

A Cynthia Celeste Miller Production

THE BIG CRIME

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Spotlight on...
James Cagney

About James Cagney

James Cagney (July 17, 1899 – March 30, 1986) was an actor who, although often typecast as a tough gangster, was capable of carrying virtually any role in every genre that could be thrown at him. Take, for example, his vibrant performance in the musical film, *Yankee Doodle Dandy*, for which he won an Oscar for “Best Actor in a Leading Role”.

Along with several other actors such as Edward G. Robinson and George Raft, Cagney helped define the “gangster film” genre during the 1930s, with such iconic motion pictures as *The Public Enemy* and *Angels With Dirty Faces*. As that genre gave way to film noir in the 1940s, he made the transition effortlessly, turning in memorable performances in *White Heat* and *Kiss Tomorrow Goodbye*. He even took a seat in the director’s chair for the underrated *Short Cut To Hell*.

While relatively small in comparison to his work in other genres, Cagney’s film noir endeavors were nothing short of phenomenal. The intensity he brought to the table, along with his ability to say so much with his facial expressions, added a touch of class (and dementedness) to these movies. His character from *White Heat*, Cody Jarrett, is even responsible for belting out the words that would eventually become famous across all of pop culture: “Made it, Ma! Top of the world!”

On this day in 1986, the world lost a true legend. To commemorate his greatness, we have created *The Big Crime* game stats loosely based on his most famous noir character.

Cody Jarrett

Shade: Dark Gray

- Deranged Gang Boss
- Debilitating Headaches
- Mama’s Boy
- Explosive Temper
- Too Trusting

Body: Normal (Athletics, Fighting)

Finesse: Normal (Reflexes, Shooting)

Smarts: Normal (Knowledge – Criminal Operations, Perception)

Spirit: Normal (Intimidation, Manipulation)

Special Rules: Unethical, Flawed (Spirit)

Items: Pistol, rifle, wallet with a photo of his “ma” in it, \$20

About The Big Crime

The Big Crime is a role-playing game that emulates the classic film noir of the 1940s and ‘50s. Every aspect of the game system was put into place with that goal in mind, from the “Temptation” rules to the system for carrying out exciting chase scenes, drama scenes and fight scenes.

In addition to all the rules needed to create your own characters and play the game, the rulebook includes extensive advice for both players and Directors alike, using actual cinematography techniques to bring the source material alive. It also boasts a 25-page “adventure” that comes in two versions: The Theatrical Release and Director’s Cut. For more information, go to:

www.spectrum-games.com