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## George Reeves

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*For the Texas politician, see [George R. Reeves](#).*

**George Reeves** (January 5, 1914 – June 16, 1959) was an American actor best known for his role as [Superman](#) in the 1950s television program *[Adventures of Superman](#)*.<sup>[1][2]</sup>

His death at age 45 from a gunshot remains a polarizing issue; the official finding was suicide, but some believe he was murdered or the victim of an accidental shooting.<sup>[1][2][3][4][5][6]</sup>

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### George Reeves



George Reeves as Superman

**Born**

George Keefer Brewer  
January 5, 1914

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## Early life [edit]

Reeves was born **George Keefer Brewer** on January 5, 1914, in [Woolstock, Iowa](#), the son of Don Brewer and Helen Lescher<sup>[7][8]</sup> (his death certificate erroneously lists his birthplace as Kentucky).<sup>[9]</sup>

Reeves was born five months into their marriage (the reason Reeves' mother subsequently claimed a false April birth date for her son, something he was unaware of until adulthood).<sup>[10]</sup> They separated soon after his birth and Helen moved back to her home in [Galesburg, Illinois](#).<sup>[clarification needed]</sup>

Later, Reeves' mother moved to California to stay with her sister. There, Helen met and married Frank Bessolo. George's father married Helen Schultz in 1925 and had children with her. Don Brewer apparently never saw his son again.

In 1927, Frank Bessolo adopted George as his own son, and the boy took on his new stepfather's last name to become **George Bessolo**.<sup>[11]</sup> Frank and Helen Bessolo's marriage lasted 15 years

[Woolstock, Iowa, U.S.](#)

**Died**

June 16, 1959 (aged 45)  
[Beverly Hills, California, U.S.](#)

**Cause of death**

Gunshot wound

**Resting place**

Mountain View Cemetery  
Pasadena Mausoleum,  
Sunrise Corridor  
[Altadena, California, U.S.](#)

 34.1840°N 118.1497°W﻿ / ﻿

**Nationality**

American

**Other names**

George Bessolo

**Education**

[Polytechnic School](#) (1929),  
Pasadena, California

**Alma mater**

[Pasadena Junior College](#)

**Occupation**

Actor

**Years active**

1933–1959

**Known for**

Portraying [Superman](#) in  
*[Adventures of Superman](#)*

**Height**

6 ft 1 in (185 cm)

**Spouse(s)**

Ellanora Needles (m. 1940; div. 1950)

and ended in divorce. While Reeves was away visiting relatives, his mother told him that Frank had committed suicide. Reeves' cousin, Catherine Chase, told biographer [Jim Beaver](#) that Reeves did not know for several years that Bessolo was still alive and well.

George began acting and singing in high school and continued performing on stage as a student at [Pasadena Junior College](#).<sup>[12]</sup> He also [boxed](#) as a heavyweight in amateur matches until his mother ordered him to stop, fearing his good looks might become permanently damaged.

## Acting career [\[edit\]](#)

While studying acting at the [Pasadena Playhouse](#), Reeves met his future wife, Ellanora Needles. They married on September 22, 1940, in [San Gabriel, California](#), at the Church of Our Savior. They had no children and divorced ten years later.



Reeves' film career began in 1939 when he was cast as Stuart Tarleton (incorrectly listed in the film's credits as Brent Tarleton), one of [Scarlett O'Hara](#)'s suitors in [Gone with the Wind](#). It was a minor role but he and [Fred Crane](#), both in brightly dyed red hair as "the Tarleton Twins," were in the film's opening scenes. Like Wilcox, Reeves was contracted to [Warner Brothers](#) soon after being cast. Warner changed his professional name to "George Reeves."<sup>[11]</sup> His *Gone with the Wind* screen credit reflects the change. Between the start of *Gone With the Wind* production and its release 12 months later, several films on his Warner contract were made and released, making *Gone With the Wind* his first film role, but his fifth film release.

In *The Sainted Sisters* (1948)



He starred in a number of two-reel short subjects and appeared in several B-pictures, including two with [Ronald Reagan](#) and three with [James Cagney](#) (*Torrid Zone*, *The Fighting 69th*, and *The Strawberry Blonde*). Warner loaned him to producer [Alexander Korda](#) to co-star with [Merle Oberon](#) in *Lydia*, a box-office failure. Released from his Warner contract, he signed a contract at [Twentieth Century-Fox](#) but was released after only a handful of films, one of which was the [Charlie Chan](#) movie *Dead Men Tell*. He freelanced, appearing in five [Hopalong Cassidy](#) westerns before director [Mark Sandrich](#) cast Reeves as Lieutenant John Summers opposite [Claudette Colbert](#) in *So Proudly We Hail!* (1942), a war drama for [Paramount Pictures](#).

