

## **My Drift**

**Title: Clint Eastwood**

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“ I know what you're thinking. Did he fire six shots or only five? Well, to tell you the truth, in all this excitement, I've kinda lost track myself. But being this is a .44 Magnum - the most powerful handgun in the world and would blow your head clean off, you've got to ask yourself one question - Do I feel lucky? Well, do ya, punk.”

**Clint Eastwood**

**“GO AHEAD,  
MAKE MY DAY”**

*I have always liked Clint Eastwood movies especially the westerns and the “Dirty Harry” series. If you are an Eastwood fan and kind of old, you will remember the famous movie quotes on the previous page. I have already written an article about John Wayne, so I think it is about time to write about my next favorite actor, Clint Eastwood.*

### **Early life and Career**

Actor, director, and producer Clint Eastwood was born Clinton Eastwood Jr. on May 31, 1930, to Clinton Sr. and Ruth Eastwood, in San Francisco, California. He has one younger sister, Jeanne. After traveling and looking for work throughout California during the Depression, the family settled in the Bay Area city of Piedmont. Eastwood attended Piedmont High School and then Oakland Technical High School, graduating in 1949.

Eastwood worked odd jobs during and after high school, with stints as a hay baler, logger, truck driver and steel-furnace stoker. In 1950, he was drafted into the U.S. Army and stationed at Fort Ord on the Monterey Peninsula, where he served as a swimming instructor. After his discharge in 1953, Eastwood made his way down to Los Angeles, where he took classes at Los Angeles City College and worked at a gas station. Tall and handsome, he landed a screen test with Universal and signed a contract despite minimal acting experience. His first roles were bit parts in films like *Revenge of the Creature* and *Francis in the Navy*, both released in 1955.

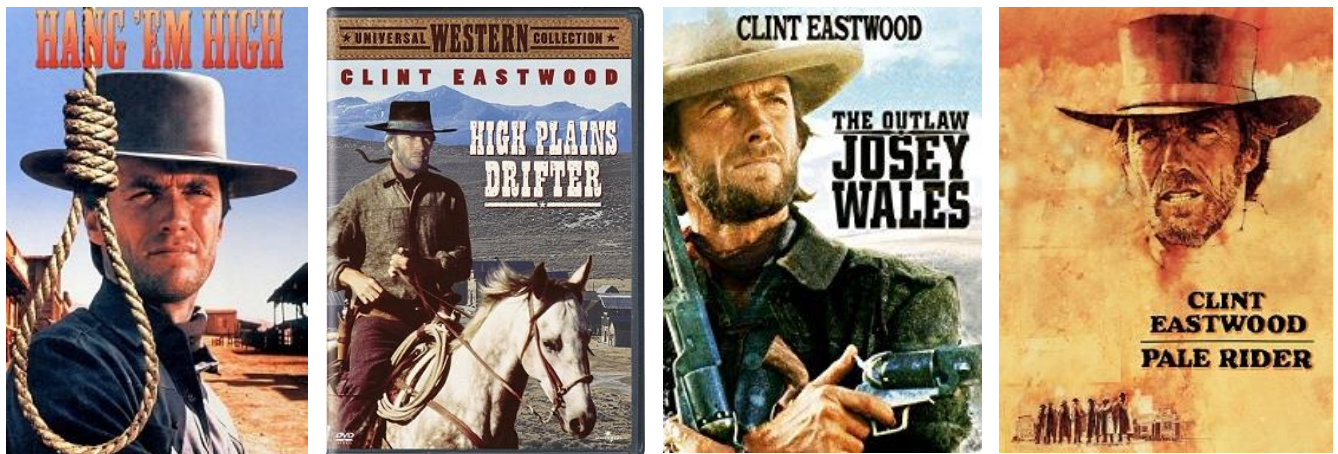
In 1958, Eastwood scored his big break with a major part in the TV Western *Rawhide*. Playing Rowdy Yates, second in command to Eric Fleming's trail boss, Eastwood slid seamlessly into the role of a hotheaded young cowboy. His character matured over the course of the program's eight seasons, with Yates taking over as trail boss toward the end.



