

**Carmel Myers**, born in San Francisco, California, on April 9, 1900, left a lasting impact on Hollywood as an **actress** and lavish entertainer. In a Hollywood that encouraged assimilation, she never denied that she was Jewish. She performed in over seventy films and became known for her vamp roles in silent films and

"talkies." [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carmel\\_Myers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carmel_Myers)

In 1925, she appeared in arguably her most famous role, that of the Egyptian vamp Iras in *Ben-Hur*, who tries to seduce both Messala ([Francis X. Bushman](#)) and Ben-Hur himself ([Ramón Novarro](#))



[For those too young to know –especially those who never knew that Jewish women could be so attractive-- The noun *vamp* is somewhat old fashioned, implying a woman who uses her charisma and beauty to charm men into doing what she wants them to do. You can also use it as a verb, meaning to tease or flirt, especially in a showy and manipulative way. The word came into use in the early 1900's, from *vampire*. Some experts connect the first use of *vamp* with the role of "The Vampire" in the 1915 movie "A Fool There Was." <https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/vamp>]