

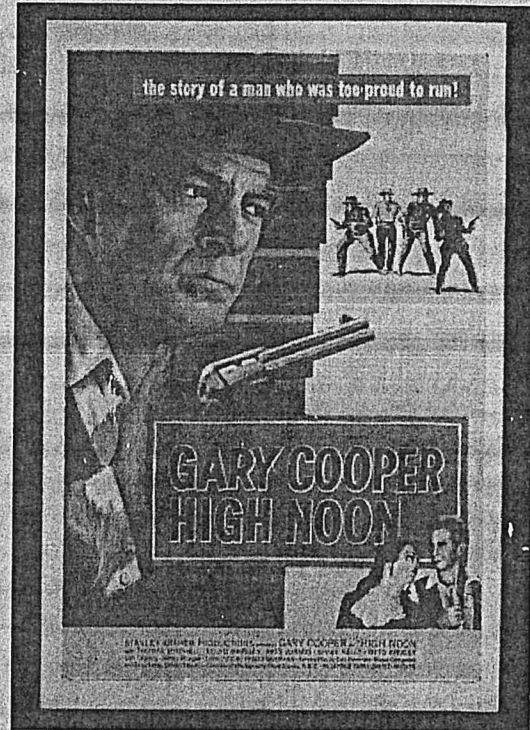
## High Noon (1952)

**Director:** Fred Zinnemann  
**Writers:** Carl Foreman (screenplay),  
John W. Cunningham

### Cast

Gary Cooper (Sheriff Will Kane)  
Lloyd Bridges (Deputy Harvey Pell)  
Thomas Mitchell (Mayor Henderson)  
Katy Jurado (Helen Ramirez)  
Grace Kelly (Amy Fowler)  
Ian MacDonal (Frank Miller)

**Genre:** Western



### Academy Awards:

#### Wins:

Best Actor in a Leading Role : Gary Cooper  
Best Film Editing: Elmo Williams & Harry W. Gerstad  
Best Music, Original Song: Dimitri Tiomkin & Ned Washington  
Best Music, scoring of a dramatic or comedy picture: Dimitri Tiomkin

#### Nominations:

Best Director: Fred Zinnemann  
Best Picture: Stanley Kramer  
Best Writing: Carl Foreman

### Plot Synopsis

On the day he gets married and hangs up his badge, lawman Will Kane is told that a man he sent to prison years before, Frank Miller, is returning on the noon train to exact his revenge. Having initially decided to leave with his new spouse, Will decides he must go back and face Miller. However, when he seeks the help of the townspeople he has protected for so long, they turn their backs on him. It seems Kane may have to face Miller alone, as well as the rest of Miller's gang, who are waiting for him at the station...

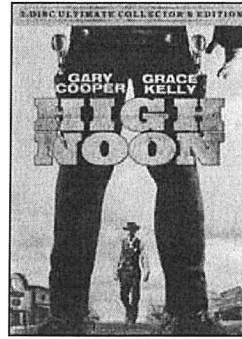
### Tidbits and Trivia

- Film debut of Lee Van Cleef, who does not have a word of dialogue.
- Bill Clinton's all-time favorite film. He watched it seventeen times during his two terms as President of the United States.

## High Noon Triva Contd.

- This film was intended as an allegory in Hollywood for the failure of Hollywood people to stand up to the House Un-American Activities Committee during the Sen. Joseph McCarthy Red-baiting era.
- Director Fred Zinnemann said that the black smoke billowing from the train is a sign that the brakes were failing. He and the cameraman didn't know it at the time, and barely got out of the way. The camera tripod snagged itself on the track and fell over, smashing the camera, but the film survived and is in the movie.
- Although the picture takes place between 10:35 a.m. and 12:15 p.m., slightly longer than the 84-minute running time, this was due to the re-editing ordered by Stanley Kramer and Fred Zinnemann, both of whom were unhappy over the first assemblage. Editor Elmo Williams experimented by using the final portion of the material shot and condensed it to exactly 60 minutes of footage timed to real-time in the film. Thus the film we see is Williams' experimental version, which met with both Kramer's and Zinnemann's approval.
- Until his death, director Fred Zinnemann fought not to have this film colorized, saying that he designed it in black and white and that it should be shown that way. He was unsuccessful, however. A colorized version was made by Republic Pictures, which acquired the film years prior, and was broadcast several times over the several cable outlets of Ted Turner, who was a heavy advocate of the process.
- Producer Stanley Kramer first offered the leading role of Will Kane to Gregory Peck, who turned it down because he felt it was too similar to *The Gunfighter*. Other actors who turned down the role of Will Kane included Charlton Heston, Marlon Brando, Kirk Douglas, and Montgomery Clift.
- Writer Carl Foreman was blacklisted by the House Un-American Activities Committee shortly after the film came out. In fact, he had fled to England by the time the film was finished.
- Grace Kelly was cast after Stanley Kramer saw her in an off-Broadway play. He arranged a meeting with her and signed her on the spot.
- Fred Zinnemann wanted a hot, stark look to the film. Cinematographer Floyd Crosby achieved this by not filtering the sky and having the prints made a few points lighter than normal.
- They used little to no makeup on the face of Gary Cooper, to show his lines and show how worried he was.
- It took 28 days to shoot the film, after 10 days of rehearsal.

A bit about  
Fred Zinnemann's  
High Noon (1952).....



This simple, stark, low-budget Western classic, with a total budget of \$750,000, was nominated for seven Academy Awards including Best Picture (won by Cecil B. DeMille's circus epic *The Greatest Show on Earth* (1952)). Presumably, the Academy felt obligated to honor one of filmdom's greatest directors (DeMille) with the Best Picture Oscar, as his career was coming to an end.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>1953 Academy Awards:</u></li> <li>• Best Actor (Cooper)</li> <li>• Best Editing (Elmo Williams and Harry Gerstad)</li> <li>• Best Music (Dimitri Tiomkin),</li> <li>• Best Song (High Noon - Do Not Forsake Me, Oh My Darlin'")"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>1953 Golden Globe Awards:</u></li> <li>• Best Actor (Cooper)</li> <li>• Best Supporting Actress (Jurado)</li> <li>• Best Score</li> <li>• Best Cinematography</li> </ul>
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Cooper's win was an unusual honor, since Western films (and acting roles) are rare nominees and winners in Academy history! The film's theme song was made a popular hit by Western singer Frankie Laine.]

High Noon was described by John Wayne as the most un-American movie he'd ever seen. It offered an in-your-face story about responsibility, private and public, and some truths about the typical American community that would have been unpleasant in any era, but were even more so during the Red Scare of the early 1950s: the spectacle of town marshal Wil Kane (played by Gary Cooper), abandoned by his friends and neighbors and having to face down outlaws alone, was a pretty raw statement about where some people (including liberal producer Stanley Kramer) feared we were heading in 1952. It was the soundtrack, completed by Dimitri Tiomkin and Ned Washington with a song sung by an off-screen Tex Ritter, that helped turn the movie into a huge box office hit. The movie had two blacklistees in major roles (Lloyd Bridges and Howland Chamberlain), and Kramer was Hollywood's one respected liberal voice. They came up with a film that opened the way for a generation of serious westerns, including The Bravados, The Big Country, and The Searchers.