In the 1960s, Eastwood traveled to Italy to star in a trio of Westerns directed by Sergio Leone. The role Eastwood took—the cool, laconic "Man with No Name"—had been turned down by James Coburn and Charles Bronson. The trio of films included “*A Fistful of Dollars*” (1964), “*For a Few Dollars More*” (1965), and “*The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*” (1966). Nicknamed “Spaghetti Westerns” due to their Italian production, these films gained worldwide popularity, and Eastwood became internationally known.



Back in the United States, Eastwood set up his own production company, Malpaso, and again took on the role of a tough-guy cowboy with Hang 'Em High (1968). Though he would quickly branch out into other filmmaking roles, Eastwood would be involved with numerous popular Westerns, including High Plains Drifter (1973), The Outlaw Josey Wales (1976) and Pale Rider (1985).



In 1971, Eastwood starred in his directing debut, Play Misty For Me, which generated favorable reviews. Also, that year, he took on the character of Harry Callahan, a contentious San Francisco cop, for Dirty Harry. The gritty, violent film proved immensely popular with the public, eventually spawning the sequels Magnum Force (1973), The Enforcer (1976), Sudden Impact (1983) and The Dead Pool (1988).



**Dirty Harry**

Cop Harry Callahan (Clint Eastwood) attempts to track down a psychopathic rooftop killer before a kidnapped girl dies. When he is found, Harry abuses the murderer's civil rights putting him back on the streets. Once the punk is released, he hijacks a school bus full of kids and Harry must go after him again. The only way to stop this vicious killer is in cold blood.



**Magnum Force**

Rogue San Francisco cop "Dirty Harry" does not believe in blind obedience to the rules, but when a vigilante group starts executing criminals who have escaped punishment on technicalities, that's going too far. Against the orders of his commanding officer, Callahan begins investigating his hunch that other policemen are behind the killings.



**The Enforcer**

"Dirty Harry" Callahan is reassigned from homicide to personnel after his latest use of excessive force. Meanwhile, a terrorist group calling themselves the People's Revolutionary Strike Force commit a series of crimes in San Francisco. When they kidnap the mayor and steal rockets for their next attack, Harry and his new female partner, Inspector Kate Moore (Tyne Daly), must stop the terrorists.



**Sudden Impact**

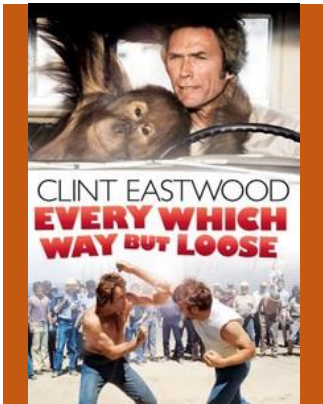
Jennifer Spencer (Sondra Locke) was gang raped, but the crime went unpunished. Now she demands revenge, killing off the men that attacked her years before. The murders attract the attention of Callahan who is on a forced vacation due to his violent approach to police work. The case gets complicated when Harry develops a relationship with Jennifer, and it's up to Harry to make the right decision when Jennifer's life is threatened for a second time.



**The Dead Pool**

In the fifth and last installment of the Dirty Harry series, gritty cop Harry Callahan is fresh off the conviction of a major mob boss. When horror film director Peter Swan (Liam Neeson) develops a "dead pool" betting on celebrity deaths, he is shocked when a serial killer begins targeting those named, including TV reporter Samantha Walker and Callahan himself. Action and violence abound as Callahan tracks the killer in an attempt to stop the murders.

*I liked all of these movies, but the original Dirty Harry film was the best.*



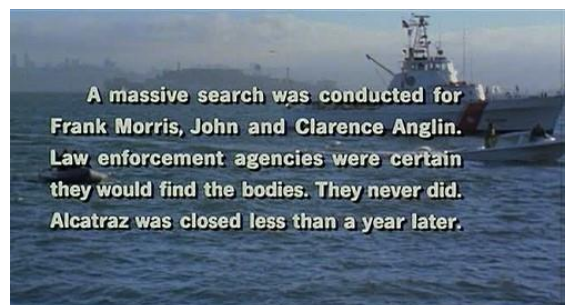
During this period, Eastwood also took detours into comedy roles, headlining *Thunderbolt and Lightfoot* (1974) alongside Jeff Bridges, and *Every Which Way but Loose* (1978), alongside an Orangutan.

