books. Lewistown Journal. Retrieved 3 December Ocala Star-Banner. Behaving Badly: Richard Harris. Ebury Publishing. Retrieved 21 June Yale University Press. Retrieved 28 June Retrieved 17 September The Gettysburg Times. The Sydney Morning Herald. Retrieved 4 August Archived from the original on 4 February Retrieved 19 August Fame Retrieved 11 December Retrieved 9 September Archived from the original on 10 August Retrieved 21 August Archived from the original on 3 April Retrieved 23 December Retrieved 10 January Richard Harris.

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Mutiny on the Bounty. The Heroes of Telemark. The Bible. The Molly Maguires. Detective James McParlan. A Man Called Horse. Man in the Wilderness. The Return of a Man Called Horse. The Cassandra Crossing. Gulliver's Travels. The Number. Tarzan, the Ape Man. Triumphs of a

Man Called Horse. King of the Wind.

Richard Harris - IMDb

Fiennes later followed Harris into the Harry Potter films. Appears in Patriot Games with James Fox , whose niece is his daughter-in-law. Well known for being a "method actor", he was once told that he would play the role of a filthy character, and so he went for a long time without bathing to fit in to the character better, much to the chagrin of his co-stars, who claimed that they could smell him coming a long way away. Harris replaced Burton in the roadshow of the revival of the musical when Burton was unable to continue due to bursitis, a tour that ended up back on Broadway, with Harris as Arthur, in Production had to be halted several times due to the frequent illnesses of star Gary Cooper. Harris turned down the role of Commodus in The Fall of the Roman Empire and was 34 when he starred in his first Hollywood movie, Major Dundee He spent the last 12 years of his life living in Room at the world-famous Savoy Hotel in London.

His room was located in the "Courtside" section of the hotel. It did have a view of the river, but not as fine a view as the "Hotel" section riverside rooms. He only had his room cleaned once a week and very rarely notified the hotel that he was out of his room, so they had to check his door ten times a day to see if his "Do Not Disturb" sign flipped around to say "Make Up My Room".

After giving up drinking alcohol for a time in the s, Harris put a bottle of vodka in every room in his house in London. The temptation was huge but he didn't touch a drop. Producers were initially reluctant to cast him as King Arthur in Camelot due to his limited singing ability. Harris was cast after Richard Burton , who had played the part on Broadway in , demanded too much money. Harris insisted on doing his own singing live and later enjoyed a successful pop career, touring America in He enjoyed a friendly rivalry with English actor Oliver Reed during the late s and early s. Reed would often refer to himself as "Mr. In his youth he was a fan of Marlon Brando and could imitate or parody his performance in On the Waterfront at the drop of a hat. However, he did not get along with Brando while filming Mutiny on the Bounty and blamed the American star's on-set behavior for the film going over budget and over schedule.

During the s he often criticized Brando's eccentric movie choices in interviews. In he was diagnosed with hyperglycemia, a condition in which an excessive amount of glucose circulates in the blood plasma. During the s and early s he went to see all the films of John Wayne and Gary Cooper. Later, however, he described both actors as "pantomime cowboys". The westerns he made, like A Man Called Horse , were decidedly revisionist in tone. Befriended Russell Crowe while filming Gladiator While living in England he popped out for milk one day and saw in a newspaper that Young Munster were playing in Thomond Park, Limerick. He got the next available flight to Ireland and spent the next three weeks on a drinking binge.

All of this was unknown at the time to his wife, who had no idea where he was. When he finally returned to England he rang the doorbell of his house. His wife answered the door and before she had a chance to say anything, he said, "Well, why didn't you pay the ransom? Ex-father-in-law of actress Emilia Fox and Annabel Brooks. Turned down the role of Commodus in The Fall of the Roman Empire , then went on to play Commodus' father Marcus Aurelius who dies at his son's hands in Gladiator In an interview on The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson , he told a story about when he was a young actor playing Seyton in a theatrical production of "Macbeth.

On opening night Harris couldn't take it anymore. In Act V, Macbeth turns to him and says, "Wherefore was that cry? She's fine. She'll be up and about in ten minutes. He hated making Caprice with Doris Day so much that he never watched the film. Once when he was on a flight, he noticed that it was the in-flight movie and immediately got off the plane. By the time he was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease in August , it was so advanced that there was no hope of recovery.

Uncle of actress Annabelle Wallis. Despite his initial reluctance to accept the role of Albus Dumbledore in the Harry Potter films he only agreed to do so at the urging of his granddaughter he was determined not to let his battle with Hodgkin's disease get in the way of him playing the role. By this point Harris' illness had progressed to the point where he had become very gaunt and could speak in barely more than a whisper, yet he begged the producer not to recast the role.

Ultimately, however, the role had to be recast, and Harris passed away a few weeks later. The latter two won in the category. He was a vocal supporter of the Provisional Irish Republican Army from In the late s he was active in persuading Americans of Irish descent not to give money to terrorist groups. Became a born-again Catholic after his brother Dermot Harris died from alcoholism in He had a longtime hatred of Michael Caine. He nearly died from alcoholism in , and a Roman Catholic priest was called to give him the last rites.

