

People & Places

Obits

Alan Parker dies

Actor Wilford Brimley dead at the age of 85

LOS ANGELES, Aug 3, (AP): Wilford Brimley, who worked his way up from movie stunt rider to an indelible character actor who brought gruff charm, and sometimes menace, to a range of films that included "Cocoon," "The Natural" and "The Firm," has died. He was 85.

Brimley's manager Lynda Bensky said the actor died Saturday morning in a Utah hospital. He was on dialysis and had several medical ailments, she said.

The mustached Brimley was a familiar face for a number of roles, often playing characters like his grizzled baseball manager in "The Natural" opposite Robert Redford's bad-luck phenomenon. He also worked with Redford in "Brubaker" and "The Electric Horseman."

Brimley's best-known work was in "Cocoon," in which he was part of a group of seniors who discover an alien pod that rejuvenates them. The 1985 Ron Howard film won two Oscars, including a supporting actor honor for Don Ameche.

Brimley also starred in "Cocoon: The Return," a 1988 sequel.

For years he was pitchman for Quaker Oats and in recent years appeared in a series of diabetes spots that turned him at one point into a social media sensation.

"Wilford Brimley was a man you could trust," Bensky said in a statement. "He said what he meant and he meant what he said. He had a tough exterior and a tender heart. I'm sad that I will no longer get to hear my friend's wonderful stories. He was one of a kind." Barbara Hershey, who met Brimley on 1995's "Last of the Dogmen," called him "a wonderful man and actor. ... He always made me laugh."

Though never nominated for an Oscar or Emmy Award, Brimley amassed an impressive list of credits. In 1993's John Grisham adaptation "The Firm," Brimley starred opposite Tom Cruise as a tough-nosed investigator who deployed ruthless tactics to keep his law firm's secrets safe.

Drifted

John Woo, who directed Brimley as Uncle Douve in 1993's "Hard Target," told The Hollywood Reporter in 2018 that the part was "the main great thing from the film. I was overjoyed making those scenes and especially working with Wilford Brimley."

A Utah native who grew up around horses, Brimley spent two decades traveling around the West and working at ranches and race tracks. He drifted into movie work during the 1960s, riding in such films as "True Grit," and appearing in TV series such as "Gunsmoke." He forged a friendship with Robert Duvall, who encouraged him to seek more prominent acting roles, according to a biography prepared by Turner Classic Movies. Brimley, who never trained as an actor, saw his career take off after he won an important role as a nuclear power plant engineer in "The China Syndrome."

"Training? I've never been to acting classes, but I've had 50 years of training," he said in a 1984 Associated Press interview. "My years as an extra were good background for learning about camera techniques and so forth. I was lucky to have had that experience; a lot of newcomers don't."

"Basically my method is to be honest," Brimley said told AP. "The camera photographs the truth - not what I want it to see, but what it sees. The truth."

Brimley had a recurring role as a blacksmith on "The Waltons" and the 1980s prime-time series "Our House." Another side of the actor was his love of jazz. As a vocalist, he made albums including "This Time the Dream's On Me" and "Wilford Brimley with the Jeff Hamilton Trio." In 1998, he opposed an Arizona referendum to ban cockfighting, saying that he was "trying to protect a lifestyle of freedom and choice for my grandchildren."

In recent years, Brimley's pitchwork for Liberty Medical had turned him into an internet sensation for his drawn out pronunciation of diabetes as "diabectus." He owned the pronunciation in a tweet that drew hundreds of thousands of likes earlier this year.

Brimley is survived by his wife Beverly and three sons.

Alan Parker, a successful and sometimes surprising filmmaker whose diverse output includes "Bugsy Malone," "Midnight Express," and "Evita," has died at 76, his family said.

A Briton who became a Hollywood heavyweight, Parker also directed "Fame," "The Commitments" and "Mississippi Burning." Together his movies won 10 Academy Awards and 19 British Academy Film Awards.

The director's family said he died Friday in London after a long illness. Parker was born in London on Feb. 14, 1944, and, like many other aspiring British directors of his generation, including Ridley Scott and Adrian Lyne, began his career in advertising as a copywriter and director of commercials.

He moved into television with critically acclaimed 1974 drama "The Evacuees," which won an international Emmy Award.

The next year he wrote and directed his first feature, "Bugsy Malone," an unusual, exuberant musical pastiche of gangster films with a cast of children, including a young Jodie Foster.