Reeves was drafted into the [U.S. Army](#) in early 1943.<sup>[13]</sup> He was assigned to the [U.S. Army Air Forces](#) and performed in the USAAF's [Broadway](#) show *Winged Victory*. The long Broadway run was followed by a national tour and a [movie](#) version. Reeves was then transferred to the Army Air Forces' [First Motion Picture Unit](#), where he made training films.

Discharged at the war's end, Reeves returned to Hollywood. However, many studios were slowing down their production schedules, and some production units had shut down completely. He appeared in a pair of outdoor thrillers with [Ralph Byrd](#) and in a [Sam Katzman](#)-produced serial, *The Adventures of Sir Galahad*. Reeves fit the rugged requirements of the roles and, with his retentive memory for dialogue, he did well under rushed production conditions. He was able to play against type and starred as a villainous gold hunter in a [Johnny Weissmuller](#) *Jungle Jim* film.

Separated from his wife (their divorce became final in 1950), Reeves moved to [New York City](#) in 1949. He performed on live television anthology programs as well as on radio and then returned to Hollywood in 1951 for a role in a [Fritz Lang](#) film, *Rancho Notorious*.<sup>[14]</sup>

In 1953, Reeves played a minor character, Sergeant Maylon Stark, in the motion picture *From Here To Eternity*. The film won the [Academy Award](#) for [Best Picture](#) and gave Reeves a second

motion picture appearance in a film that ultimately won the Oscar (the other being *Gone With The Wind*).

## Superman [\[edit\]](#)

In June 1951, Reeves was offered the role of [Superman](#) in a new television series<sup>[15]</sup> titled *Adventures of Superman*. He was initially reluctant to take the role because, like many actors of his time, he considered television unimportant and believed few would see his work. The half-hour films were shot on tight schedules; at least two shows were made every six days. According to commentaries on the *Adventures of Superman* DVD sets, multiple scripts would be filmed simultaneously to take advantage of the standing sets, so that, e.g., all the "Perry White's office" scenes for three or four episodes would be shot the same day and the various "apartment" scenes would be done consecutively.

Reeves' career as Superman had begun with *Superman and the Mole Men*, a film intended both as a B-picture and as the pilot for the TV series. Immediately after completing it, Reeves and the crew began production of the first season's episodes, all shot over 13 weeks in the summer of 1951. The series went on the air the following year, and Reeves was amazed at becoming a national celebrity. In 1952, the struggling [ABC Network](#) purchased the show for national broadcast, which gave him greater visibility.

The Superman cast members had restrictive contracts which prevented them from taking other work that might interfere with the series. Except for the second season, the Superman schedule was brief (13 shows shot two per week, a total of seven weeks out of a year), but all had a "30-day



Reeves and [Phyllis Coates](#) in [Superman and the Mole Men](#)



clause," which meant that the producers could demand their exclusive services for a new season on four weeks' notice. This prevented long-term work on major films with long schedules, stage plays which might lead to a lengthy run, or any other series work.<sup>[16]</sup>

However, Reeves had earnings from personal appearances beyond his meager salary, and his affection for his young fans was genuine. Reeves took his role model status seriously, avoiding cigarettes where children could see him and eventually quitting smoking. He kept his private life discreet. Nevertheless, he had a romantic relationship with a married ex-showgirl eight years his senior, [Toni Mannix](#), wife of [Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer](#) general manager [Eddie Mannix](#).

In the documentary [Look, Up in the Sky: The Amazing Story of Superman](#), [Jack Larson](#) described how when he first met Reeves he told him that he enjoyed his performance in *So Proudly We Hail!* According to Larson, Reeves said that if Mark Sandrich had not died, he would not be there in "this monkey suit." Larson said it was the only time he heard Reeves say anything negative about being Superman.

In between the first and second seasons of *Superman*, Reeves got sporadic acting assignments in one-shot TV anthology programs and in two feature films, [Forever Female](#) (1953) and [Fritz Lang's The Blue Gardenia](#) (1953). But by the time the series was airing nationwide, Reeves found himself so associated with Superman and Clark Kent that it was difficult for him to find other roles.

With Toni Mannix, Reeves worked tirelessly to raise money to fight [myasthenia gravis](#). He served as national chairman for the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation in 1955. During the second season, Reeves appeared in a short film for the Treasury Department, [Stamp Day for Superman](#), in which he caught the villains and told children why they should invest in government [savings stamps](#).

After two seasons, Reeves was dissatisfied with the one-dimensional role and low salary. Now 40 years old, he wished to quit and move on with his career. The producers looked elsewhere for a new star,<sup>[17]</sup> allegedly contacting [Kirk Alyn](#), the actor who had first portrayed Superman in the

original movie serials and who had initially refused to play the role on television.

