



Carol Ohmart

**The Story of Hollywood's
Greatest Actress**



Samuel Clemens



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Actress

By Samuel Clemens

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ISBN: 978-1-387-41600-4

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Song of Salt	
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"Carol Ohmart is a star and anyone who refers to her as a starlet is fired immediately!" - Y Frank Freeman



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Introduction

When we think of Hollywood's greatest actresses, Betty Davis, Katherine Hepburn, Joan Crawford, Grace Kelly, and Veronica Lake are some of the names that come to mind. Carol Ohmart is proof that you can be virtually unknown by contemporary audiences, but you can still rank among the greatest. In fact, a lot of the successes of actresses in Hollywood isn't necessarily based on talent, but rather chance. She never got the opportunities to prove herself.

My fascination and admiration for Carol Ohmart began in 2008 after seeing *House on Haunted Hill* (1959), which was included in a DVD that I got as a gift. I had heard of Vincent Price, but Carol Ohmart was unfamiliar to me. She resembled Meryl Streep at some angles, and she was certainly just as good of an actress. After seeing the film, I typed her name on Google to see who she was and was delighted to see that she had a dedicated audience. I saw that she starred in ten wide-release films, nine of which were unfamiliar to me.



The most intriguing thing about Carol Ohmart aside from her talents as an actress was that that nobody knew her whereabouts. There were message boards of people trying to locate her, including one who said he'd spent years searching. I found an interview that author Gregg Barrios did with her that was dated January 1, 1989, but he had lost touch with her as well. That was the last anyone heard of her.

I saw several of her films that year. The mainstream ones like *Wild Party* (1956) and *Spider Baby* (1967) were easy to get ahold of, while *Caxambu!* (1967) and *The Spectre of Edgar Allen Poe* (1974) were rare and costly. Even though her most successful film was the aforementioned *House of Haunted Hill* (1959), I liked *The Scarlet Hour* (1956) the most. Ironically, it was the most difficult to find because it didn't have a VHS or DVD release until recently. After finishing high school, I lost hope in finding her. I eventually forgot about her until months before my undergraduate studies when I resumed my search which led -to my disappointment- me finding her death certificate. That was years ago.

I recently decided to commemorate her life and career in this biography after writing four books and publishing several articles in magazines. I realized that none of the actors and actresses I've written about were as talented as she was. Why has nobody written a book about her? It's because she's faded into obscurity. She was forgotten by the public. She never won any accolades, nor did she get any posthumous awards or honors. She deserves to be remembered, and that's why I wrote this book.



Thankfully, there was no shortage of information on Carol Ohmart. I discovered that she had a lot of dedicated fans who did their own research over the years, as well as co-stars and colleagues who have written about her with fond memories. I hope that people enjoy reading this book about Hollywood's greatest actress, whether it'd be fans of Carol Ohmart or just people who are interested in the films of a bygone era.

Early Years

Armelia Carol Ohmart's life began in Salt Lake City, Utah, where she was born on June 6, 1927 to Thomas Carlyle and Merle Ohmart. They were lapsed Mormons whose contentious marriage was an embarrassment to their extended family. Thomas was a wannabe actor and divorcee turned dentist who had studied at Western Dental College. He had a successful practice, but was plagued by financial woes. He eventually filed for bankruptcy in 1924. Merle was a wannabe model turned dietician turned secretary. She had studied at Saint Mary's Academy, but wanted the traditional lifestyle of a homemaker. They married on November 19, 1926 after Merle discovered she was pregnant. There was nothing more scandalous than a child being born out of wedlock.

As a toddler, her family relocated to San Francisco, California. She -at the urging of her uncle Owen Sweeten- did her first onstage performance at the age of 3 at the Orpheum Theater. She attended the Redding Grammar School where she excelled in her studies and demonstrated maturity and outspokenness that was normally seen in adults. She could've been an academic, but her parents had other plans for her.

Although a 'lapsed' Mormon, Merle used religion to her advantage by using it to teach Carol to be obedient and submissive to her mother in the most absurd ways. She was abusive, cruel, and manipulative. It didn't help that her father was distant and usually didn't live with his wife and daughter. It even prompted Carol to write a song about him called "Daddy is Somebody to Say Goodbye To." She was impressive for her age, but very troubled.

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