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Estelle Clark, or how Stasia Zwolińska conquered Hollywood

In the 20th century in the United States have tried to make a career of many artists of Polish origin. One such person was Stasia Zwolińska, who as Estelle Clark starred in several silent movies and was one of the faces of the famous studio Metro-Goldwyn-Meyer.



Estelle Clark (Fig. FanPix.Net)

Estelle Clark is different than the thousands of other girls besieging the gates studios. Most of them attracted by the splendor. They only want to "be in the movies." Estelle has its own ideal. Her ambition is not to make money or have a big beautiful house, car and nice clothes. She just wants to be a comedic actress [crowd. cars] - he wrote the prestigious film magazine "Cinema Art" in November 1926. Estelle Clark knew exactly what he wants to do with my life and over the years has consistently sought to fulfill her dream of acting. Persistence and ambition may be owed origin - real name was in fact Zwolińska and Stas came from Warsaw.

IN PURSUIT OF FAME

She was born on May 7, 1898. Third child decorator Francis and Josephine Zwolińskiego with Niemiejskich. Stanisława parents were married at the beginning of 1892. In Warsaw St. Cross. He came to Hollywood actress had two siblings: five years older sister Janina and three years older brother Eugene. In the pursuit of prosperous life in 1901. Francis Zwoliński emigrated from the Russian partition to America, and in its wake sailed to the United States his wife and children.

Zwolińskich family initially lived in New York, and later moved to Cleveland to eventually settle permanently in Detroit. There also Stasia Zwolińska as "Estelle Hedwig Zwolinski" graduated from high school. As a teenage girl has closely followed the development of the American film industry, whose official seat in 1912. Became Hollywood. Until the middle of the 20s. In the cinema there were no special restrictions on the content presented.

Opening shown the decline of traditional moral values, and stars like Pola Negri, Greta Garbo and Rudolf Valentino were planted in the roles of sex icons and exotic lovers. No wonder that Stas wanted to be a part of this extraordinary world, tempting freedom and prestige.

The girl, however, encountered strong opposition from his father, who preferred to see her in college, not in theaters. However, the decision was already taken. After high school, Estelle moved out of the family home and started working in the office to earn a ticket to California. In the end, persuaded by his wife Zwoliński agreed to financially support the crazy idea daughters. At the beginning of 1921. He boarded the train and went on the way to Los Angeles, where he was to begin the adventure of life.



The famous Hollywood Sign in Los Angeles (Fig. Thomas Wolf, is published under license from [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Germany](#))

It seemed to me that someone greets everyone on the platform, not just me. To all this rain. I never felt so alone in my life. It seemed to me then that I see very little comedy of life, but above all the tragedy [the crowd. cars] - recalled its origins in the City of Angels in "Cinema Art". Originally performed mainly as an extra, then they came the first episodes, until the end of 1921. Received two major roles in niche komedyjkach. Promising career was interrupted,

however, information about the death of his mother - Zwolińska returned to Detroit to take care of widowed father.

February 6, 1922 r. In the Church of the Transfiguration in New York Estelle Zwolinski married older than 27 years apart widower Joseph Belcher Mills, director of the advertising department in the JL Hudson Co. Marriage to an aging businessman, however, was not successful, and the young wife most of the time devoted care of his father. Only when in 1923. Zwoliński Francis decided to go to the Polish (and later returned to the US and was an activist of the Polish community) could re-start your adventure with the film. She divorced her husband and once again went to Los Angeles.

BIRTH ESTELLE CLARK

Experience that Stas gained during his previous stay in Hollywood, made her career gained momentum immediately. American silent cinema flourished and needed new actresses. Came the first serious proposals film - the girl rejected the possibility of space in theaters, believing that it is too weak voice. He changed the name of "Zwolińska" the American "Clark," because it was easier to pronounce for film directors, critics and admirers future. Unlike most girls who dreamed about roles rather tragiczek, Estelle wanted to make people laugh in comedy

movies. *There is one very important reason for this decision. In fact, life is not fun. It is full of sorrow and misery, it is the dramatic moments are closest to us* [the crowd. cars] - he explained his choice reporters.



Norma Shearer, a colleague from the film Estelle Clark in the movie "A Slave of Fashion" (public domain)

November 5, 1923. The premiere of the first major film starring Estelle Clark - *Pleasure Mad*. She played in it just not recorded in the final episode, but apparently drew the attention of directors, as soon after received a more lucrative proposals. In 1924. She played in the film Carmelity *Sinners in Silk* and maid in *So This Is Marriage?*. A year later, it can be already seen in at least five silent productions, the most successful are considered to her performances in *His Secretary* and *A Slave of Fashion*, in which the actress starred alongside well-known standards Shearer.

*I did something completely natural. They are not known to us dozens of girls like my plays? Type incredible talkers, who at all costs want to go on a date friend, then takes over the entire conversation and the guy - you know it well [crowd. cars] - he described the role of Minnie in *His Secretary*. In 1925. Also he starred in a film promoting Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer as one of the actresses prestigious label.*

END OF AN ERA

Although Estelle it placed a very promising start, soon they began to gather over her black clouds. At the beginning of 1926. Seriously ill from the flu, which lost some really interesting contracts.

Additionally, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer began to push, so went on a diet, because the main roles was the opinion of directors ... too chubby. As a result, Clark

was again relegated to unlisted episodes, as exemplified by the roller *Madness dance* and *The Boy Friend* . It also happened that scene with her participation were simply cut. Polka ambitious, however, was not going to give up and patiently waited for the Dream Factory again for her rebuke. In the meantime she became engaged to an unknown lover closer - even put his image on his leg, so that, as she said, *to deter men too intrusive* . The malicious asserted that it was the fiance Estelle about her insanely jealous. Probably they were right, because the relationship did not end the marriage.

In 1927. It seemed that good fortune spoke again to the beautiful Warszawianka. Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer suddenly stopped harassing actress Diet and acclaimed American director King Vidor cast her in

his drama *The man from the crowd* . *I tormented myself long enough, but now I let my weight go in the direction and I want to be natural. I was tired and starved for my art, I cried many bitter tears, I will now turn to be pampered and eat well-fed three meals a day for my own pleasure* [crowd. cars] - he praised in the press, at the same time denouncing the excessive demands of Hollywood, which from the beginning of its stars, imposed certain canons of beauty. In the meantime, the actress has established close contacts with other representatives of the American Polonia. At the beginning of 1928. He participated in a special dinner organized by the Polish activists Wenceslas Stella and Walter Grabowski Polish scout for George Jelińskiego, who drove in 28 months the whole world car.

February 28, 1928 r. In New York, the world premiere of *Man of the crowd* . Production was a huge success (received two Oscar nominations), but Estelle Clark had no particular reason to rejoice. Silent cinema already had passed into history - in films began to appear sound.



Poster of the film "Man of the crowd" (public domain)

6 October 1927 r. In US cinemas showing the first sound film *The Jazz Singer*, who cinematography according to researchers refer to as a breakthrough. The growing popularity of this type of production meant that many actors had to say goodbye to his profession. They began to pay attention to proper English, impeccable diction and appropriate intonation, which for many immigrants meant, at best, limit the range of roles to form the newcomers from abroad. Estelle Clark knew that it does not find a new situation, because the right time has decided to step aside. The role of the *Man of the crowd*, otherwise one of the best in her career, she was also her last film performance.

IN THE SHADOW OF A SPOUSE

After 1928. The name Estelle Clark for several years completely disappeared from American newspapers. We only know that on September 10, 1931. Were