

80th Anniversary of John Wayne's Screen Debut

Submitted by: Emma Diggory PR

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John Wayne's film career spanned a magnificent 50 years and 2006 marks the 80th anniversary of his screen debut. From that uncredited debut as a Yale football player in *Brown of Harvard** to his final appearance in *The Shootist*, Wayne thrilled audiences the world over.

Born Marion Robert Morrison and nicknamed The Duke, John Wayne starred in over 170** films and is ultimately remembered for his classic Westerns. These included *The Searchers*, *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon*, *The Quiet Man* (famously shot on location in Eire), *Rio Grande*, *Fort Apache*, *The Alamo*, *The Shootist* and *True Grit*, for which he won his only Oscar in 1969.

Upon his death in 1979, President Reagan commented 'he gave the whole world the image of what an American should be.' He, however, wanted to be remembered as 'Feo, Fuerte y Formal', ugly, strong and dignified.

To commemorate this momentous anniversary, De Agostini – the world's leading partwork publisher – is launching The Classic John Wayne Collection.

The fortnightly DVD series brings together John Wayne's greatest films together with a film companion featuring:

- In-depth profiles of Wayne's co-stars, directors and producers
- The making of the films: from developing plots and raising budgets to casting and on-set stories and gossip
- Exclusive behind the scenes pictures, trivia, classic quotations and movie facts

Issue one, *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon*, is on sale now at a special launch price of £2.99. Issue two, *The Quiet Man*, is available from 13 September at £7.99.

The Classic John Wayne Collection is available from all leading retailers*** or via direct subscription from www.deagostini.co.uk.

-Ends-

Notes to editors:

* Ref: www.imdb.com

** www.classicfilm.about.com

*** De Agostini partworks are sold in over 34,000 retail outlets across the UK and Republic of Ireland and via direct subscriptions from the company's website www.deagostini.co.uk

- De Agostini is the largest partwork publisher in the UK with almost a quarter of a million active

subscribers.

- De Agostini is pronounced 'Day Agg-oss-teeny'

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