Reeves established his own production company and conceived a TV adventure series, *Port of Entry*, which would be shot on location in Hawaii and Mexico, writing the pilot script himself.

However, *Superman* producers offered him a salary increase and he returned to the series.<sup>[18]</sup> He was reportedly making \$5,000 per week, but only while the show was in production (about eight weeks each year).<sup>[16]</sup> As for *Port of Entry*, Reeves was never able to gain financing for the project, and the show was never made.

In 1957, the producers considered a theatrical film, *Superman and the Secret Planet*. A script was commissioned from David Chantler, who had written many of the TV scripts. In 1959, however, negotiations began for a renewal of the series, with 26 episodes scheduled to go into production. (John Hamilton, who had played Perry White, died in 1958, so the former film-serial Perry White Pierre Watkin was to replace him.)

By mid 1959, contracts were signed, costumes refitted, and new teleplay writers assigned. Noel Neill was quoted as saying that the cast of *Superman* was ready to do a new series of the still-popular show.<sup>[19]</sup>

Attempting to showcase his versatility, Reeves sang on the Tony Bennett show in August 1956.<sup>[20]</sup> He appeared on *I Love Lucy* (Episode #165, *Lucy Meets Superman*) in 1956 as Superman. Character actor Ben Welden had acted with Reeves in the Warner Bros. days and frequently guest-starred on *Superman*. He said, "After the *I Love Lucy* show, *Superman* was no longer a challenge to him.... I know he enjoyed the role, but he used to say, 'Here I am, wasting my life.'"<sup>[21]</sup> His good friend Bill Walsh, a producer at Disney Studios, gave Reeves a prominent role in *Westward Ho, the Wagons!* (1956), in which Reeves wore a beard and mustache. It was to be his final feature film appearance.

Reeves, Noel Neill, Natividad Vacío, Gene LeBell, and a trio of musicians toured with a public

appearance show from 1957 onward. The first half of the show was a *Superman* sketch in which Reeves and Neill performed with LeBell as a villain called "Mr. [Kryptonite](#)" who captured Lois Lane. Kent then rushed offstage to return as Superman, who came to the rescue and fought with the bad guy. The second half of the show was Reeves out of costume and as himself, singing and accompanying himself on the guitar. Vacio and Neill accompanied him in duets.<sup>[22]</sup>

Reeves and [Toni Mannix](#) split in 1958 and Reeves announced his engagement to society playgirl [Leonore Lemmon](#). Reeves was apparently scheduled to marry Lemmon on June 19, and then spend their honeymoon in Tijuana. He complained to friends, columnists, and his mother of his financial problems. The planned revival of *Superman* was apparently a small lifeline. Reeves had also hoped to direct a low-budget science-fiction film written by a friend from his Pasadena Playhouse days, and he had discussed the project with his first Lois Lane, Phyllis Coates, the previous year.<sup>[23]</sup> However, Reeves and his partner failed to find financing and the film was never made. There was another Superman stage show scheduled for July<sup>[24]</sup> and a planned stage tour of [Australia](#). Reeves had options for making a living, but those options apparently all involved playing Superman again - a role he was not eager to reprise at age 45.

Jack Larson and Noel Neill both remembered Reeves as a noble Southern gentleman (even though he was from Iowa) with a sign on his dressing room door that said "*Honest George, the people's friend*".<sup>[25]</sup> After Reeves had been made a "[Kentucky Colonel](#)" during a publicity trip in the South, the sign on his dressing room door was replaced with a new one that read "*Honest George, also known as Col. Reeves*", created by the show's prop department. A photo of a smiling Reeves and the sign appears in Gary Grossman's book about the show.

## Death [\[edit\]](#)

This section **needs additional citations for [verification](#)**.





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*(May 2010)*

According to the Los Angeles Police Department report, between approximately 1:30 and 2:00 a.m. on June 16, 1959, George Reeves died of a gunshot wound to his head in the upstairs bedroom at his home in [Benedict Canyon](#). The police arrived within the hour. Present in the house at the time of the incident were [Leonore Lemmon](#) (who had been Reeves' fiancée at the time), William Bliss, writer Richard Condon, and Carol Van Ronkel, who lived a few blocks away with her husband, screenwriter Rip Van Ronkel.

