
SYNOPSIS

ACT ONE

In flickering light, a child dreams—
Norma Jeane, wide-eyed, entranced.
Silver screen whispers lullabies,
a world softer than her own.

A mother's touch—so fleeting, gone,
locked away behind white walls.
Norma clutches a photograph,
a fedora, a ghost of a father,
a promise never made.

Passed from hand to hand,
no roots, no home—only the weight of
shadows.
Their hands take what they will.
She learns to survive in silence.

At sixteen, a ring, a name, a husband.
James leaves for war, and she is alone
again, until a camera captures her light.
A flash, a frame—she is seen.

And she sees, too
No longer just a girl,
but something much, much more.

She steps onto the casting couch,
swallows her fear,
swallows her pride,
becomes the girl they want her to be.

And then—Marilyn.
Pink satin, diamonds,
a smile that blinds.
She dances, she glows,
a dream stitched in gold.

Joe—golden, powerful, knowing.
A shelter, yet a storm of his own.
Their shine together multiplies,
fireflies burning in flight,
but bright lights burn fast.

A subway grate, a dress in flight,
a woman immortalized,
a man enraged.
She is still just Norma Jeane,
caged behind the fantasy.

She turns to the mind,
to the stage,
to her craft,

To Arthur, who sees her
She is worth seeing.
For a moment,
she sees it, too.

ACT TWO

She dreams of life within her,
a love made flesh. A waltz, a whisper,
a promise.

But shadows take her again—
men in hats, faceless hands,
a child lost before its first breath.
She weeps into the arms of mothers,
soft voices, softer prayers.

She seeks comfort in glass bottles,
soft escapes in the hush of night.
A bath drawn warm,
a womb she can return to.
She floats, she laughs,
champagne bubbles rising,
a lullaby made of foam and fever.

But the world calls her back—
a breathless song, a whispered name,
a birthday wish in naked sparkles.
Eyes of power watch,
the world watches,
she cracks beneath their gaze.

She stumbles,
through memories,
through lovers,
through hands that touched
but never held.

And then—him.
The father she never knew,
arms strong, warm, unreal.
She rests her head upon his chest,
a child once more.

The stage fades.
The cinema glows.
And Marilyn—Norma Jeane—
slips into the silver dream.

The reel spins on.

THE HISTORY BEHIND THE BALLET

A TIMELINE OF MARILYN'S LIFE

1926 – Norma Jeane Mortenson is born into a tumultuous home. Like many American children, she's captivated by movies.

1934 – Marilyn's mother, Gladys Pearl Baker, is diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia and committed to the Metropolitan State Hospital. Gladys spends the rest of her life in and out of hospitals.

Marilyn becomes a ward of the state, staying with different families and, at one point, an orphanage.

1942 – At age 16 Marilyn leaves high school and marries her neighbor James Dougherty, who enlists in the Merchant Marine.

1944 – James is shipped to the Pacific and Marilyn starts a job at a drone aircraft factory where she's discovered by a photographer assigned to shoot photos of factory workers.

1945 – Against James' wishes, Marilyn quits her job and begins modeling for local photographers, then as a model for Blue Book Model Agency, appearing in advertising and on 33 magazine covers. She dyes her hair blonde.

1946 – Marilyn lands a contract with 20th Century Fox and renames herself Marilyn Monroe. She divorces James and embarks on a performing career.

1950 – After a series of small movie roles, she lands a seven-year contract with Fox and finally breaks through as a bonafide movie star. Her past as a nude model causes some controversy but she's branded as a sex symbol and her star continues to rise.

1954 – Marilyn marries professional baseball player Joe DiMaggio.

To publicize her film *The Seven Year Itch*, the studio stages the filming of the scene where Marilyn stands on a subway grate and her skirt blows up. This infuriates the already jealous Joe. Marilyn divorces him.

1955 – Marilyn moves to Manhattan and begins psychoanalysis in addition to attending classes at the Actors Studio. She forms Marilyn Monroe Productions, becoming just the second woman to have her own production company.

1956 – Marilyn wins a fight with Fox for a better contract and legally changes her name to Marilyn Monroe. Against the studio's wishes, she marries playwright Arthur Miller.

1958 – After taking a break from Hollywood to focus on her family, Marilyn has a miscarriage. She's hospitalized for barbiturate overdose during this time.

1961 – Arthur and Marilyn divorce.

1962 – Amid rising professional tensions with Fox, Marilyn takes a break from her shooting schedule to perform at President John F. Kennedy's birthday celebration, where she sings "*Happy Birthday, Mr. President*" in a glittering, nude-inspired dress.

1962 – At age 36, after completing 29 films and shaping herself into an iconic American movie star, Marilyn is found dead in her home with a fatal dose of barbiturates in her system. The L.A. County Coroners Office deems it a probable suicide.