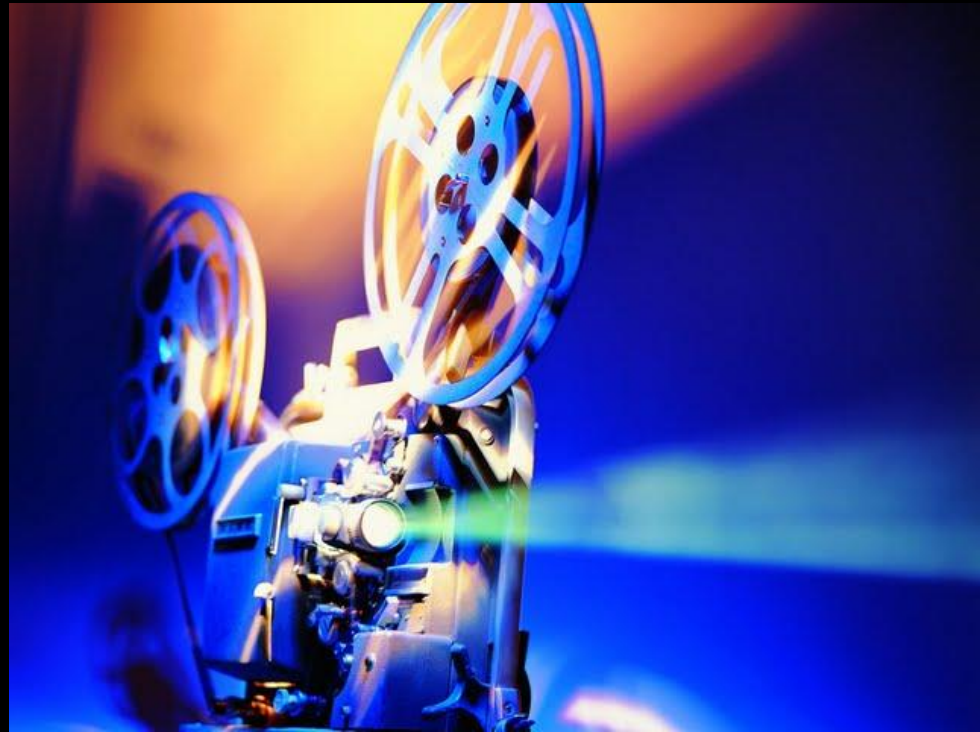
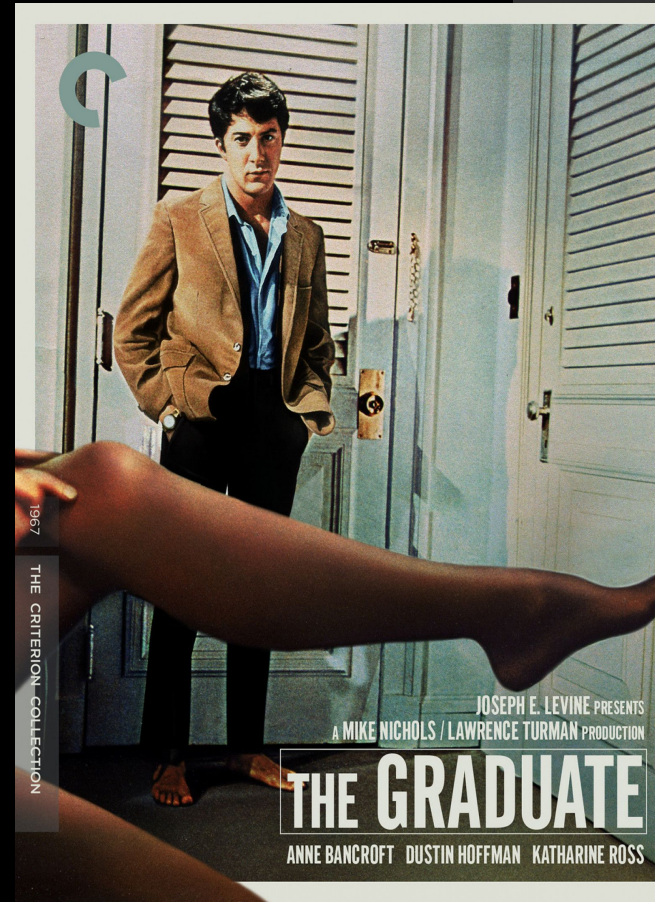