According to these witnesses, Lemmon and Reeves had been dining and drinking earlier in the evening in the company of writer Condon, who was [ghostwriting](#) an autobiography of prizefighter [Archie Moore](#). Reeves and Lemmon had had an argument at the restaurant in front of Condon, and the three of them returned home. However, Lemmon stated in news interviews with Reeves' biographer [Jim Beaver](#) that she and Reeves had not accompanied friends to the restaurant but rather to wrestling matches. Contemporaneous news items indicate that Reeves' friend [Gene LeBell](#) was wrestling that night—yet LeBell's own recollections are that he did not see Reeves after a workout session earlier in the day. In any event, Reeves went to bed, but sometime near midnight an impromptu party began when Bliss and Carol Van Ronkel arrived. Reeves angrily came downstairs and complained about the noise. After blowing off steam, he stayed with the guests for a while, had a drink, and then retired upstairs again in a bad mood.

The guests later heard a single gunshot from upstairs. Bliss ran upstairs into Reeves' bedroom and found him lying across the bed dead, his naked body facing upward and his feet on the floor. It is believed that this corroborated Reeves' sitting position on the edge of the bed when he allegedly shot himself, after which the bullet struck his head, his body fell back on the bed and the

9 mm [Luger](#) pistol fell between his feet.

Statements from the witnesses that were made to the police and the press essentially agree. Neither Leonore Lemmon nor even other guests who were at the scene made any apology for their delay in calling the police after hearing the fatal gunshot that killed Reeves; the shock of the death, the lateness of the hour, and their state of intoxication were given as reasons for the delay. Police said that all of the witnesses present were extremely inebriated and that coherent stories were very difficult to obtain from them.

In contemporary news articles, Lemmon attributed Reeves' alleged suicide to depression caused by his "failed career" and inability to find more work. The report made by the Los Angeles Police states, "[Reeves was]... depressed because he couldn't get the sort of parts he wanted." Newspapers and wire-service reports possibly misquoted LAPD Sergeant V.A. Peterson as saying: "Miss Lemmon blurted, 'He's probably going to go shoot himself.' A noise was heard upstairs. She continued, 'He's opening a drawer to get the gun.' A shot was heard. 'See there—I told you so!'"<sup>[26]</sup>

While the official story given by Lemmon to the police placed her in the living room with party guests at the time of the shooting, statements from Fred Crane, who was Reeves' friend and colleague from "Gone With The Wind," put Leonore Lemmon either inside or in direct proximity to Reeves' bedroom—minimally as a witness to the shooting.<sup>[27]</sup> According to Crane, Bill Bliss had told Millicent Trent that after the shot rang out and while Bliss was having a drink, Leonore Lemmon came downstairs and said, "Tell them I was down here, tell them I was down here!" In an interview with Carl Glass, Crane expanded on this: "It needed to be said and that is the way I heard it from Millie as it was told to her by Bill Bliss. Janet Bliss and Millie were very close friends. I met Millie at Bill and Janet's house up in Benedict Canyon on Easton Drive. We lived on the same street."<sup>[28]</sup>

Witness statements and the examination of the crime scene by the Los Angeles Police led to the official inquiry conclusion that Reeves' death was a suicide.<sup>[29]</sup>

Reeves is interred at Mountain View Cemetery and Mausoleum in [Altadena, California](#). In 1985, he was posthumously named one of the honorees by DC Comics in the company's 50th anniversary publication *Fifty Who Made DC Great*. For his contributions to the TV industry he was awarded a star on Hollywoods Walk of fame in 1960.<sup>[30]</sup>

## Controversy [\[edit\]](#)

Many people have refused to believe that George Reeves would kill himself and have pointed out that no gunpowder from the gun's discharge was found on the actor's skin, leading them to believe that the weapon would therefore have to have been held several inches away from his head when it was fired; however, forensic professionals say that gunpowder tattooing is left only when the weapon is not in contact with the skin, while Reeves' skull fracture pattern shows that it was a contact wound.<sup>[31]</sup> Followers of the case also point to the absence of fingerprints on the gun and of gunshot-residue testing on the actor's hands as evidence in support of one theory or another. Police, however, found the gun too thickly coated in oil to hold fingerprints, and gunshot-residue testing was not commonly performed by the Los Angeles Police Department in 1959.<sup>[32]</sup>

Reeves' incredulous mother, Helen Bessolo, employed attorney Jerry Giesler and the Nick Harris Detective Agency. Their operatives included a fledgling detective named Milo Speriglio, who would later falsely claim to have been the primary investigator. A cremation of Reeves' body was postponed. No substantial new evidence was ever uncovered, but Reeves' mother never accepted the conclusion that her son had committed suicide. She also publicly denied that her son planned to marry Leonore Lemmon because he had never told her. However, he had allegedly announced the engagement to his friends and occasionally called her "my wife."<sup>[citation needed]</sup>

A later article quoted "pallbearers" at Reeves' funeral (actors [Alan Ladd](#) and [Gig Young](#)) as saying

that Reeves was not the type to commit suicide. However, neither of these men actually served as a pallbearer, and only one, Young, was a friend of Reeves. "Anti-suicide" proponents argue that Reeves would have no desire to end his life with so many prospects in sight.<sup>[citation needed]</sup>

