

Remembering Robert Redford and the Sundance Kid

(Words in bold are defined below in the table.)

Jane Fonda was once asked on French TV what it was like to kiss Robert Redford on screen: “Great fun”, she replied. Now, she says she cannot “[stop crying](#)”, at the news that Redford died in [Sundance](#), Utah, on 16 September 2025. This was a small **ski resort** Redford had bought and where he founded the Sundance Film Festival (1979) and the [Sundance Institute](#) (1981) to support independent artists and diversity in film-making.

Redford was born in Santa Monica, California on 18 August 1936, to parents of English and Irish **ancestry**. He began his acting career in 1959 in New York, **on Broadway** and on TV. In the 1960s, he **starred in** several films, alongside leading actors of the day, like [Alec Guinness](#), [Natalie Wood](#) and [Charles Bronson](#). But it was playing with [Paul Newman](#) in [Butch Cassidy the Sundance Kid](#) (1969) that really made him famous.

This film is “based loosely on fact”, and tells the story of two **outlaws** of the Wild West who robbed banks and trains. At one point, after having escaped from a **tenacious posse** looking to catch or kill them, Cassidy and Sundance “go to Bolivia”, where history finally catches up with them. The film includes a legendary scene with Cassidy (Paul Newman) and Sundance’s lover (Etta Place) riding a bicycle to sound of the “**uplifting**” pop song [Rain Drops Keep Falling on My Head](#), sung by [B.J. Thomas](#).

Redford and Newman (who died in 2008) are both remembered for their sunny personalities, generosity and support for progressive causes, representing the best of (White) America – which is now gone.

“Let’s go someplace like Bolivia” – The Cliff Scene This is another iconic scene where Butch Cassidy (BC) and Sundance (SD) are trapped by the posse, on the edge of a cliff with nowhere to go. BC: well the way I figure it, we can either fight or give. If we give, we go to jail. SD: I've been there already. BC: If we fight, they can stay right where they are and starve us out, or go for position, to shoot us. Might even get a rockslide started and get us that way. What else can they do? SD: They could surrender to us, but I wouldn't count on that. They're going for position all right. Better get ready. BC: Kid the next time I say, “let's go someplace like Bolivia”, let's go someplace like Bolivia. SD: Next time ... Ready? BC: No, we'll jump. SD: Like hell we will. BC: No. It'll be okay. The water's deep enough we don't get squished to death. They'll never follow us. SD: How do you know? BC: Would you make a jump like that you didn't have to? SD: I have to, and I'm not going to. BC: Well we got to, otherwise we're dead. They're just going to have to go back down the same way they come. Come on. SD: Just one clear shot. That's all I want. BC: Come on. SD: Ugh, ugh. BC: We got to. SD: Get away from me! BC: Why? SD: I want to fight ‘em. BC: They'll kill us. SD: Maybe. BC: Do you want to die? SD: Do you? (waving his revolver at the cliff side) BC: All right I'll jump first.	SD: No. BC: Then you jump first. SD: “NO”, I said. BC: What's the matter with you? SD: I can't swim. BC: [...Laughter] Why, you crazy? The fall will probably kill you... SD: Ohh...shiiiiitttt. Ski resort: a “resort” is a holiday place for skiing, or going to the sea (seaside resort). Ancestry: lineage or descent from a family or people. To be “on Broadway”: means to play in a theatre on the street of Broadway in New York. To star in: to act in a play or film as a lead character, as a star. Outlaw: someone who has broken the law, who is outside the law. Tenacious: to be determined, stubborn, not to give up. A posse: a group of civilians or persons gathered to catch an outlaw. Uplifting: joyful, something which lifts up your mood or your spirits. Trapped: to be caught. To figure it: to calculate it, to reason. Starve us out: wait until we give up because we are hungry. Rockslide: rocks sliding down a hill. Surrender: to give in. Squished: squashed, smashed. ‘em: short for “them”.
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