THE GRADUATE

Film Studies



One of the most beloved American films of all time, *The Graduate* earned Mike Nichols a best director Oscar, brought the music of Simon & Garfunkel to a wider audience, and introduced the world to a young actor named Dustin Hoffman. Benjamin Braddock (Hoffman) has just finished college and is already lost in a sea of confusion and barely contained angst when he becomes sexually involved with a friend of his parents', the indomitable Mrs. Robinson (Anne Bancroft), before turning his attention to her college-age daughter (Katharine Ross). Visually imaginative and impeccably acted, with a clever, endlessly quotable script by Buck Henry (based on the novel by Charles Webb), *The Graduate* had the kind of cultural impact that comes along only once in a generation.



The Graduate

- *The Graduate* is a 1967 American comedy-drama film directed by Mike Nichols.
- It is based on the 1963 novel *The Graduate* by Charles Webb, who wrote it shortly after graduating from college.
- The screenplay is by (Calder Willingham and) Buck Henry, who also appears in the film as a hotel clerk.

JOSEPH E. LEVINE
PRESENTS
A MIKE NICHOLS
LAWRENCE TURMAN
PRODUCTION



This
is
Benjamin.
He's
a little
worried
about
his
future.

THE GRADUATE

STARRING
ANNE BANCROFT AND **DUSTIN HOFFMAN** · **KATHARINE ROSS**
WRITTEN BY
CALDER WILLINGHAM, **BUCK HENRY** AND **PAUL SIMON**
MUSIC BY
SIMON AND **GARFUNKEL** PRODUCED BY
LAWRENCE TURMAN
DIRECTED BY
MIKE NICHOLS TECHNICOLOR® PANAVISION®

United Artists
DISTRIBUTION

Mike Nichols (Director)

- (born Mikhail Igor Peschkowsky, 1931) is a German-born American television, stage and film director, writer, producer and comedian.
- In 1968 he won the Academy Award for Best Director for *The Graduate*.
- Other noteworthy films include *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *Catch-22*, *Carnal Knowledge*, *Silkwood*, *Working Girl*, *The Birdcage*, *Closer*, *Charlie Wilson's War*, and the TV mini-series *Angels in America*.
- Nichols is one of a small group of people who have won an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony Award.



Dustin Hoffman (Actor)

- (born 1937) is an American actor with a career in film, television, and theatre since 1960. He has been known for his versatile portrayals of antiheroes and vulnerable characters.
- His breakthrough film role was as Benjamin Braddock, the title character in *The Graduate*.
- His most notable films also include *Midnight Cowboy*, *Little Big Man*, *Straw Dogs*, *Lenny*, *Marathon Man*, *All the President's Men*, *Kramer vs. Kramer*, *Tootsie*, *Rain Man*, and *Wag the Dog*.
- Hoffman has appeared in over 60 films and been nominated for seven Academy Awards, winning two.



Dustin Hoffman (Actor)

- Although *Life* magazine joked that "if Dustin Hoffman's face were his fortune, he'd be committed to a life of poverty," *The Graduate* was a gigantic box-office hit, making Hoffman a major new star at the same time.
- Time magazine called Hoffman "a symbol of youth" who represented "a new breed of actors." The film's screenwriter, Buck Henry, notes that Hoffman's character made conventional good looks no longer necessary on screen.
- Hoffman represented a new generation of actors who brought to their roles a candor, ethnicity, and eagerness to dive deep into complex, even unlikable characters.