In the partially fictional Reeves biography *Hollywood Kryptonite*, Reeves is murdered by order of Toni Mannix as punishment for their breakup. This is illustrated as a potential scenario in *Hollywoodland*, with the blame more clearly leveled at Eddie Mannix than at Toni, although the film ultimately suggests the death was a suicide. However, the authors of *Hollywood Kryptonite* were forced to create a "hit man" to make the plot of their book work, though there was no proof of such a hit man.<sup>[citation needed]</sup>

In the Grossman book, Jack Larson was quoted as having accepted that it was suicide. Although he suggested in a 1982 *Entertainment Tonight/This Weekend* interview that he had momentarily questioned the verdict based on a friend's comment, he has stated publicly on several occasions that he always believed that Reeves had killed himself and that quotations implying that he ever believed otherwise were either in error or falsified. "Jack and I never really tried to get anyone to re-open George's death," Noel Neill said. "I am not aware of anyone who wanted George dead. I never said I thought George was murdered. I just don't know what happened. All I know is that George always seemed happy to me, and I saw him two days before he died and he was still happy then."<sup>[citation needed]</sup>

*Hollywoodland* dramatizes the investigation of Reeves' death. The movie stars [Ben Affleck](#) as Reeves and [Adrien Brody](#) as fictional investigator Louis Simo, suggested by real-life detective Milo Speriglio. The movie shows three possible scenarios for Reeves' death: being killed semi-accidentally by Lemmon, being murdered by an unnamed hitman under orders from Eddie Mannix, and, finally,



[Ben Affleck](#) as George Reeves in



committing suicide.

Toni Mannix suffered from [Alzheimer's disease](#) for years and died in 1983. In 1999, following the resurrection of the Reeves case by TV shows [Unsolved Mysteries](#) and [Mysteries and Scandals](#), Los Angeles publicist [Edward Lozzi](#) claimed that Toni Mannix had confessed to a Catholic priest in Lozzi's presence that she was responsible for having George Reeves killed. Lozzi made the claim on TV tabloid shows, including [Extra](#), [Inside Edition](#), and [Court TV](#). In the wake of [Hollywoodland](#)'s publicity in 2006, Mr. Lozzi repeated his story to the tabloid [The Globe](#) and to the [LA Times](#), where the statement was disputed by Jack Larson. Larson stated that facts he knew from his close friendship with Toni Mannix precluded Lozzi's story from being true. According to Lozzi, he lived with and then visited the elderly Mannix from 1979 to 1982 and on at least a half-dozen occasions he called a priest when Mrs. Mannix feared death and wanted to confess her sins. Mannix suffered from Alzheimer's disease and senile dementia, but Lozzi insists that her "confession" was made during a period of lucidity in Mannix's home before she was moved from her house to a hospital. Mannix lived in a hospital suite for the last several years of her life, having donated a large portion of her estate *a priori* to the hospital in exchange for perpetual care. Lozzi also told of Tuesday night prayer sessions that Toni Mannix conducted with him and others at an altar shrine to George Reeves that she had built in her home. Lozzi stated, "During these prayer sessions she prayed loudly and trance-like to Reeves and God, and without confessing yet, asked them for forgiveness." Lozzi's claim, however, is unsupported by independent evidence.<sup>[[citation needed](#)]</sup>

## Partial Filmography [\[edit\]](#)

Film			
Year ↕	Title ↕	Role ↕	Notes

1939	<i>Espionage Agent</i>	Warrington's secretary	Uncredited
1939	<i>On Dress Parade</i>	Southern soldier in trench	Uncredited
1939	<i>Gone with the Wind</i>	Stuart Tarleton – Scarlett's beau	Credited erroneously onscreen as playing Brent Tarleton (see above)
1940	<i>The Fighting 69th</i>	Jack O'Keefe	Uncredited
1940	<i>Father Is a Prince</i>	Gary Lee	
1940	<i>Virginia City</i>	Major Drewery's telegrapher	Uncredited
1940	<i>Tear Gas Squad</i>	Joe McCabe	
1940	<i>Always a Bride</i>	Mike Stevens	
1940	<i>'Til We Meet Again</i>	Jimmy Coburn	
1940	<i>Torrid Zone</i>	Sancho, Rosario's Henchman	
1940	<i>Knute Rockne, All American</i>	Distraught Player	Alternative title: <i>A Modern Hero</i>

