

In 2017 the movie *Wonder Woman* became a box-office hit, breaking records and earning hundreds of millions of dollars in the first weekend. It was the first major female superhero film in over a decade and the first directed by a woman. Israeli actor Gal Gadot played Wonder Woman—a fierce and compassionate Amazonian warrior.

Follow Gadot's story from an average childhood in a small town in Israel to the role of a lifetime as Wonder Woman.

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Photographers and reporters gathered around the blue carpet outside the Hollywood Pantages Theatre in Hollywood, California, on May 25, 2017. Nearby, men and women dressed in costumes and T-shirts emblazoned with a yellow W logo crowded into bleachers and lined up behind metal barricades. Excitement hung in the air as the crowd grew. They were there for the world premiere of the movie *Wonder Woman*. Soon many of the stars of the film would arrive, including Gal Gadot (pronounced *gall guh-dote*), the actor who played Wonder Woman.

Gadot arrived in a glittery red gown and flat gold sandals. She smiled and waved to the crowd as she walked quickly down the carpet. She talked with fans and signed pictures and posters. Photographers and reporters took photos and asked questions. They wanted to know why she wasn't wearing heels—she said her flat sandals were more comfortable—and they asked her about the movie and what it was like to play Wonder Woman.



Gadot performs as Wonder Woman in a scene from the 2017 movie.

Wonder Woman tells the story of Diana Prince, an immortal Amazonian princess. When a World War I (1914–1918) pilot crashes near her home island, Diana rescues him. Then the pair leave the island to end the war and save the world from destruction. “I think it’s so important that we have . . . strong female figures to look up to, and Wonder Woman is an amazing one,” Gadot said. “It’s great that . . . finally she gets her own movie.”

Actors Lynda Carter (L) and Gal Gadot pose for a picture at the Wonder Woman UN Ambassador Ceremony at United Nations on October 21, 2016 in New York City.

Soon another star appeared on the carpet. She hugged Gadot, and the two began posing for photos together. It was Lynda Carter, the actor who played Wonder Woman in a 1970s TV series. Gadot and Carter were thrilled to be able to celebrate Wonder Woman together. Carter was

excited that Wonder Woman could inspire young girls again. She later said that *Wonder Woman* was a great movie and that Gadot had done a great job in the role.

Many people think superhero movies are something only boys enjoy. Batman, Spider-Man, and Iron Man dominate theaters, and boys and men fill the seats; girls and women watch superhero movies too. Movies about female superheroes, such as the 2004 *Catwoman*, starring Halle Berry, have not done very well with fans and critics. But some people in Hollywood thought it was time for a woman to take the lead in another major superhero film.





Actors Gal Gadot (L) and Jason Momoa greet fans during the 'Justice League' autograph signing at Comic-Con International 2017 at San Diego Convention Center on July 22, 2017 in San Diego, California.

The movie's director, Patty Jenkins, said, "I think the world needs all types of superheroes."

Not everyone agreed. Critics wondered whether this female-led superhero film would be successful. They feared that audiences would respond as they had to *Catwoman*. But *Wonder Woman* was a hit. The company that made the movie thought the film would earn about \$65 million in the United States. But *Wonder Woman* far exceeded expectations. During its opening weekend in the United States, the movie made \$103 million. One month after its release, the film had made more than \$700 million worldwide. Gadot's portrayal of Wonder Woman was a huge success. Film critics and filmmakers took note. And fans look forward to seeing more female superheroes on the big screen.