Anne Bancroft (Actress)

- Anna Maria Louisa Italiano (1931–2005), known professionally as Anne Bancroft, was an American actress.
- Respected for her acting prowess and versatility, Bancroft was often acknowledged for her work in film, theatre and television. She won one Academy Award, three BAFTA Awards, two Golden Globes, two Tony Awards and two Emmy Awards.
- She appeared in over 50 films, including *The Miracle Worker* (1962), *The Turning Point* (1977), and *Agnes of God* (1985).
- Was only 6 years older than Dustin Hoffman.
- She was married to director Mel Brooks from 1964 until her death.



Katherine Ross (Actress)

- (born 1940) is an American film and stage actress.
- She starred in three of the most popular films of the 1960s and 1970s: *The Graduate* (1967), *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* (1969), and *The Stepford Wives* (1975).
- She won a Golden Globe Award and received an Academy Award nomination for Best Supporting Actress for *The Graduate*.
- *Many* famous actors and actresses were considered for the lead roles. Some were rejected, some turned the role down.

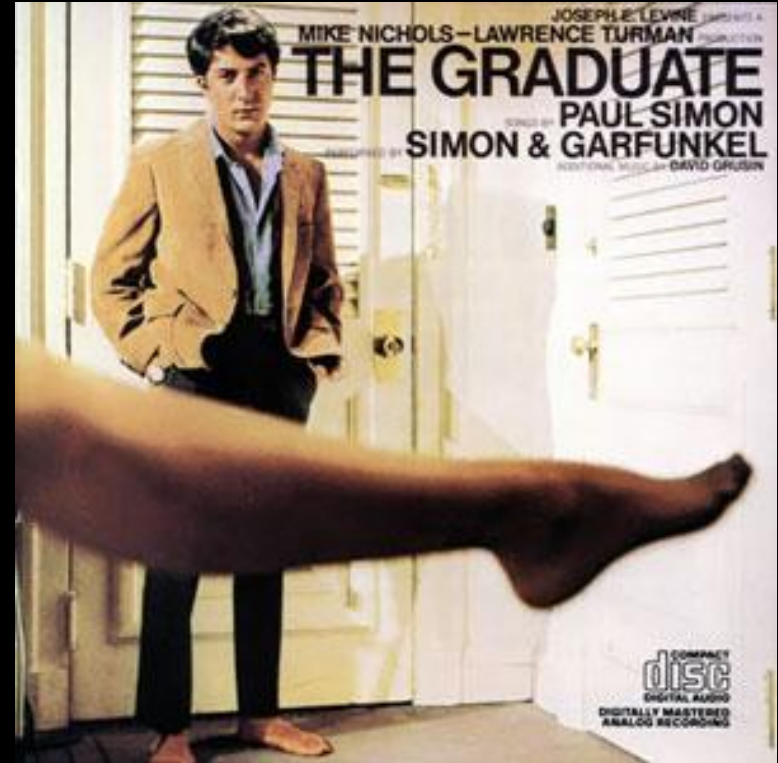


Some of the Actors Considered for the Film



Music

- The film boosted the profile of folk-rock duo Simon & Garfunkel. Originally, Nichols used existing songs like "The Sound of Silence" merely as a pacing device for the editing before deciding to include them on the soundtrack, an unusual move at that time.
- The song "Mrs. Robinson" was not written for the movie; it was the working title of a song Simon was then writing (originally called "Mrs. Roosevelt"). Nichols, who wanted another song in the film, told Simon the song will now be called "Mrs. Robinson."
- On the strength of the hit single "Mrs. Robinson," the soundtrack album rose to the top of the charts in 1968 (knocking off The Beatles' White Album). However, the version that appears in the film is markedly different from the hit single version, which would not be issued until Simon and Garfunkel's next album, *Bookends*.



Reception

- On its initial release, *The Graduate* grossed \$50 million, making it both the highest grossing film of 1967 and one of the highest grossing films in history up to that date.
- It was nominated for seven Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Supporting Actress, Best Adapted Screenplay and Best Cinematography. Mike Nichols won the Academy Award for Best Director.
- It is still considered one of the greatest films ever made, ranking #17 on American Film Institute's 2007 list of the 100 Greatest Movies.
- *The Graduate* is in the Library of Congress' Film Registry, an honor reserved for only the greatest of American movies.

