

of Smith's boxing lessons to generate ideas for the fight scenes presented in the movie.

Mann wanted the audience to be a part of the action. His techniques were aimed at going beyond the proverbial 'ringside seat'. The director wanted viewers inside the ropes, being a part of the action. not passively watching. This was done with the extensive use

of roving hand held cameras which provided a better sense of being there in the middle of the action and doing it in a more spontaneous way. Tiny lip-stick cameras, about the size of a matchbox, were also employed to get extreme close ups of the fighters' faces. At varying times these microscopic cameras were placed over a fighter's shoulder, on his hip, on his

glove, and behind their ear. You can see the pores of their skin. minute beads of sweat, and blood.

Rather than build sets of gyms, hotels and lounges on a movie studio lot, Mann's drive for realism drove him to the seedy sides of Chicago, Miami, and Los Angeles to where most of the old gyms were to be found. The film's production designer illustrates how

## Ali Time Capsule

**17 January 1942** : born Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr. in Louisville, Kentucky.

**1960** : Wins gold medal as light heavy-weight at the Games of the XVII Olympiad in Rome.

**1964** : Wins heavyweight title from Sonny Liston.

Converts to the Nation of Islam and becomes Muhammad Ali.

**1966** : Defends his crown five times, the last against Cleveland Williams at the Houston Astrodome, a fight Howard Cosell called, "*The greatest Ali ever was as a fighter*".

**1967** : Refuses to join the armed forces ("*I ain't got no quarrel against the Viet Cong*").

Ali's decision results in his being stripped of his boxing license. He is sentenced to five years in jail and fined US\$10,000 for draft dodging. Barred from fighting in the US and unable to go abroad, Ali's boxing career was effectively ended at his physical prime. Gets married to his second wife, Melinda Boyd.

**1971** : Appeals finally end up overturning his conviction. Loses world title that was taken from him in a 15-round gruelling fight against Joe Frazier that ended up sending both to hospital.

**1974** : Defeats George Foreman in the 'Rumble in the Jungle' in Zaire.

**1975** : Is victorious over Joe Frazier in the 'Thrilla in Manila'.

**1978** : Marries his third wife, Veronica Porsche. Loses his crown to Leon Spinks but wins it back in a rematch later the same year.

**1981** : Hangs up the gloves for good after losing a 10-rounder to Trevor Berbick and is later diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.

**1986** : Marries his fourth wife, Lonnie. (now, he is a father of nine children with six grandchildren).

**1937** : Elected to the boxing Hall of Fame.

**1990** : Visits Iraq just before the Persian Gulf War and successfully negotiates with Saddam Hussein for the release of fifteen hostages.

**1996** : Lights the Olympic Cauldron at the Opening Ceremony of the Games of the XXVI Olympiad, the Centennial Games, in Atlanta.

**2000** : Named an International Ambassador of Jubilee 2000, a global organisation dedicated to relieving debt in developing nations.

**2001** : Kicks off the Torch Relay in America for the XIX Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City.

## 12 Round Title Shot - The Best Boxing Movies of All Time

*Requiem for a Heavyweight* by Ralph Nelson, with Anthony Quinn (1962).

*The Set Up* by Robert Wise, with Robert Ryan (1949).

*City for Conquest* by Anatole Litvak, with James Cagney (1940).

*Rocky* by John G. Avildsen, with Sylvester Stallone (1976).

*Raging Bull* by Martin Scorsese, with Robert DeNiro (1980).

*Champion* by Mark Robson, with Kirk Douglas (1949).

*When We Were Kings* by Leon Gast, with Muhammad Ali (1996).

*Body and Soul* by Robert Rossen, with John Garfield (1947).

*The Harder They Fall* by Mark Robson, with Humphrey Bogart (1956).

*Here Comes Mr Jordan* by Alexander Hall, with Robert Montgomery (1941).

*Gentleman Jim* by Raoul Walsh, with Errol Flynn (1942).

*Somebody Up There Likes Me* by Robert Wise, with Paul Newman (1956).