

People & Places

Obits

Mentored by Sinatra

Lopez, 60s-era singer, guitarist, dies aged 83

RIO RANCHO, NM, Aug. 12, (Agencies): **Trini Lopez**, a singer and guitarist who gained fame for his versions of "Lemon Tree" and "If I Had a Hammer" in the 1960s and took his talents to Hollywood, died Tuesday. He was 83.

Filmmaker P. David Ebersole, who just finished shooting a documentary on Lopez with Todd Hughes, confirmed that Lopez died from complications of COVID-19 at Desert Regional Medical Center in Palm Springs, California.

Business partner and musician Joe Chavira said he and Lopez just finished recording a song "If By Now", a tune meant to raise money for food banks during COVID-19. "And here he is dying of something he was trying to fight," Chavira said.



Lopez

Lopez crossed over into acting, appearing in the World War II drama "The Dirty Dozen", the comedy "The Phynx" and credits on television's "Adam-12". He also designed guitars that became a favorite of Dave Grohl and other rock stars.

Mentored by Buddy Holly and Frank Sinatra, Lopez became an international star while performing in English and Spanish. Unlike Mexican American singers such as Ritchie Valens, Lopez rejected advice to change his name and openly embraced his Mexican American heritage despite warnings it would hurt his career.

"I insisted on keeping my name Lopez," he told The Dallas Morning News in 2017. "I'm proud to be a Lopez. I'm proud to be a Mexicano."

Born Trinidad Lopez III to immigrants from Guanajuato, Mexico, Lopez grew up in Dallas' poor, Little Mexico neighborhood. The family's dire economic situation forced Lopez to drop out of high school and work.

His life changed after his father bought him a \$12 black Gibson acoustic guitar from a pawn shop. His father taught him how to play the instrument, which led the young Lopez to perform at Dallas nightclubs that didn't allow Mexican American patrons.

Record

Buddy Holly saw Lopez at a small club in Wichita Falls, Texas, and introduced him to Norman Petty, his record producer in Clovis, New Mexico. Holly died in a plane crash six months later, and Lopez briefly replaced him as lead singer of The Crickets.

Lopez moved to Southern California and got a regular gig at P.J.'s Night Club in West Hollywood. Sinatra saw him perform and offered him a contract with his new record label, Reprise, where Lopez got his first major hit with "If I Had a Hammer". It went to No. 1 in nearly 40 countries.

They became friends and were spotted together regularly in social circles in Las Vegas and Palm Springs, California.

His debut album, "Trini Lopez at P.J.'s", reached the top 10 in 1963, and he had success in the Spanish-language market with "The Latin Album" and "The Second Latin Album". The rare Latino in the rock and folk world of the time, he would speak often of resisting pressure from record executives to change his name and presumably appeal more to white audiences.

Lopez received a Grammy nomination for best new artist of 1963 and by early 1964 he was so in demand that he and The Beatles were co-headliners during an 18-day engagement at the Olympia Theatre in Paris. It was just before the British band would travel to the US, appear on "The Ed Sullivan Show" and upend the careers of Lopez and countless others.

"The French newspapers would say 'Bravo Trini Lopez! Who are The Beatles?'" Lopez later told the web site www.classicbands.com. "When we finished doing the shows, the last night we were there, reporters came to my dressing room. My dressing room was next to theirs and they said 'Mr Lopez, The Beatles are leaving tomorrow for New York. Do you think they'll be a hit?' I said 'I don't think so.'"

"Trini used to say he came to California, broke and in a station wagon. He'd thanked Sinatra for 'discovering him'," Chavira said. "Sinatra said, 'no, it was meant to be.'"

Lopez was rarely on the charts after the 1960s, but his line of Gibson Trini Lopez guitars released from 1964 to 1971 unexpectedly influenced a generation of younger guitarists, including Grohl, the Edge and Noel Gallagher.

Ebersole and Hughes recently finished shooting a documentary on Lopez called "My Name is Lopez", which is due to be released in 2021. On May 15, 2008, his 71st birthday, Lopez was inducted into the Las Vegas Walk of Stars. Lopez was still recording and appearing live in the years leading up to his death. He took part in a benefit concert to raise money for the victims of the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami, and appeared as a guest performer in a number of shows held in Maastricht in The Netherlands with the Dutch violinist and composer André Rieu. He continued to record; El Immortal was released in 2010, and the following year he released his 65th album, Into The Future.

Also:

EAST RUTHERFORD, NJ: The 36-year-old daughter of New York Giants co-owner and film producer **Steve Tisch** has died.

Hilary Anne Tisch died on Monday, Steve Tisch said in a statement issued for the family. The statement did not cite a cause of death or say where she died, but it noted she had battled depression.