Offenses

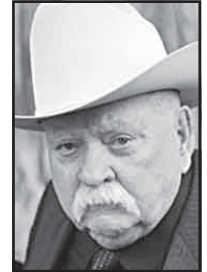
He followed that with 1978 feature "Midnight Express," the reality-based story of an American's harrowing incarceration in a Turkish prison for alleged drug offenses. It won two Oscars - including one for Oliver Stone's script - and gained Parker the first of two best-director nominations.

Parker ranged widely across subjects and genres. While "Shoot the Moon" (1982) and "Angela's Ashes" (1999) were family dramas, "Birdy" (1994) was a tale of war and friendship, "Angel Heart" (1987) an occult thriller and "Mississippi Burning" (1988) a powerful civil rights drama that was nominated for seven Academy Awards, including best director.

Parker was also a notable director of musicals, a genre he both embraced and expanded. "Fame" (1980) was a gritty but celebratory story of life at a performing arts high school; "Pink Floyd - The Wall" (1982) was a surreal rock opera; "The Commitments" (1991) charted the ups and downs of a ramshackle Dublin soul band; and "Evita" (1996) cast Madonna as Argentine first lady Eva Peron in a big-screen version of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical. His final film was death-row drama "The Life of David Gale" in 2003. (AP)



This image released by the Venice Film Festival shows a scene from the Iranian movie Sun Children, in competition at the 77th Venice Film Festival, that will be held in Venice, Italy, Sept 2-12. (AP)



Brimley



Director Alan Parker and his wife, Lisa arrive for the BAFTA Film Awards in London on Feb. 10, 2013. Parker, whose movies included 'Bugsy Malone,' 'Midnight Express' and 'Evita,' has died at the age of 76. A statement from the director's family says Parker died Friday in London after a long illness. (AP)



Judd



Philbin

Variety

SOUTH BEND, Ind: Television host Regis Philbin, who died last week at 88, has been buried at the University of Notre Dame following a private funeral service at his alma mater, a school spokesman said.

Philbin was buried recently at Cedar Grove Cemetery on the northern Indiana Catholic school's campus after a private service at the school's Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

"The Philbin family wanted to bring Regis back to the place he loved so much for a private funeral and burial. He is now resting in peace at Notre Dame," school spokesman Dennis Brown said in an email.

The genial television host and personality graduated from Notre Dame in 1953 and was an enthusiastic alum, often returning to the South Bend campus for football games, pep rallies, banquets, concerts and other events, the South Bend Tribune reported.

In 2001, he gave \$2.75 million to the school to create the Philbin Studio Theatre, meant for laboratory and performance-arts productions, at its DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

School president the Rev. John Jenkins praised Philbin for his commitment to the school in a statement this week, saying that "Regis regaled millions on air through the years, oftentimes sharing a passionate love for his alma mater with viewers."

Philbin died of natural causes on July 24, just over a month before his 89th birthday. (AP)

PRAGUE: Milan Kundera, the 91-year-old author of "The Unbearable Lightness of Being" and other acclaimed novels, has decided to donate his private library and archive

Music

Giddens is Silkroad's new face

Gaga, Grande top MTV VMA noms

NEW YORK, Aug 3, (AP): It's raining nominations for Lady Gaga and Ariana Grande's "Rain on Me" at the 2020 MTV Video Music Awards, which will present new categories focused on live performances and music videos created at home during the coronavirus pandemic.

Gaga and Grande both scored nine nominations each, including video of the year for their No. 1 dance hit, "Rain on Me" is also competing for song of the year, best collaboration, best pop, best cinematography, best visual effects and best choreography.

Billie Eilish and The Weeknd, the second-most nominated acts with six, are also up for video of the year with "everything i wanted" and "Blinding Lights." Others nominated for the top prize include Taylor Swift's "The Man," Future and Drake's "Life Is Good" and Eminem's "Godzilla," which features late rapper Juice WRLD.

The VMAs will air live on Aug. 30 from the Barclays Center in Brooklyn and New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said last month "the event will follow all safety guidance, including limited or no audience." This year's show introduces two new categories reflecting the current pandemic times: best music video from home and best quarantine performance.

Chart

Grande and Justin Bieber's No. 1 hit "Stuck with U" will compete for best music video from home along with Drake's "Toosie Slide," John Legend's "Bigger Love," 5 Seconds of Summer's "Wildflower," blink-182's "Happy Days" and twenty one pilots' "Level of Concern," which topped the Billboard rock songs chart for seven weeks and features the lyrics, "Will you be my little quarantine?"