In a more serious and notable appearance, he also portrayed real-life convict Frank Lee Morris in *Escape from Alcatraz* (1979). Morris, a hardened con with a history of prison breaks, is sent to serve the rest of his life sentence at Alcatraz -- America's most infamously brutal and inescapable maximum security prison.

Morris quickly realizes the prison's dehumanizing effects and clashes with its cruel warden. Fed up with life at Alcatraz, Morris and two convict brothers meticulously plan the unthinkable: an escape from Alcatraz island.



**Escape from Alcatraz**



Eastwood indulged his love of jazz music when he directed the Charlie Parker biopic *Bird* (1988), which garnered critical acclaim. He also earned accolades for directing and starring in the 1992 western *Unforgiven*, which won the Academy Awards for Best Picture and Best Director. Subsequent acting-directing projects included *A Perfect World* (1993), *The Bridges of Madison County* (1995), *Absolute Power* (1997) and *True Crime* (1999).



**Unforgiven**

August of 2000 saw the release of yet another directorial and acting project for Eastwood, *Space Cowboys*, with co-stars James Garner, Donald Sutherland, and Tommy Lee Jones. In 2003, he focused his energy behind the camera to direct and score *Mystic River*. This haunting film, about former childhood friends intertwined in a murder investigation, earned Academy Awards for stars Sean Penn and Tim Robbins. That same year, Eastwood was honored with the Life Achievement Award by the Screen Actors Guild.



In 2004, Eastwood delivered another signature achievement with *Million Dollar Baby*, starring as an aging boxing trainer. The powerful film cleaned up on the awards circuit, earning Best Picture and Best Director Academy Awards for Eastwood, as well as Oscars for actors Hilary Swank and Morgan Freeman.

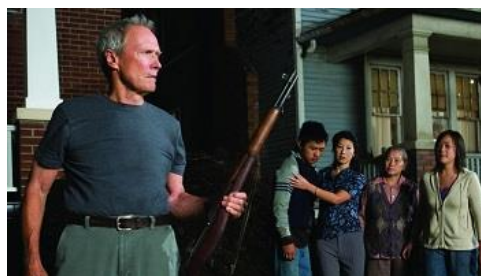
In 2006, Eastwood directed two World War II dramas, *Flags of Our Fathers* and *Letters from Iwo Jima*. These companion films viewed the conflict from two distinctly different perspectives: *Flags of Our Fathers* explores the American side, telling the story of one man's efforts to learn more about his father's involvement in the raising of the American flag at Iwo Jima—a moment captured in a Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph. The film featured a number of young Hollywood actors, including Ryan Phillippe, Jesse Bradford and Paul Walker.

Drawing from correspondence found on that island battlefield, *Letters from Iwo Jima* looks at the experiences of Japanese soldiers during World War II. While both films earned wide praise, *Letters from Iwo Jima* garnered four Academy Award nominations, including for Best Picture and Best Director.

Next for Eastwood was the 2008 family dramatic thriller *Changeling*, which starred Angelina Jolie as a mother of a kidnapped child. Jolie's character in the film—which is based on a true story—suspects that the child who is returned to her is not, in fact, her son. Several widely acclaimed directorial projects followed, including 2008's *Gran Torino* (in which Eastwood also starred), 2009's *Invictus* (starring Matt Damon and Freeman as Nelson Mandela) and 2011's *J. Edgar*, which featured Leonardo DiCaprio as the controversial former FBI director J. Edgar Hoover.



**Changeling**



**Gran Torino**



**J. Edgar**

Eastwood directed two films that were released in 2014: He adapted *Jersey Boys* from the Broadway musical about the rise to fame of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons. He followed that biopic with the box office hit *American Sniper*, which depicts the career and family life of Navy SEAL operative Chris Kyle and earned a slew of Oscar nominations.