	<i>7-11 American</i>	(Uncredited)	
1941	<i>The Strawberry Blonde</i>	Harold	
1941	<i>Blood and Sand</i>	Captain Pierre Lauren	
1941	<i>Lydia</i>	Bob Willard	Alternative title: <i>Illusions</i>
1941	<i>Man at Large</i>	Bob Grayson	
1941	<i>Dead Men Tell</i>	Bill Lydig	
1942	<i>Border Patrol</i>	Don Enrique Perez	
1942	<i>Sex Hygiene</i>	Pool player #1	U.S. Army documentary
1943	<i>Bar 20</i>	Lin Bradley	
1943	<i>So Proudly We Hail!</i>	Lt. John Summers	
1943	<i>The Kansan</i>	Jesse James	Uncredited
1944	<i>Winged Victory</i>	Lt. Thompson	Credited as Sgt. George Reeves
1945	<i>Airborne Lifeboat</i>	Pilot	
1947	<i>Champagne for Two</i>	Jerry Malone	Alternative title: <i>Musical Parade: Champagne for Two</i>
1947	<i>Variety Girl</i>	Himself	Uncredited

1948	<i>Jungle Goddess</i>	Mike Patton	
1948	<i>Thunder in the Pines</i>	Jeff Collins	Released in <a href="#">sepiatone</a>
1948	<i>The Sainted Sisters</i>	Sam Stoakes	
1948	<i>Jungle Jim</i>	Bruce Edwards	
1949	<i>The Great Lover</i>	Williams	
1949	<i>Samson and Delilah</i>	Wounded messenger	
1949	<i>Adventures of Sir Galahad</i>	<a href="#">Sir Galahad</a>	15-chapter serial
1950	<i>The Good Humor Man</i>	Stuart Nagle	
1951	<i>Superman and the Mole Men</i>	<a href="#">Superman / Clark Kent</a>	Alternative title: <i>Superman and the Strange People</i>
1952	<i>Rancho Notorious</i>	Wilson	
1953	<i>The Blue Gardenia</i>	Police Capt. Sam Haynes	
1953	<i>From Here to Eternity</i>	Sgt. Maylon Stark	Uncredited



1954	<i>Stamp Day for Superman</i>	Superman / Clark Kent	
1956	<i>Westward Ho, the Wagons!</i>	James Stephen	Released posthumously


### Television

Year ↕	Title ↕	Role ↕	Notes
1949	<i>The Clock</i>		2 episodes
1949	<i>Actors Studio</i>		Episode: "The Midway"
1949– 1950	<i>The Silver Theatre</i>	Frank Telford	2 episodes
1949– 1950	<i>Suspense</i>	Various roles	4 episodes
1949– 1952	<i>Kraft Television Theatre</i>	Various roles	7 episodes
1950	<i>Believe It or Not</i>		Episode: "Journey Through the Darkness"
1950	<i>The Trap</i>		Episode: "Sentence of Death"
1950	<i>Starlight Theatre</i>		2 episodes
1950	<i>The Web</i>		2 episodes
1950	<i>Hands of</i>		Episode: "Blood Money"

1950	<i>Murder</i>		Episode: "Blood Money"
1950	<i>The Adventures of Ellery Queen</i>		Episode: "The Star of India"
1950–1951	<i>Lights Out</i>		2 episodes
1951–1958	<i>Adventures of Superman</i>	Superman/Clark Kent	104 episodes
1952	<i>Fireside Theater</i>	John Carter	Episode: "Hurry Hurry"
1952	<i>Ford Theatre</i>	James Lindsey – Father	Episode: "Heart of Gold"
1955	<i>Funny Boners</i>	Superman	March 15, 1955 episode
1957	<i>I Love Lucy</i>	Superman	Episode: "Lucy and Superman"

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7. ^ Clarion County, Iowa birth certificate
8. ^ Reeves' [Mausoleum plaque](#) erroneously lists his birth date as "1/6/1914," or January 6, 1914. However, a variety of sources state that his actual birth date was January 5, 1914, such as his Clarion County, Iowa, [birth certificate](#). Retrieved 2010-01-19.
9. ^ California death certificate
10. ^ Fox, Alma Archer. *My Cousin Superman*. Galesburg Register-Mail, 15 June 1979
11. ^ [a b "Superman Homepage"](#) . Retrieved June 16, 2007.
12. ^ Pasadena Junior College Courier, 1934
13. ^ U.S. World War II Army Enlistment Records 1938–1946, dated 24 March 1943
14. ^ "George Reeves Returns", HOLLYWOOD REPORTER, April 11, 1951, p.6
15. ^ "Reeves Now Superman", HOLLYWOOD REPORTER, June 25, 1951, p. 7.
16. ^ [a b](#) Grossman, p. 121.
17. ^ Variety, September 27, 1954.
18. ^ Variety, October 27, 1954.
19. ^ *DC Comics: Sixty Years of the World's Favorite Comic Book Heroes*, no page cited.
20. ^ Grossman, p. 45.
21. ^ Grossman, p. 151.
22. ^ Grossman, p. 54.
23. ^ Grossman, p. 58.
24. ^ New York Post, June 17, 1959.
25. ^ [Look, Up in the Sky: The Amazing Story of Superman](#).
26. ^ ["Actor Commits Suicide"](#) . *Sarasota Journal*. June 17, 1959. p. 14. Retrieved January 5, 2013.
27. ^ *Speeding Bullet*, 2nd Ed, by Jan Alan Henderson, page 151
28. ^ ["Glass House Presents"](#) . Glass House Presents. Retrieved 2010-08-13.
29. ^ Los Angeles Police Department Death Report, June 26, 1959
30. ^ Marx, Barry, [Cavaliere, Joey](#) and Hill, Thomas (w), Petruccio, Steven (a), Marx, Barry (ed). "George

