

Hedy Lamarr: The Inventor
By: Isabella Catanzarite
Junior Division
Individual Website
Word Count: 303

The topic, Hedy Lamarr: The Inventor, ties into the 2021 National History Day theme, “Communication: The Key To Understanding.” This is because Hedy Lamarr invented a secret communications system with George Anthiel. Without that invention Wi-Fi, GPS, and Bluetooth might not have been invented. Then where would we be without these systems. People, now more than ever, are using these systems while the global COVID-19 pandemic is still a threat.

Before I chose my topic for History Day, I thought that it would be simpler to do my report on a person. At first I was thinking about some people that were conservationists for the environment. However, I came across Hedy Lamarr in a book and I thought that she and her communication system would be a good choice considering this year’s theme. I wanted to learn more about her film career and how a movie star could devise such an innovative invention. So, I began my research.

I conducted my research by finding most of my secondary sources first and then determining which sources provided the best information. Then, I searched online but there were not many adequate primary sources. I found primary sources at the Theodore M. Hesburgh Library at the University of Notre Dame. Afterwards, I had found the correct sources and began collecting my research.

I created an individual website through NHD Web Central. When I began making my website, I started working on the home page and then getting the other pages done in the time frame that my teacher, Ms. Turnock, gave me. I then proceeded to add text, multimedia, and links to the different pages of the website on each page. It was a long and tedious process, but I persevered.

Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources:

“June 10, 1941: Hedy Lamarr and George Antheil Submit Patent for Radio Frequency Hopping.” Edited by Alan Chodos, *American Physical Society*, American Physical Society, June 2011, <www.aps.org/publications/apsnews/201106/physicshistory.cfm>. 3 February 2021.

This is a primary source because the illustration of Lamarr and Antheil’s patent can be found on the home page of the website.

Loder-DeLuca, Denise. “Collection of Photos.” As accessed through Shearer, Stephen Michael. *Beautiful: the Life of Hedy Lamarr*. Thomas Dunne Books/St. Martin's Press, 2010.

This is a primary source because the photos of “Hedwig Eva Maria Kiesler, c. 1916” and “The real Hedy Lamarr, early 1950s” can be found on the background and importance pages of the website.

Roxbury, Arlene. “Collection of Photos.” As accessed through Shearer, Stephen Michael. *Beautiful: the Life of Hedy Lamarr*. Thomas Dunne Books/St. Martin's Press, 2010.

This is a primary source because the photo of “Hedy Lamarr toward the end of her life, 1997” can be found on the process paper/bibliography page on the website.

Severo, Richard. “Hedy Lamarr, Sultry Star Who Reigned in Hollywood Of 30’s and 40’s, Dies at 86.” *The New York Times*, 20 January 2000, <<https://www.nytimes.com/2000/01/20/arts/hedy-lamarr-sultry-star-who-reigned-in-hollywood-of-30-s-and-40-s-dies-at-86.html?searchResultPosition=1>>. 3 February 2021.

This is a primary source because it provided information about Hedy Lamarr’s life. It can be found on the background, communication, impact, and timeline pages of the website.

Shearer, Stephen Michael. *Beautiful: the Life of Hedy Lamarr*. Thomas Dunne Books/St. Martin's Press, 2010.

This is a primary source because the photos of “The newly rechristened, Hollywood-chic Hedy Lamarr’s arrival into Los Angeles, October 4, 1937”, George Antheil, the “Bad Boy of Music,” c. 1930s”, “Hedy selling War Bonds on tour, 1942” and “The last family photo with James Lamarr Loder: his ninth-birthday celebration with his mother, Denise, and Anthony, March 1948” can be found on the communication, impact, influence, and timeline pages of the website.

Secondary Sources:

American Masters PBS. “How Hedy Lamarr Developed a Secret Communications System.” *American Masters PBS*, 14 May 2018, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LYXUvUVJ3Lw>>. 3 February 2021.

This is a secondary source because the multimedia presentations provided useful information about Hedy Lamarr and her Secret Communications System. It can be found on the communication page of the website.

Cheslak, Colleen. “Hedy Lamarr.” *National Women’s History Museum*, 30 August 2018, <<https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/hedy-lamarr>>. 3 February 2021.

This is a secondary source because it provided information on how Lamarr became a star and inventor. It can be found on the background, impact, influence, importance, and timeline pages of the website.

George, Alice. “Thank This World War II-Era Film Star for Your Wi-Fi.” *Smithsonian Magazine*, 4 April 2019, <<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/thank-world-war-ii-era-film-star-your-wi-fi-180971584/>>. 3 February 2021.

This is a secondary source because it provided information on Lamarr’s invention. It can be found on the communication, impact, and influence pages of the website.

Ignotofsky, Rachel. "Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed The World." United States: Random House, Inc., 2016.

This is a secondary source because it provided information on Lamarr as an inventor rather than an actress. It can be found on the influence and importance pages of the website.

King, Gilbert. "Team Hollywood's Secret Weapons System." *Smithsonian Magazine*, 23 May 2012, <<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/team-hollywoods-secret-weapons-system-103619955/>>. 3 February 2021.

This is a secondary source because it provided information about Lamarr and Anthiel's Secret Communications System. It can be found on the background page of the website.

Rhodes, Richard. *Hedy's Folly*. New York: Random House, Inc., 2011.

This is a secondary source because it provided information on how annoyed Lamarr was that few people saw past her beauty. It can be found on the background page of the website.

"67 Interesting Facts in Hedy Lamarr's Timeline from 1913 to 2000 ." *Hedy Lamarr's Timeline #HedyLamarr*, <http://histolines.com/timeline_character.php?charname=Hedy+Lamarr>. 3 February 2021.

This is a secondary source because it provided information on the events that happened in Hedy Lamarr's life. It can be found on the timeline page of the website.