Eastwood next got behind the camera for another biopic, *Sully*. Released in 2016, the film follows the heroic actions of pilot Chesley Sullenberger, who landed a troubled plane safely on the Hudson River in 2009. *Sully* earned widespread praise for both Eastwood and its star, Tom Hanks.





The “15:17 to Paris” is Eastwood latest film – It was released in February 2018.

This movie is an American biographical drama film produced and directed by Clint Eastwood and written by Dorothy Blyskal. It is based on the autobiography “The 15:17 to Paris: The True Story of a Terrorist, a Train,

and Three American Soldiers” by Jeffrey E. Stern, Spencer Stone, Anthony Sadler and Alek Skarlatos. The film stars Stone, Sadler, and Skarlatos as themselves and follows the trio as they stop the 2015 ISIS terrorist train attack.

*This is a movie I plan to see when I get the chance.*

Let’s learn more about this attempted terrorist attack and how three Americans saved the day for 500 train passengers. The following article is the best account of the event that I could find:

*Friends who foiled 15:17 to Paris train attack 'guided by God'*

*Americans playing themselves in Clint Eastwood movie ‘were supposed to be there that day’*



*The three young Americans who are playing themselves in a Clint Eastwood-directed movie about how they foiled a terrorist attack in France say their actions were guided by God.*

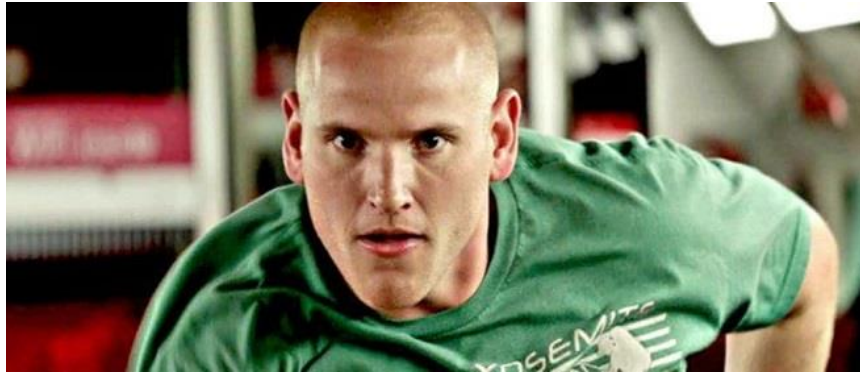
*The 15:17 to Paris recounts the dramatic events of 21 August 2015 when the three friends launched themselves at a man carrying an automatic AK47 and other weapons on a crowded train.*

*The acclaimed actor-director asked the trio to play themselves in the movie, along with others involved in the incident. As well as focusing on the onboard action, the film tells the backstories of the childhood friends who were hailed as heroes.*

*On the day, Ayoub el-Khazzani, 25, a Moroccan national, allegedly launched the attack shortly after the train, with 500 passengers onboard, crossed into France in route from Brussels to Paris. As well as the assault rifle, he was armed with a pistol, a knife, a hammer, and petrol.*



*Alerted by gunshots during an initial altercation with a passenger, Spencer Stone, then 23 and a medic in the US army, ran down the narrow aisle at Khazzani as the Moroccan lifted his AK47 and took aim. The assault rifle jammed.*



*Amid chaos and panic, Stone's friends, Alek Skarlatos, 22, also in the US military, and Anthony Sadler, 23, a college student, joined in the fight. By the time Khazzani was overpowered with the help of a British passenger, Chris Norman, Stone had been stabbed several times in the neck; another passenger, Mark Moogalian, 51, had been shot and was bleeding profusely. Moogalian survived.*

*The friends, who were on a tour of Europe, were instant celebrities. They met President Barack Obama, were awarded medals by France, Belgium and the US, appeared on talk shows, and Skarlatos took part in Dancing with the Stars. With the help of the author Jeffrey E Stern, they wrote a book, "The 15:17 to Paris", now adapted for the big screen.*