As he was born in the Irish Free State he was entitled to a full knighthood. However, it is likely he would never have been offered one due to his vocal support for the IRA in the s and early s. He said he gave up drugs after almost overdosing on cocaine in Did not start smoking until he was in his thirties. Thereafter he smoked up to three packs of cigarettes a day for many years. S President Ulysses S. Grant in Lincoln He was considered for Dean Stockwell 's role in Sons and Lovers He turned down Stacy Keach 's role in The Squeeze He was considered to play Mr. Banks in Mary Poppins He was originally cast in the lead role in Flap , but was replaced by Anthony Quinn due to creative differences. He was originally cast as Ebeneezer Scrooge in Scrooge , but dropped out when after he was forced to take over the direction of The Hero in Israel.

Albert Finney replaced him. He was considered to play the Pilot in The Little Prince The role went to Richard Kiley. He turned down the former in favour of Caprice , a film he despised. He was originally cast in Play Dirty , but he quit after a furious row with producer Harry Saltzman after his role was reduced. Nigel Davenport replaced him. He was considered for the lead role in Young Cassidy that went to Rod Taylor. He turned down Robert Prosky 's role in Far and Away He was a candidate to play Borusa in Doctor Who before the character was removed from the script. He was considered for James Coburn 's role in Mr. Patman The two co-starred in Major Dundee It shows Harris at the age of eighteen playing squash. The sculptor was Seamus Connolly and the work was unveiled by Russell Crowe.

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But Harris will be best remembered for his King Arthur in the film Camelot. His hell-raising reputation did not help his career. He had just been given 18 months to live unless he quit drinking, and decided to say farewell to alcohol in style. Please update your payment details to keep enjoying your Irish Times subscription. Actor Richard Harris dies aged 72 Sat, Oct 26, , Edward Power. Most Viewed. Watch More Videos. Coronavirus Explore our guides to help you through the pandemic. Latest News. Favorite Actors. See all related lists ». Do you have a demo reel? Add it to your IMDbPage. Find out more at IMDb Pro ». How Much Have You Seen? How much of Richard Harris's work have you seen? See more polls ». Nominated for 2 Oscars. See more awards ». Known For. Gladiator Marcus Aurelius. Unforgiven English Bob. Camelot King Arthur. Show all Hide all Show by Hide Show Actor 76 credits. Lucius Cornelius Sulla.

Andreas Tork. Vic Jenkins. Rafer Janders. Jonathan Chamberlain. Anthony Fallon. Harry Crown. Rafer Hoxworth. Major Gaylord. Dan Galvin. Michael O'Riordan. Hide Show Producer 2 credits. Hide Show Director 1 credit. Hide Show Soundtrack 17 credits.

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Unforgiven English Bob. Camelot King Arthur. Show all Hide all Show by Hide Show Actor 76 credits. Lucius Cornelius Sulla. Andreas Tork. Vic Jenkins. Rafer Janders. Jonathan Chamberlain. Anthony Fallon. Harry Crown. Rafer Hoxworth. Major Gaylord. Dan Galvin. Michael O'Riordan. Hide Show Producer 2 credits. Hide Show Director 1 credit. Hide Show Soundtrack 17 credits. Documentary performer: "MacArthur Park". Video "Jurassic Park". TV Movie documentary performer: "Camelot" - uncredited. Hide Show Writer 1 credit. Hide Show Thanks 4 credits. Hide Show Self 85 credits. Show all 6 episodes. Self - Actor segment "Richard Harris". Fox Self - Guest. Self - Contributor. Show all 25 episodes. Self - Actor. Show all 17 episodes. TV Series Self - Episode 1. Self - Singer. Joyce Brothers Self - Studio Guest. Kennedy Hide Show Archive footage 25 credits. Self uncredited. Rafer Janders uncredited. King Arthur. Related Videos. See more ». Alternate Names: Richard Kharris. Height: 6' 1" 1.

Harris was born in Limerick on October 1st, He was a noted rugby player in his youth. Many years later he was to demonstrate this strong, physical, athletic presence in the film This Sporting Life. He often played action-man roles and candidly admitted that some of his films, such as Tarzan The Ape Man, with Bo Derek, were among some of the worst films ever made. But the depth of his acting powers was demonstrably proved in his award-winning role in Henry IV.

Harris was the fifth of eight children born into a middle-class, staunchly Roman Catholic family. His father, Ivan, was a flour mill owner and the young Richard had a happy childhood, acquiring a lifelong love for rugby and poetry. As a rugby player, he was a formidable forward for Munster. He had high hopes of playing at international level, until he was struck down with tuberculosis at For more than two years he was largely confined to bed and took that opportunity to read prodigiously to complete his education.

He raced through the likes of Joyce, Beckett, D. Lawrence, Dylan Thomas and Yeats. If I hadn't started to read I would probably be selling insurance now. He was accepted by the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art and then went to work for Joan Littlewood's Theatre Workshop, stepping on to the London stage for the first time in Three sons were born during that stormy marriage, which ended in divorce. He made his first film, Alive and Kicking, in and swiftly made the transition to Hollywood. But Harris will be best remembered for his King Arthur in the film Camelot. His hell-raising reputation did not help his career. He had just been given 18 months to live unless he quit drinking, and decided to say farewell to alcohol in style. Please update your payment details to keep enjoying your Irish Times subscription. Actor Richard Harris dies aged 72 Sat, Oct 26, , Edward Power.

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