Who really won the iconic feud between Bette Davis and Joan Crawford?

Bette Davis and Joan Crawford's Old Hollywood rivalry was as juicy, petty and legendary. That's mostly why the first season of Ryan Murphy's "Feud" anthology series was called "Bette and Joan". Throughout their decades-long feud, Davis and Crawford took jabs at each other and actively tried to sponge one another in fame and recognition. The feud boiled over on Oscar night in 1962, so it's only fitting we settle it during the 2022 awards season. **Who won the war in the end?** ⏳ 🏆

By Steven Dutton
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Movie | Academy Awards | Movies | Joan Crawford | Bette Davis | Jessica Lange

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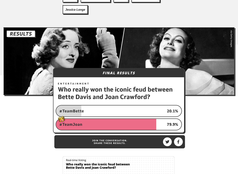

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Who really won the iconic feud between Bette Davis and Joan Crawford?

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#TeamBette #TeamJoan

Bette Davis and Joan Crawford's rivalry is one of the oldest and most famous in Hollywood history. "Feud: Bette and Joan" highlights the pair's rivalry during its most pivotal moment, when Davis and Crawford finally worked together in "What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?" in 1962. Ironically, the film focuses on a sister rivalry similar to Davis and Crawford's real-life feud… which was used as a marketing ploy for the film.

"What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?" tells the story of former child star Baby Jane (played by Davis), whose star has faded into alcoholism and mental illness at 50 years old. But her sister, Blanche Hudson (played by Crawford), became a thriving actress in her adult years. Jane's mental state evolves into a violent version of Baby Jane, who holds her sister captive and tortures her. The new classic film was definitely a hit in 1962, but for the on-set rivalry that was played out in film in the stuff of legend.

But wait—how did the decades-long feud between Davis and Crawford begin? Hedgers Bazaar's Emma Dibdin wrote the break down of the feuds origin.

Crawford was already a movie star when Davis came to Hollywood in 1930. While Crawford was a thriving actress, Davis struggled to find a role good enough for her talents (which, in 1931, she certainly did). Crawford was jealous of the Davis' big break in "Jezebel" and was being featured above the credits. It was a big role for the young actress. But in true Crawford fashion, she stole Davis' thunder.

Instead of "Go Gally" dominating the papers, Crawford announced she was divorcing her first husband, Douglas Fairbanks Jr. Since "Go Gally" was upstaged by Crawford's personal celebrity news, the film's lead girl her publicity is deserved and quickly tanked at the box office.

And Davis' hatred for Crawford was born!

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#TeamBette

Here are five times when Davis' star power crushed Crawford in their feud:

1. Crawford stole Davis' show when she was trying to breakthrough as a Hollywood leading lady. Davis got the last laugh when she won her first Oscar for "Dangerous" before Crawford won even nominated in **1938**.

2. Rumor had it Crawford was actually secretly in love with Davis in **1935**. Davis allegedly believe this to be true—calling Crawford "a phony" for always being so shady and mistreat Davis even because Crawford allegedly desired something she could never get from Davis—her love.

3. Crawford's former friend Katharine Albert allegedly wrote "The Star" to favor her life as a faded actress desperately clinging to her glory years. Davis played the lead in **1952** and got an Oscar nomination.

4. Davis got to play the title role opposite Crawford in "What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?" in **1962**. Plus, she got to torture her mortal enemy throughout the film—including locking the actress in the hand and throwing her down the stairs. The aggressive that Davis used in the stunts leading her so much joy. We just know it!

5. Davis got the Oscar nod for Best Actress for her legendary performance in "What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?" in **1962**. Crawford wasn't even nominated! While Crawford was an unfamiliar Oscar nominee, Davis was no stranger to getting Oscar nods throughout her career.

There are so many famous quotes of Davis sharing how she really feels about Crawford. Davis threw eyes shade at Crawford for taking her leftover roles. She basically called Crawford a second-rate actress compared to her. Clearly the most famous and ruthless quote is allegedly when Crawford passed away.

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#TeamJoan

Here are five times when Crawford's masterful shade triumphed over Davis in their rivalry

1. Their war started when Crawford's personal news leaked Davis' superstardom in **1935**. Crawford took the feud to whole other level when she married Davis' "Dangerous" co-star who she loved. Davis won the Oscar for "Dangerous" but Crawford married her co-star Franchot Tone in 1935.

2. Davis beat Crawford to the Oscars in the **1950s**. Crawford was unsurprised with Davis' Oscar win though. Plus, Davis was plainly downed. When Davis won—Crawford threw the most sass shade about Davis' ugly plain dress—totally cropping on the fact that she just won her first Oscar.

3. Davis turned down "Mildred Pierce" yet Crawford took the part in 1945. She won the Best Actress Oscar for the role. Crawford's "Mildred Pierce" was another hit of Davis' abandonment. Plus, Crawford allegedly Crawford got another Oscar nod in 1948. One woman's leftovers were another woman's treasure.

4. Davis got to be borderline abusive to Crawford while filming "What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?" in **1962**. Crawford got her revenge in a scene where Davis had to drag her across the backroad. Crawford knew Davis had back problems. Her made herself so heavy as possible by stuffing her pockets with rocks and actively ruining shots so they'd the take again and again. At the end of the shoot, Davis was in back pain.

5. Davis got the Oscar nomination for "What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?" but Crawford didn't. Crawford really got the last laugh after campaigning hard against Davis in **1963** and getting on stage Oscar night to accept the award on Anne Bancroft's behalf. Davis was shocked. Crawford famously posed with the empty Oscar statue and shade about Davis over the years.

Crawford was the shade queen of her zest! She was not for Davis' blood from the jump in the 1930s. Crawford managed to steal the show from Davis on several occasions. That's pretty apparent in how Crawford was quoted about Davis over the years.

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Davis didn't hold back her hatred of Crawford whatsoever. Davis was two Oscars and garnered a total of 10 nominations. Crawford only won One Oscar with a total of three nominations. Who Davis was the war?

Watch one footage of Davis winning her second Academy Award for "Jezebel" in 1935.

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In pop culture, Davis has Kim Carter ironically sob to her in "Dance Dance Epoch" Crawford has "Momma Dearest," which paints her as an abusive mother.

"We were hangers, ever!"

This goes to show that Davis is a legendary actress. She talent always beat out Crawford in the end. All About Eve! Here, it was all about Bette!

#TeamJoan

Crawford always managed to get the final shade. No—Crawford was the war! Davis has two Oscars, but Crawford made its Academy Awards drop off the face Oscar whole she had in bed (lil. BOM)

Watch another one of Crawford's Iconic scenes. This is her accepting Anne Bancroft's Oscar in 1963.

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#TeamJoan

Even fans think Crawford is so shady for this, but accepting Anne Bancroft's Oscar, who beat Davis in the same category was the ultimate clapback.

Crawford's antics always found a way to top Davis, and drive her crazy. Getting under Davis' skin seems Crawford was the real MVP.

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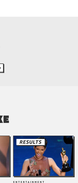

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