*All three are practicing Christians. They met in a Christian school in California and grew up attending Church and believe that their actions that day were part of God's plan.*

*"We know this series of events weren't coincidences. It's like our lives were leading up to that moment," Sadler, a pastor's son, told the Guardian. "You don't always know what plan God has for you. What we've come to realize with hindsight is that [this] was all part of a plan, of a bigger picture. That's where we were supposed to be that day."*

*According to Skarlatos, "if you look at the statistics of everything that happened, just the odds of being in a terrorist attack are astronomical. The odds of surviving it and being the ones that stopped it, and the odds of our exact situation happening to us, are too astronomical to believe that it was purely just chance. I really think God had a hand in it. We were vessels, being used."*

*They were all "pretty frightened" at the time, said Stone. "It's a pretty paralyzing feeling – you look at a guy with a loaded, automatic AK47, and you think the only result is going to be your death. Running at him, we had no hope of actually making it to him. Yeah, we were all pretty scared that day."*

*Skarlatos said: “It was act or die. There wasn’t any time to think about anything, because if you didn’t do anything, you’d end up dead. We just kind of went for it. We all thought we were going to die anyway; we were on a moving train with nowhere to go.”*

*The experience of playing themselves in the movie was “the funest two months of our lives”, said Stone. Eastwood – who has made several action movies about real-life heroes – was relaxed and down to earth, making it easy for them to relive the incident.*

*They said they had a positive message to impart: “Everyone is capable of the extraordinary, and God has a plan for each of us.”*

*“I think it’s our responsibility to take that message and be responsible with it and spread it as much as we can so we don’t waste the opportunity that [God] gave us,” said Sadler. “The fact that we’re living, we’re meant to spread the story and it’s meant to touch people, and we’re the three people that were chosen to do that.”*

*But they also had practical advice for anyone caught in a similar situation. “I would say if you can run, run. But we didn’t have the option to run,” said Sadler.*

*Not all those involved in the incident shared the trio’s faith in God. Moogalian, a French-American academic, who was bleeding heavily from a gunshot wound, was asked by Skarlatos if he wanted to pray. “He actually said no to me,” Skarlatos said.*

*Stone and Skarlatos have now left the military and Sadler has graduated from college.*

*Making the movie has given them the “acting bug”, said Stone. “If we can make it a career, why not? So, I think we’re all going to give that a shot.”*

*Khazzani is awaiting trial in France; two other men have been charged in Belgium in connection with the incident.*

*Doesn’t it make you feel more pride about being an American when you read about events like this. Think about it. There were 500 people of that train and it took the courage of three young Americans to stop this ISIS terrorist attack in a foreign country.*

### **Political Career and Activism**

**Along with his highly successful Hollywood career, Eastwood has tried his hand at politics. In 1986 he was elected mayor of Carmel, California, and served two years.**

**Eastwood is also known for being outspoken about his political views. Although he registered as a Republican early in his career, he has embraced Democratic support**

of gun-control laws and same-sex marriage, and in recent years has portrayed himself as a Libertarian

The actor made headlines when he spoke at the 2012 Republican National Convention in support of its candidate, former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney. During his narrative, Eastwood addressed an empty chair next to him, which seated an imaginary President Barack Obama, and said it was time for him to step aside. At one point during the unusual speech, Eastwood pretended that Obama was speaking to him: "What do you want me to tell Romney?" he asked the chair. "I can't tell him to do that. I can't tell him to do that to himself."



### Personal Life

Married twice, Eastwood has also been involved in several high-profile affairs. He was married to Maggie Johnson from 1953 to 1984, with whom he had two children, Kyle (b. 1968) and Alison (b. 1972). During that time, he also had daughter Kimber (1964) with Rawhide stuntwoman Roxanne Tunis.

