

# Marjorie Main

*Acton, Marion County*

February 24, 1890 – April 10, 1975

Born Mary Tomlinson in Acton, Indiana, Marjorie Main adopted a stage name to avoid embarrassing her father who was a church minister and did not approve of dramatics as a form of entertainment. She briefly attended Franklin College in Indiana but left to attend Hamilton School of Dramatic Expression in Lexington, Kentucky. Upon graduation, she taught dramatics for a year but eventually went into vaudeville in the 1910s and debuted on Broadway in 1916.

After marrying Dr. Stanley Krebs, in 1921, she more or less gave up performing. For the next several years, she spent most of their time traveling with her husband and helping him with his work. Since his activities kept him mostly in New York City, she returned to the stage with his approval and appeared in several W.C. Fields productions on Broadway. But with the death of her husband in 1935, Marjorie began working again. Her film career began with small roles in the early 1930s. The scratchy-voiced Marjorie became a character actress, appearing in almost 100 films during her twenty year career as a contract player for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. Her film debut was in *A House Divided* (1931); but, her breakthrough role was that of the impoverished mother of gangster, Humphrey Bogart, in *Dead End* (1937). She earned an Oscar nomination for Best Actress in a Supporting Role for *The Egg and I*. She also appeared in the film adaptation of Jessamyn West's *Friendly Persuasion* (1956), which earned her a Golden Globe nomination for Best Supporting Actress.

Marjorie is best known for her role as *Ma Kettle* in a series of ten *Ma and Pa Kettle* movies and became a starring performer along with Percy Kilbride. However, when Percy decided to retire, Universal tried to continue the Kettle films but was not successful. Her last movie was in *The Kettles on Old MacDonald's Farm* in 1957 and her last acting job was in an episode of *Wagon Train* in 1958. In 1975, she died of lung cancer at the age of 85. She was interred next to her husband at Forest Lawn, Hollywood Hills. She had moved his remains from a cemetery in Littlestown, Pennsylvania, several years before.

For more information about Marjorie Main, go to:

[http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0537685/?ref=nmawd\\_awd\\_nm](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0537685/?ref=nmawd_awd_nm).

For more information about *Writing Her Story*, go to: <http://www.in.gov/icw/2440.htm>.

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<http://www.hollywood.com/celebrities/marjorie-main-57297545/>.



  
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