Reeves America Loves Superman" *Fifty Who Made DC Great*: 25 (1985), DC Comics

31. <sup>^</sup> [ISBN 084939287X](#) . Books.google.com. 2007. ISBN 978-0-8493-9287-0. Retrieved 2010-08-13.
32. <sup>^</sup> "Was Superman star George Reeves a suicide — or murder victim?" from *The Straight Dope*

## Further reading [[edit](#)]

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- Grossman, Gary *Superman: Serial to Cereal*, Popular Library, 1977 ISBN 0-445-04054-8
- Henderson, Jan Alan, *Speeding Bullet*, M. Bifulco, 1999 ISBN 0-9619596-4-9
- Henderson, Jan Alan & Randisi, Steve, *Behind the Crimson Cape*, M. Bifulco, 2005 ISBN 096195966
- Kashner, Sam & Schoenberger, Nancy *Hollywood Kryptonite*, St. Martin's Mass Market Paper, 1996 ISBN 0312964021
- Neill, Noel & Ward, Larry, *Truth, Justice and the American Way*, Nicholas Lawrence Books, 2003 ISBN 0-9729466-0-8

## External links [[edit](#)]

- [George Reeves](#) at the [Internet Movie Database](#)
- [George Reeves](#) at the [Internet Broadway Database](#)
- [George Reeves](#) at the [TCM Movie Database](#)
- [George Reeves](#) at *Find a Grave*