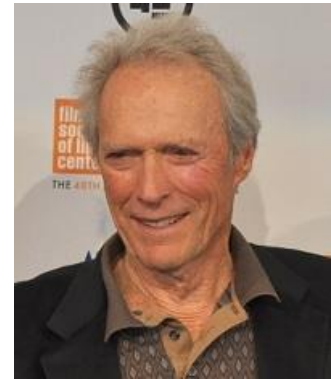


Clint and Maggie Johnson

Beginning in 1975, Eastwood became romantically involved with co-star Sondra Locke, a relationship that ended bitterly with a palimony suit in 1989. While still living with Locke, he had two children with Jacelyn Reeves, Scott (1986) and Kathryn (1988). He and actress Frances Fisher had a daughter, Francesca Ruth, in 1993. Around that time, reports surfaced of another Eastwood daughter, born just before the start of his Hollywood career.

In 1996, Eastwood married Dina Ruiz, a 30-year-old TV newscaster, who gave birth to daughter Morgan in December. The couple separated in 2013, and their divorce was finalized in late 2014. A few months later, Eastwood went public with his new girlfriend, restaurant hostess Christina Sandera.

Well, good ole Clint is surely not gay!! And it sounds like he is still going strong at the advanced age of 87. I don't know if you were counting but it seems Eastwood has been married twice and had a lot of girlfriends. He has at least seven (7) children but even Eastwood admits there might be more!



Eastwood in his 80's

*Do you think Clint Eastwood found something stronger than VIAGRA?*

*Let's end this article with 10 interesting facts about Clint Eastwood that will make your day:*

### **1. HE WAS A SWIMMING INSTRUCTOR IN THE U.S. ARMY**

After graduating high school, Eastwood has said he worked as a lumberjack and forest firefighter in Oregon, and a steelworker in Texas. He was drafted during the war in Korea and sent to Fort Ord on Monterey Bay in California for basic training. He was never deployed for combat; he stuck around as a swimming instructor, and spent his nights and weekends working as a bouncer at the NCO club.

### **2. HE SURVIVED AN EMERGENCY PLANE WATER LANDING**

Returning to Fort Ord from Seattle following a weekend leave in the fall of 1951, Eastwood ran into some trouble. "On the way back, they had one plane, a Douglas AD, sort of a torpedo bomber of the World War II vintage, and I thought I'd hitch a ride on that," Eastwood recalled. "Everything went wrong. Radios went out. Oxygen ran out. And finally, we ran out of fuel up around Point Reyes, California, and went in the ocean. So, we went swimming – about a mile to shore. It was late October, November. Very cold water. I found out many years later that it was a white shark breeding ground, but I'm glad I didn't know that at the time or I'd have just died."

### **3. EASTWOOD WAS FIRED AS A CONTRACT PLAYER AT UNIVERSAL PICTURES BECAUSE OF HIS LOOKS**

Clint Eastwood and Burt Reynolds were both contract actors at Universal, and both were fired in 1959. According to Reynolds, Eastwood "was fired because his Adam's apple stuck out too far. He talked too slow. And he had a chipped tooth and he wouldn't get it fixed. And I said, 'Why are you firing me?' And they said, 'You can't

act.' ... I said to Clint, 'You know, you are really screwed, because I can learn how to act. You can't get rid of that Adam's apple.'"

#### **4. HE HAS JAMES COBURN AND CHARLES BRONSON TO THANK FOR GETTING THE LEAD IN A FISTFUL OF DOLLARS**

James Coburn wanted \$25,000 to star in the movie, which was more than the producers could afford. Charles Bronson might have taken the role if he didn't think the script was "just about the worst I'd ever seen." Eastwood agreed to star for \$15,000.

#### **5. THE NAME OF HIS PRODUCTION COMPANY COMES FROM HIS AGENT'S BAD ADVICE**

Eastwood's agent told him that appearing in Leone's trilogy would be a "bad step" for his career. "Bad step" in Spanish is Malpaso. Since Malpaso Creek is also a body of water located south of Carmel-of-the-Sea, California, where Eastwood makes his home, he named his company Malpaso Productions.

#### **6. HE NEVER WASHED THE MAN WITH NO NAME'S PONCHO**



When asked whether it was true that he wore the same poncho in *A Fistful of Dollars* (1964), *For a Few Dollars More* (1965), and *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly* (1966)—and never washed it—Eastwood said yes, and explained that, "If you washed it, it would fall apart." Eastwood still has the poncho, too.

