

Dickinson, Angie (1931-) Encyclopedia Article

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Contents

Dickinson, Angie (1931-) Encyclopedia Article.....	1
Contents.....	2
Dickinson, Angie (1931—).....	3

Dickinson, Angie (1931—)

An attractive and talented film actress of the 1960s and 1970s, and star of the popular television show *Police Woman*, Angie Dickinson's lasting image was thrust upon her by Brian De Palma in 1980. By then an elegant and sophisticated presence, she was cast in De Palma's *Dressed to Kill* as a woman who is brutally and shockingly slashed to death in an elevator. Competing with the shower scene in *Psycho* as one of the most uncomfortably enduring celluloid murders of modern times, Dickinson's bloody demise guaranteed her immortality. Earlier in her career, Dickinson (born Angeline Brown in North Dakota), exuded a unique blend of up-front acting, all-American girl charm, sympathetic femininity, and good-natured sex appeal. She was perfect as both foil and comfort to the men in her several male-oriented films, beginning with *Rio Bravo* (1959). Although she played many sympathetic characters, a tougher quality was exploited in *The Killers* (1964) and *Point Blank* (1967). She was married for a time to Burt Bacharach.

Further Reading:

Cross, Robin. "Angie Dickinson." In *Who's Who in Hollywood*, edited by Robyn Karney. New York, Continuum, 1993.