Preceded by <b>Kirk Alyn</b>	<b>Actor to portray Clark Kent/Superman</b> 1951-1958	Succeeded by <b>Christopher Reeve</b>
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<b>Newspaper comic strips</b>	<i>Superman</i> (1939–1966) · <i>The World's Greatest Superheroes</i> (1978–1985) ·	
<b>Radio</b>	<i>The Adventures of Superman</i> (US, 1940–1951) · <i>The Adventures of Superman</i> (UK, 1988) ·	
<b>Film</b>	<b>Live-action</b>	<i>Superman</i> (1948) · <i>Atom Man vs. Superman</i> (1950) · <i>Superman and the Mole Men</i> (1951) · <i>Superman</i> (1978) · <i>Superman II</i> (1980) · <i>Superman III</i> (1983) · <i>Supergirl</i> (1984) · <i>Superman IV: The Quest for Peace</i> (1987) · <i>Superman Returns</i> (2006) · <i>Superman II: The Richard Donner Cut</i> (2006) · <i>Man of Steel</i> (2013) · <i>Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice</i> (2016) ·
	<b>Animation</b>	<i>Superman animated shorts</i> (1941–1943) · <i>Superman: Brainiac Attacks</i> (2006) · <i>Superman: Doomsday</i> (2007) · <i>Justice League: The New Frontier</i> (2008) · <i>Superman/Batman: Public Enemies</i> (2009) · <i>Justice League: Crisis on Two Earths</i> (2010) · <i>Superman/Batman: Apocalypse</i> (2010) · <i>Superman/Shazam!: The Return of Black Adam</i> (2010) · <i>All-Star Superman</i> (2011) · <i>Justice League: Doom</i> (2012) · <i>Superman vs. The Elite</i> (2012) · <i>Batman: The Dark Knight Returns – Part 2</i> (2013) · <i>Superman: Unbound</i> (2013) · <i>Lego Batman: The Movie – DC Super Heroes Unite</i> (2013) · <i>Justice League: The Flashpoint Paradox</i> (2013) · <i>JLA Adventures: Trapped in Time</i> (2014) · <i>Justice League: War</i> (2014) · <i>The Lego Movie</i> (2014) ·
<b>Television</b>	<b>Live-action</b>	<i>Adventures of Superman</i> (1952–1958) · <i>Superboy</i> (1988–1992) · <i>Lois &amp; Clark: The New Adventures of Superman</i> (1993–1997) · <i>Smallville</i> (2001–2011) ·
	<b>Animation</b>	<i>The New Adventures of Superman</i> (1966–1970) · <i>The Adventures of Superboy</i> (1966–1969) · <i>Super Friends</i> (1973–1986) · <i>Superman</i> (1988) · <i>Superman: The Animated Series</i> (1996–2000) · <i>Justice League</i> (2001–2004) · <i>Justice League Unlimited</i> (2004–2006) · <i>Legion of Super Heroes</i> (2006–2008)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Young Justice</i> (2010–2013) •</li> </ul>
<b>Novels</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Adventures of Superman</i> (1942) • <i>Superman: Last Son of Krypton</i> (1978) •</li> <li>• <i>Miracle Monday</i> (1981) • <i>Superman: Doomsday &amp; Beyond</i> (1993) •</li> <li>• <i>Lois &amp; Clark: A Superman Novel</i> (1996) • <i>It's Superman!</i> (2005) •</li> <li>• <i>Superman Returns: The Novelization</i> (2006) • <i>Enemies &amp; Allies</i> (2009) •</li> </ul>
<b>Video games</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Superman</i> (Atari 2600, 1978) • <i>Superman: The Game</i> (1985) • <i>Superman</i> (Arcade, 1988) •</li> <li>• <i>Superman</i> (NES, 1988) • <i>Superman: The Man of Steel</i> (1989) •</li> <li>• <i>Superman/Sunman</i> (NES, unreleased) • <i>Superman</i> (Sega Genesis, 1992) •</li> <li>• <i>Superman: The Man of Steel</i> (Master System, 1993) • <i>The Death and Return of Superman</i> •</li> <li>• <i>Superman</i> (Game Boy, 1997) • <i>Superman</i> (Nintendo 64, 1999) • <i>Shadow of Apokolips</i> •</li> <li>• <i>Superman: The Man of Steel</i> (Xbox, 2002) • <i>Countdown to Apokolips</i> • <i>Superman Returns</i> •</li> <li>• <i>Fortress of Solitude</i> • <i>Justice League Heroes</i> • <i>Mortal Kombat vs. DC Universe</i> •</li> <li>• <i>DC Universe Online</i> • <i>Lego Batman 2: DC Super Heroes</i> • <i>Injustice: Gods Among Us</i> •</li> <li>• <i>Infinite Crisis</i> • <i>Lego Batman 3: Beyond Gotham</i> •</li> </ul>
<b>Other media</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Stamp Day for Superman</i> (1954) • "Lucy and Superman" (<i>I Love Lucy</i> episode, 1957) •</li> <li>• <i>The Adventures of Superpup</i> (1958) • <i>The Adventures of Superboy</i> (1961) •</li> <li>• <i>It's a Bird...It's a Plane...It's Superman</i> (1966) • <i>The Adventures of Seinfeld &amp; Superman</i> (2004) •</li> <li>• <i>Look, Up in the Sky! The Amazing Story of Superman</i> (2006) •</li> </ul>
<b>Fan films</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>World's Finest</i> • <i>Superman Classic</i> • <i>Bizarro Classic</i> • <i>The Death and Return of Superman</i> •</li> </ul>
<b>Parodies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Captain Caveman</i> (<i>The Flintstone Comedy Show</i> segment) • <i>Mighty Mouse</i> •</li> <li>• <i>My Hero</i> (UK TV series) • <i>Stupor Duck</i> • <i>Super-Rabbit</i> • <i>Underdog</i> (TV series) •</li> <li>• <i>Goku vs Superman</i> (<i>Death Battle</i> episode 25) •</li> </ul>
<b>Miscellanea</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "The Bizarro Jerry" (<i>Seinfeld</i> episode) • "Can You Read My Mind" • <i>Hollywoodland</i> •</li> <li>• <i>Krypto the Superdog</i> • <i>Man of Steel, Woman of Kleenex</i> •</li> <li>• <i>National Comics Publications v. Fawcett Publications</i> • "The Race" (<i>Seinfeld</i> episode) •</li> <li>• "The Reign of the Superman" • <i>Return of Mr. Superman</i> • "Save Me" (Remy Zero song) • <i>Steel</i> •</li> <li>• <i>Superman curse</i> • "Superman (It's Not Easy)" •</li> </ul>

**See also:**

[Supergirl in other media](#) · [Lex Luthor in other media](#) ·

#### Authority control

[WorldCat](#)  · [VIAF](#): [54348066](#)  · [LCCN](#): [n85151826](#)  · [ISNI](#): [0000 0000 7141 0542](#)  ·  
[GND](#): [119504820](#)  · [BNF](#): [cb140419813](#)  (data)  ·

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