



*Cannes Film Festival reached its 70th year recently, and to celebrate the occasion, we have collected the 70 most interesting moments that occurred in these glorious 70 years. All these have been compiled from Hollywood Reporter.*

**1) WORLD WAR II SHUTS DOWN THE FESTIVAL**  
The Cannes Film Festival had originally started to counter the Venice Film Festival. France had scheduled the inauguration of the festival in the first two weeks of September, 1939. However, Hitler would have none of that and on the morning of the first premiere, he attacked Poland. "Hunchback", the first film, was shown but the rest of the festival was cancelled for what turned out to be a 7-year hiatus. It finally returned in 1946 with 11 films, but the opening night was a complete disaster. "Berlin", a Soviet documentary, broke in the projector and then the power went out. Alfred Hitchcock's "Notorious" was not among the winners as its reels were shown out of order.

**2) FRENCH AUTEUR LEAD MAY '68 PROTEST**  
The year 1968 was the festival's 21st birthday. However, that year the festival fell victim to France's civil unrest. Filmmakers

lead by figureheads Francois Truffaut and Jean-Luc Godard had been incensed by the dismissal of the 'Cinematheque Francaise' head Henri Langlois in February, and instigated protests that led to his reinstatement. However, due to the strike many directors started pulling their films out of the festival. After the first week, the festival was called off as local employees were on strike and gasoline was unavailable. This led to all the festival goers trying to strategize to cross the border to Italy.

**3) ROBERT MITCHUM POSES ON THE BEACH WITH A TOPLESS STARLET**  
In 1954, the unknown starlet Symone Sylva, during a beach photoshoot, removed her top and snuck over to nearby Robert Mitchum who then proceeded to continue the shoot with her being topless. The next morning, when Sylva posted the photos along the Croisette, she was asked to leave Cannes but the photos remain iconic to this day.

**4) GRACE KELLY MEETS PRINCE RAINIER**  
Kelly, who had spent the summer of 1954 staying at the Carlton Hotel with Cary Grant and Hitchcock while shooting "To Catch A Thief", didn't want to go Cannes to represent the Motion Picture of America at Cannes. Later she was talked into it, and met Prince Rainier III of Monaco in 1955. This was eventually promoted as the Fairytale Romance of the Century, as she married him the following year. She never made another film.

**5) FRANCOIS TRUFFAUT USHERS IN FRENCH NEW WAVE**  
1959 was the year in which the future of French Cinema showed its hand. Banned from Cannes in 1958 for his often vicious attacks on the festival, Truffaut, then a 27-year old film critic, returned a year later to win the 'Best Director Prize' for his debut feature "The 400 Blows", which also introduced the world to the

13-year old Jean-Pierre Leaud.

**6) OLIVIA DE HAVILLAND BECOMES THE FIRST FEMALE JURY PRESIDENT**  
British actress De Havilland once stated that she "hasn't a clue" as to why she was picked to break the Cannes Glass ceiling and become the first woman to lead the Festival Jury in 1965. She added that she found the experience daunting and delightful at the same time.

**7) QUENTIN TARANTINO GETS HIS FIRST "PULP FICTION" REVIEW ON THE STREETS OF CANNES**  
The anticipated film at Cannes in 1994 was "Pulp Fiction". Before Cannes, not a soul outside the Miramax Camp had seen it, but at the last minute a private invitational screening for a few critics was set up at backstreet Olympia the night before the official unveiling.

**8) CHARLES AND DIANA STEAL THE SHOW**  
1987 was the 40th year for Cannes and it desperately needed a buzz. The saviors

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