#### **7. HE LANDED THE ROLE OF HARRY CALLAHAN BECAUSE FRANK SINATRA COULDN'T HOLD A GUN**

Robert Mitchum and Steve McQueen were in the running to play San Francisco detective Harry Callahan in Don Siegel's *Dirty Harry* (1971), but Sinatra was deemed their man. Then Eastwood received a phone call asking if he was still interested in starring in the movie. When he asked what happened to Sinatra, Eastwood was told

that Sinatra had a hand issue and couldn't hold a gun. "That sounded like a pretty lame excuse," Eastwood admitted, "but it didn't matter to me. I said, 'I'll do it.'"

#### **8. HE DID HIS OWN MOUNTAIN CLIMBING STUNTS FOR THE EIGER SANCTION**

For *The Eiger Sanction* (1975)—which Eastwood directed and starred in—he trained in Yosemite National Park, where he climbed the 1200-foot Lost Arrow Spire. But the Eiger's "White Spider" section was one of the most dangerous climbs in the world, so Eastwood and a crew of professional climbers were transported to a 12,000



foot elevation first, then lowered onto the rock face by tether lines. Sadly, British rigger David Knowles, who had climbed the Eiger before, was killed in a rockslide on the second day of filming.

The Eiger is a 13,015-foot mountain located in the Bernese Alps of Switzerland.

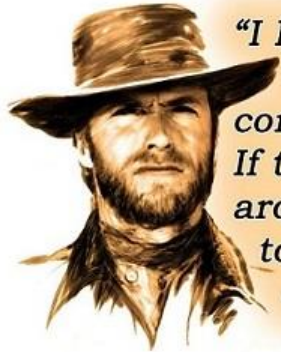
#### **9. HE WAS MAYOR OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA, CALIFORNIA FROM 1986 TO 1988, AND BROUGHT ITS RESIDENTS ICE CREAM**

Eastwood felt disrespected by the seaside town's administration after his plan to build a small building was automatically rejected. He won an out-of-court settlement that allowed him to build it anyway, but the incident motivated him to run for office. Eastwood got 72.5 percent of the vote over the two-term incumbent mayor Charlotte Townsend. During his term he made it easier to build or renovate property, got a tourist parking lot constructed, opened a library annex for children, and repealed a weird law on the books that prohibited the selling and eating of ice cream on public streets. Some residents didn't like all of the new tourists that arrived after he took office, and Eastwood didn't seek reelection.

#### **10. AS A DIRECTOR, HE ONLY LIKES TO SHOOT ONE TAKE**

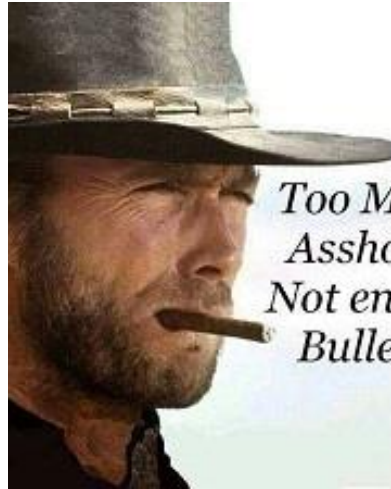
When Eastwood directs, he doesn't storyboard, rehearse, change the script after it's finished, or listen to test screening results. He doesn't say "action" because "even the horses get nervous." He says, "Let's move on" instead of "Cut." When Matt Damon once asked him for a second take, Eastwood said, "Why, so you can waste everybody's time?" When Kevin Costner took his time coming out of his trailer during shooting on *A Perfect World* (1993), Eastwood just had an extra pretend to be Costner's character in a shot of him walking through a field, with the camera up close so his image was blurred. Costner was not happy.

## Two last quotes that really rings true today



*"I have a very  
strict gun  
control policy:  
If there's a gun  
around, I want  
to be in control  
of it"*

*- Clint Eastwood*



*Too Many  
Assholes  
Not enough  
Bullets*

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