R&B duo Chloe x Halle, who have successfully promoted their new album during the pandemic with impressive live performances mostly put on in their tennis court and outside their new home, are nominated for best quarantine performance for "Do It" from MTV's virtual prom "Prom-athon." Other nominees include Gaga's "Smile" from the TV special "One World: Together At Home"; Legend's "#togetherathome" concert; DJ D-Nice's "Club MTV presents #DanceTogether"; CNCO's "MTV Unplugged At Home"; and Post Malone's tribute to Nirvana.

Apart from the pandemic, protest songs reflecting the Black experience created in the wake of the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and others also earned VMA nominations. R&B star H.E.R.'s "I Can't Breathe," Anderson.Paak's "Lockdown" and Lil Baby's "The Bigger Picture" all scored nominations in the video for good category.

Swift, who released a surprise album last week, will also compete for video for good with her song about sexism, "The Man." She scored five nominations overall, while Drake, Dua Lipa, J Balvin and Bieber earned four nominations apiece.

Megan Thee Stallion and DaBaby - who both launched No. 1 pop hits this year - earned three nods each, including bids for artist of the year. Their competition includes Gaga, Bieber, The Weeknd and Post Malone.

BTS, Harry Styles, Roddy Ricch, Post Malone, Future, Karol G

to a public library in the Czech city where he was born and spent his childhood.

The Moravian Library in the city of Brno said Thursday that the entire collection would be transported from Kundera's apartment in Paris

in the fall. The donated items include editions of Kundera's books in Czech and some 40 other languages, articles written by and about him, published reviews and criticism of his work, newspapers clippings, au-

thorized photographs and drawings by the author.

Everything will be made available to the public, mostly in digital versions, the library said.

Czech Culture Minister Lubomir Zaoralek welcomed the move,

calling it "an extraordinary cultural event." (AP)

LOS ANGELES: A federal appeals court restored a major part of Ashley Judd's lawsuit against Harvey Weinstein, finding that the producer had power over the actor which should make her able to sue under a California sexual harassment law.

A three-judge panel of the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals found that Judd should be allowed to pursue both parts of her lawsuit against Weinstein. A lower court judge dismissed her sexual harassment allegations but left intact her claim of defamation.

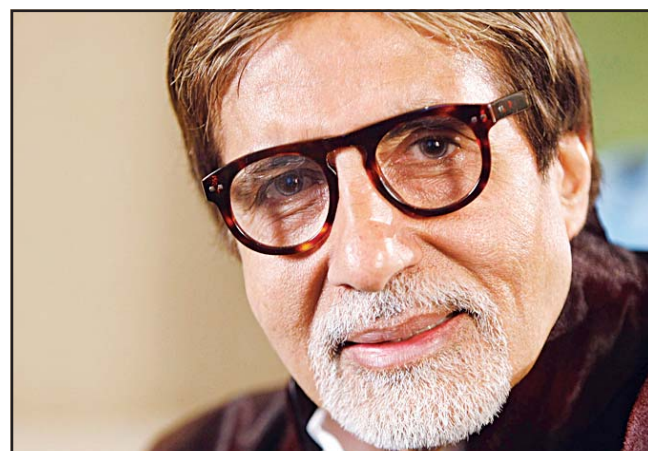
Judd filed the lawsuit in 2018, alleging that in a meeting at a Beverly Hills hotel in late 1996 or early 1997, the producer tried to coerce her to watch him shower and give him a massage, then smeared her in Hollywood as a "nightmare" to work with after she rejected him.

Judd's attorneys had sued Weinstein under a California law that prohibits sexual harassment by people, other than employers, with professional power, including teachers and landlords. (AP)

Bachchan recovers from 'coronavirus'

NEW DELHI, Aug 3, (AP): Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan was discharged from a Mumbai hospital on Sunday after undergoing three weeks of treatment for the coronavirus.

His actor son, Abhishek Bachchan, who is still in the Nanavati Super Speciality Hospital with the virus, said in a tweet that his father has tested negative and will rest at home. Both were hospitalized on July 11.



In this Nov 10, 2009 file photo, Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan speaks during an interview in London. Bachchan was discharged from a Mumbai hospital on Sunday after undergoing two weeks of treatment for the coronavirus. (AP)