

## Why is Citizen Kane Still Considered the Greatest Movie of All Time

Citizen Kane, released in 1941 by RKO studios and directed by Orson Welles is widely regarded to this day as the greatest film of all time by many critics all over the world. There are many reasons that can explain this and in my opinion, I believe that it is mainly due to the film's fantastic plot and memorable characters as well as the brilliant cinematography, Mise-En-Scene and finally, Orson Welles as the director, writer and star of the film.



Orson Welles had contributed a lot to the greatness of the film. This because he had a lot of experience with directing and acting due to due to the fact that he co-founded the Mercury Theatre and directed, produced and starred in radio. Welles was able to utilise these skills in the film as well as hire actors in the Mercury Theatre to star in the film. His skills are all reflected in the film's brilliant directing, acting and writing. The film's plot is phenomenal. It revolves around the life of billionaire Charles Foster Kane and tells the story of his rise and downfall. The plot features a group of reportes attempting to discover the hidden meaning of Kane's last word "Rosebud". The film then showcases many important times in Kane's life such as how his childhood was basically taken from him, how he rose to fame due to his million dollar newspaper business and how his life and career crumbled after he attempted to get involved into politics. The meaning behind "Rosebud" is revealed at the end of the film where it is shown to be the name of Kane's old sled, his final words and memories were that of his childhood, which he never got to fully experience.



Finally, another reason why Citizen Kane is cited as the greatest film of all time is the technical aspects such as cinematography and Mise-En-Scene. Due to the film having spent the majority of its budget on set design, costume design and actors, the film could not afford to have colours so it had to make use of lighting and shadows. This created great contrasting scenes that heavily reflected what was happening in the plot. For example, the contrasting High Key Light and Low Key Light used in the flashback scene with Kane as a child made the scene feel more impactful.