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Leslie Caron's investiture as *Commandeur dans l'ordre des Arts et des Lettres*



London-based Franco-American star Leslie Caron has been presented with the insignia of *Commandeur dans l'ordre des Arts et des Lettres* by Catherine Colonna, Ambassador of France to the United Kingdom, at an award ceremony held on Thursday 7 April 2022 at the Residence of France in London.

The insignia celebrates Leslie Caron's exceptional **international career**, spanning more than **70 years**, from her debut as a ballerina in Roland Petit's company in France to the Golden Age of Hollywood, from the sets of the greatest American musicals to the recent British TV hit series *The Durrells*.

Leslie Caron is only 17 years old when she is spotted by **Gene Kelly** on a Paris stage. A year later she co-stars alongside him in ***An American in Paris*** by Vincente Minnelli (1951). She also performs with Hollywood *monstre sacré* **Fred Astaire** in 1955's ***Daddy Long Legs***. One of Hollywood's most successful musicals, ***Gigi*** (1958) marks her second collaboration with Vincente Minnelli.

Leslie Caron was **nominated twice to the Academy Awards** and **won two BAFTA awards** for her roles in *Lili* by Charles Walters (1953) and in Bryan Forbes's *The L-Shaped Room* (1965), which also **won her a Golden Globe**.

She presented a special 70th anniversary screening of ***An American in Paris*** and shared her memories with the audience last December, in an exclusive on-stage conversation at Ciné Lumière in London.

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