

# AN EPIC LIFE

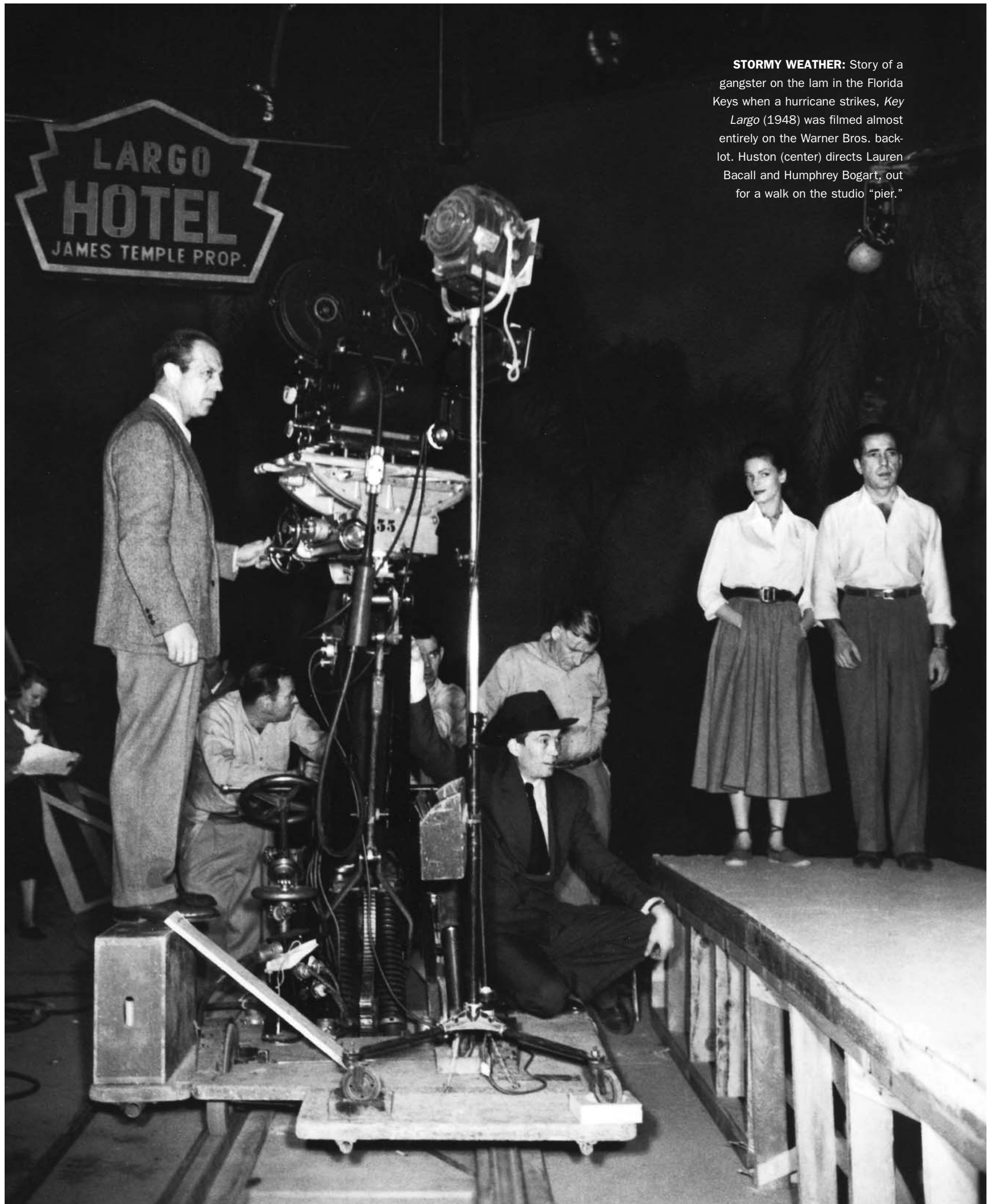
In his 81 years, John Huston was a boxer, painter, gambler, actor and soldier, and he poured that life experience into over 40 films. Here's a look at some of his adventures along the way.



**THE HOME FRONT:** (above) John Huston recruited World War II vets to play extras in his adaptation of Stephen Crane's Civil War classic, *The Red Badge of Courage* (1951). The director always said it was one of his best films, despite studio tampering. (opposite) In the film noir caper, *The Asphalt Jungle* (1950), Huston used deep focus and extreme foregrounding of single characters to suggest a creeping sense of doom.



