

Sidney Howard

#23 – *Gone With the Wind*

Sidney Howard, the first writer to receive a Pulitzer Prize and an Academy Award, was also the first person to receive a posthumous Oscar®, for his work on *Gone With the Wind*. Born June 26, 1891, in Oakland, California, Sidney Coe Howard attended the University of California at Berkeley, and then studied playwriting at Harvard. His first Broadway hit, *They Knew What They Wanted*, opened on Nov. 24, 1924, which brought him the Pulitzer Prize, would eventually be adapted as a musical, *The Most Happy Fella*. A prolific playwright, Howard wrote and directed more than 50 Broadway plays; his plays ran almost continuously from the early 1920s right up to the time of his death in 1939. Howard co-founded the Playwrights' Company with fellow playwrights Maxwell Anderson, S.N. Behrman, Elmer Rice, and Robert E. Sherwood. Simultaneous with his playwriting endeavors, Howard began a screenwriting career, garnering acclaim for many of his scripts, including *Bulldog Drummond*, *Raffles* and *Dodsworth*. In 1938, he began adapting Margaret Mitchell's Civil War epic *Gone With the Wind*, eventually retreating to his Massachusetts farm to work from home. While the movie was being filmed, he was killed in a tractor accident on his farm. He was 48 years old.