Steve Tisch said the family is "utterly heartbroken and is mourning its tragic loss."

"Hilary was a kind, caring and beautiful person," Steve Tisch said in the statement. "Her mother, sisters, brothers and I are devastated by her passing. It leaves a hole in our hearts and our lives. She, like so many others, bravely fought the disease of depression for as long as she could. We love and will miss her dearly."

In addition to her father Steve, Hilary is survived by her mother, **Patsy Tisch**, and her siblings **Will Tisch** and his wife **Grace**, **Elizabeth Tisch**, **Holden Tisch** and **Zachary Tisch**.

Giants co-owner **John Mara** and the organization expressed his deepest sympathy to the Tisch family.

"Our hearts are heavy for their loss of Hilary. We pray for their peace and comfort," Mara said in the statement.



This April 25, 2019 file photo shows CNCO performing at the Billboard Latin Music Awards in Las Vegas on April 25, 2019. The band will perform at the 2020 MTV Video Music Awards on Aug. 30. (AP) — Story Page 15

Books

The Beauty of Living Twice



SHARON STONE

This cover image provided by Alfred A. Knopf shows 'The Beauty of Living Twice' by Sharon Stone, expected in March 2021. (AP)



Cosby



Constand

Variety

PHILADELPHIA: Bill Cosby's lawyers argued in an appeals filing Tuesday that it was "fundamentally unfair" to let prosecutors use Cosby's damaging deposition from a sex accuser's lawsuit against him at trial.

Cosby believes he had a binding promise from a prosecutor that he could never be charged in the case, and said testimony from five other accusers about encounters that took place years - or even decades - earlier had improperly prejudiced the jury against him.

A spokeswoman for the **Montgomery County** district attorney's office declined comment but said prosecutors would file a response in the coming month.

Cosby, 83, is serving a three- to 10-year prison term after the jury in his 2018 sex assault trial convicted him of three counts of felony sex assault over a 2004 encounter with accuser **Andrea Constand**.

The filing claims a deposition by Cosby regarding the use of Quaaludes and allegations of uncharged sexual misconduct with about a half-dozen women "was irrelevant evidence that served no legitimate non-propensity purpose."

Cosby's lawyers argued those incidents occurred too long ago, in some cases going back to the 1970s, and that they lacked "any striking similarities" or comparable facts to the crimes he was tried for.

A former prosecutor had declined to prosecute Cosby when she went to police in 2005. However, another prosecutor reopened the case in 2015 after The Associated Press successfully petitioned a federal judge to unseal filings in the lawsuit she filed against him, including Cosby's deposition testimony about a string of sexual encounters with young women over the years and his admission that he had gotten Quaaludes to give women.

Montgomery County Judge **Steven T. O'Neill** allowed one other accuser to testify for the prosecution at Cosby's trial in 2017, when the jury deadlocked, and five when he was tried and convicted at a retrial the following year.

"The time-honored prohibition on bad character evidence was effectively dismantled at Cosby's trial," when the court allowed "decades-old, uncharged allegations of sexual misconduct," the lawyer **Jennifer Bonjean** wrote in the appeal.

Cosby said he relied on prosecutors'

Actress memoir doesn't pull any punches

Stone shares her journey in 'Beauty'

NEW YORK, Aug. 12, (AP): Sharon Stone has taken on a new, real-life role — memoir writer.

"I have learned to forgive the unforgivable," says Stone, whose "The Beauty of Living Twice" comes out in March. "My hope is that as I share my journey, you too will learn to do the same."

Alfred A. Knopf announced Tuesday that the 62-year-old actor will reflect on everything from her painful childhood in Pennsylvania to such films as the star-making thriller "Basic Instinct" and Martin Scorsese's mobster epic "Casino," for which she received an Academy Award nomination and a Golden Globe award. She'll also write about her two marriages, her near-fatal stroke in 2001, and her humanitarian work on behalf of AIDS research and other causes.

"Stone in these pages echoes the Stone who made headlines throughout her career: she is courageous, honest, and outspoken, refusing to pull any punches when discussing aspects of the trauma and violence she endured as a child and how her chosen career as an actress echoed many of those same assaults," Knopf said in a statement.

Stone's other movies include Albert Brooks' "The Muse," Jim Jarmusch's "Broken Flowers," and "The Laundromat," a Steven Soderbergh film released in 2019.



Democratic Rep **Ilhan Omar**'s metamorphosis from refugee to the first Somali-American in Congress has been well-documented. Now, Omar in her new memoir offers her own spin on her path to prominence, starting with her childhood in Mogadishu. "This is What America Looks Like: My Journey from Refugee to Congresswoman," set for release Tuesday, offers no revelations on some of the controver-

sies that have dogged Omar. Instead, it sketches rugged years that Omar says made her a fearless fighter, unafraid to skirmish with President **Donald Trump** and her frequent conservative critics.