PHOTOS: AMPAS



**STORMY WEATHER:** Story of a gangster on the lam in the Florida Keys when a hurricane strikes, *Key Largo* (1948) was filmed almost entirely on the Warner Bros. backlot. Huston (center) directs Lauren Bacall and Humphrey Bogart, out for a walk on the studio "pier."



**BUS STOP:** *The Treasure of Sierra Madre* (1948) was one of the first studio films to shoot almost entirely on location in Mexico. Huston was ordered to bring the production home by Warner Bros. boss Jack Warner when costs soared over \$3 million.



**FRIENDS OF THE DEVIL:** Huston hired 28-year-old Truman Capote to write the screenplay with him for *Beat the Devil* (1953) on the advice of David O. Selznick, husband of the film's star Jennifer Jones. Shot in Ravello on the Amalfi Coast, it is often called the first camp movie.

PHOTOS: AMPAS



**KNOCKOUT:** Relying on his experience as a former amateur lightweight boxing champion of California, Huston shows Stacy Keach how to take a punch in *Fat City* (1972). Shot in Stockton, Ca., the film continued the director's fascination with underdogs and losers.



**HOT STUFF:** Playwright Arthur Miller, with Huston on the Reno, NV, set, wrote the screenplay for *The Misfits* (1961), starring his then-wife Marilyn Monroe. Miller wrote new pages throughout the shoot, and his last play, *Finishing the Picture*, was based on the making of the film.



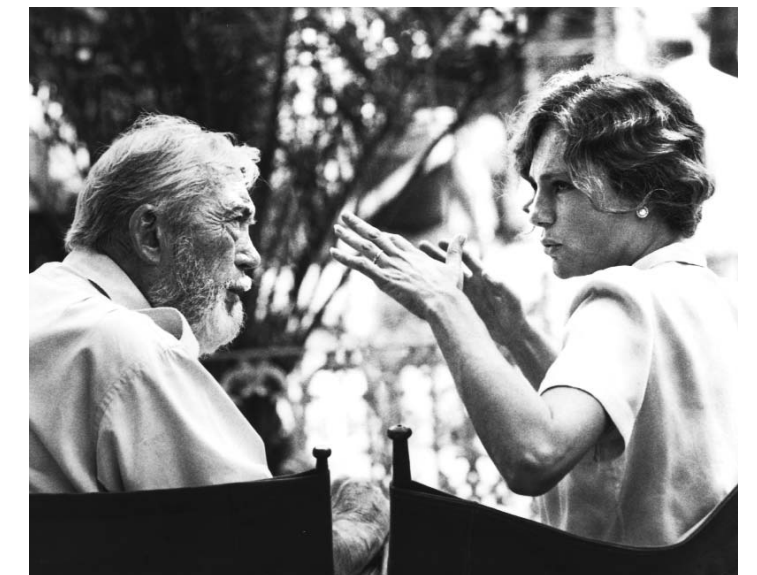
**FRONTIER LAW:** Shot in dusty earth tones, *The Life and Times of Judge Roy Bean* (1972) was Huston's attempt at a sweeping Western. Paul Newman, who played the self-appointed frontier judge, would later affectionately refer to Huston as "the eccentric's eccentric."



**FIRST WIFE:** Huston directs Ava Gardner as Sarah in *The Bible: In the Beginning* (1966). When Huston couldn't get Charlie Chaplin to play Noah, he took the role himself. The \$18 million epic was one of two (*Patton* was the other) shot in a curved-screen process called Dimension 150.



**RISING STAR:** Huston directed Marilyn Monroe on how to make the most of her few minutes of screen time as the gold-digging girlfriend of a crooked lawyer in *The Asphalt Jungle* (1950). He would later direct her under totally different circumstances in her last completed film, *The Misfits*.



**THE LUSH LIFE:** Huston returned to Mexico to shoot his uncompromising adaptation of Malcolm Lowry's *Under the Volcano* (1984), about the last day of a dissipated ex-British consul (Albert Finney). Jacqueline Bisset gave a sensitive performance as his estranged wife.