In her memoir, written with **Rebecca Paley**, Omar recounts taking on a much taller boy when she was just 7, rubbing his face in the sand after he picked on someone weaker.

"I wasn't afraid of fighting. I felt like I was bigger and stronger than everyone else — even if I knew that wasn't really the case," she wrote. It's a theme woven throughout the book, including after she arrived in America and settled in Arlington, Virginia, knowing almost no English.

Fights

Omar got into fights in middle school to show she wasn't afraid, she writes, and she describes incidents in which she choked one boy until he foamed at the mouth and kept hitting another girl even after being told the girl was pregnant.

"Fighting didn't feel like a choice. It was a part of me. Respect goes both ways," she wrote.

Omar said she grew up the youngest of seven in a loud, opinionated middle-class family, living in a guarded compound in Mogadishu. Her father's clan was one of the country's most powerful, and her mother, who died when she was in preschool, was Benadiri, a Somali ethnic minority. Omar, who described herself as a tomboy, said the only place she fit in was within the walls of her family home. Civil war broke out when she was 8, and after her family's compound came under attack by militia, the family escaped and eventually made it to a refugee camp in Kenya, where Omar spent four years before the family moved to the U.S.

Omar recounts meeting her first husband, **Ahmed Hirsi**, in Minneapolis when she was 16. She said they were in love, and shortly before she turned 19, their families decided they should marry. By 2008, Omar was struggling. Finances were a stressor, she had two small children, and she began questioning her relationships, including her marriage. Since the couple had married religiously — not civilly — to get divorced, Hirsi had to simply declare the marriage ended, Omar wrote.

Also:

NEW YORK: An English-language edition of "Le Consentement," a French publisher's jarring memoir about her abusive relationship as a teenager with a prominent writer in his 50s, will come out next year.

HarperVia, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, announced Monday that **Vanessa Springora**'s "Consent" will be released in the US on Feb. 16. Springora, now in her late 40s and head of the Julliard publishing house, alleges in her book that author **Gabriel Matzneff** met her when she was 13 and he was 50. She says they began a relationship when she was 14 and were together for two years. She would later suffer from depression.

"By setting his sights on young, lonely, vulnerable girls, whose parents either couldn't cope or were actively negligent, G. knew that they would never threaten his reputation," Springora writes. "And silence means consent."

Matzneff, an award-winning author now in his 80s, has often written about his relationships with teenage girls but only in the #MeToo era were there legal and professional repercussions. He was charged earlier this year by a **Paris** court for sexual abuse. Springora's book led to his being dropped by his publishers.

promises not to bring charges when he gave the deposition despite the constitutional right not to incriminate himself.

"Although the evidence was purportedly allowed for a limited purpose, the prosecution's closing argument shows that the jury was urged to return a verdict against Cosby based on a depiction of him, unsupported by

actual evidence, as a predator who drugged and raped women for decades," Cosby's new filing said. The result, defense lawyers argued, was a violation of "Cosby's right to be tried on the crimes charged, rather than on an indictment of his entire life."

The filing noted that Cosby's lawyers had not turned up a previous **Pennsylvania** case

that directly addresses whether one prosecutor can make an unwritten promise not to prosecute that their elected successor must honor. "Fundamental fairness and principles of due process" mean that promise was binding on Montgomery County prosecutors, Cosby's lawyers argued.

In June, Pennsylvania's highest court agreed to review those two issues, overturning a lower court that had rejected Cosby's appeal.

Cosby has been imprisoned in suburban Philadelphia for nearly two years. Cosby began his career as a stand-up comic at the hungry i in **San Francisco** during the 1960s. He then landed a starring role in the television show I Spy, followed by his own sitcom The Bill Cosby Show, which ran for two seasons from 1969 to 1971. In 1972, using the Fat Albert character developed during his stand-up routines, Cosby created, produced, and hosted the animated comedy television series Fat Albert and the Cosby Kids which ran until 1985, centering on a group of young friends growing up in an urban area. Throughout the 1970s, Cosby starred in about half a dozen films, and he occasionally returned to film later in his career. In 1976, he earned his Doctor of Education from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. His dissertation discussed the use of Fat Albert and the Cosby Kids as a teaching tool in elementary schools. Beginning in the 1980s, Cosby produced and starred in the television sitcom The Cosby Show, which aired from 1984 to 1992 and was rated as the number one show in America from 1985 through 1989. (Agencies)



This image released by HBO Max shows Selena Gomez from 'Selena + Chef', a 10-episode cooking series that debuts Thursday on the HBO Max streaming service. (AP)