PHOTOS: AMPAS



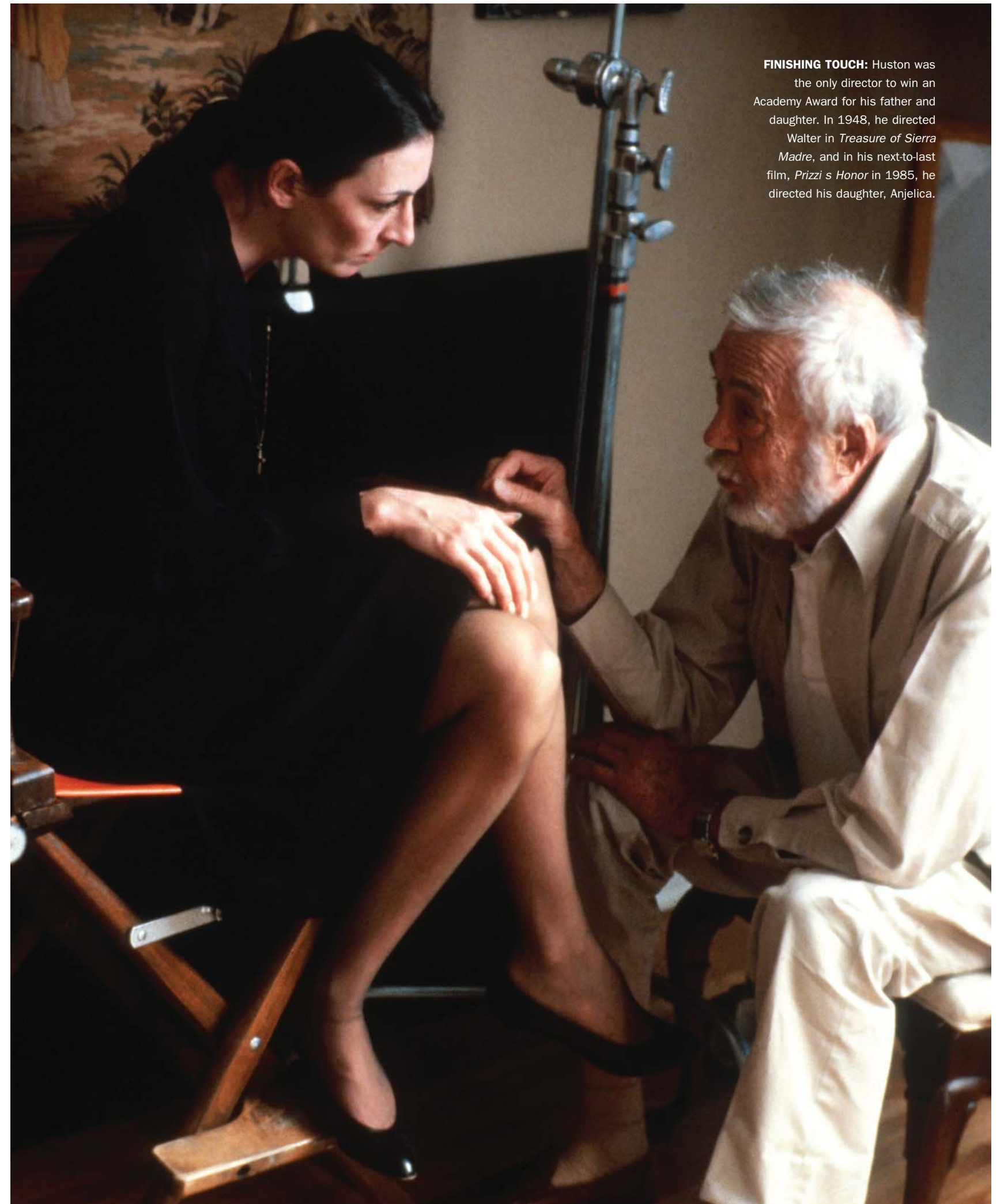
**ROLLING ON THE RIVER:**

Huston (second from left) hired locals to help the crew on *The African Queen* (1951), but said many would not show up for fear that the filmmakers were cannibals. The crew battled dysentery as well as close brushes with wild animals and poisonous snakes.



**THAR SHE BLOWS:** Huston carefully goes over storyboards for his adaptation of Herman Melville's novel, *Moby Dick* (1956). However, during shooting the model of the white whale kept sinking and had to be continually rebuilt, leading to delays and budget overruns.

Photos: AMPAS; (opposite) Photofest



**FINISHING TOUCH:** Huston was the only director to win an Academy Award for his father and daughter. In 1948, he directed Walter in *Treasure of Sierra Madre*, and in his next-to-last film, *Prizzi's Honor* in 1985, he directed his daughter, Anjelica.