

## People &amp; Places

## People

## 'Someone is responsible'

## Baldwin feels regret, sadness but not guilt

LOS ANGELES, Dec 5, (AP) — Alec Baldwin said he feels incredible sadness and regret over the shooting that killed a cinematographer on a New Mexico film set, but not guilt.

"Someone is responsible for what happened, and I can't say who that is, but it's not me," Baldwin said in an ABC interview with George Stephanopoulos that aired Thursday night, the first time the actor has spoken in depth on screen about the Oct. 21 shooting on the set of the Western "Rust." "Honest to god, if I felt I was responsible, I might have killed myself."

Baldwin said it is essential for investigators to find out who put the bullet in the gun he fired, that was supposed to be empty, that killed cinematographer Halyna Hutchins and injured director Joel Souza.

"There's only one question to be resolved, and that's where did the live round come from?" Baldwin said.

Baldwin said in a clip from the interview released a day earlier that "I didn't pull the trigger. I would never point a gun at anyone and pull the trigger at them. Never."

He said it was Hutchins herself who asked him to point the gun just off camera and toward her armpit before it went off.

Baldwin said at Hutchins' direction he pulled the hammer back.

"I let go of the hammer and 'bang' the gun goes off," he said.

When Stephanopoulos told Baldwin that many say you should never point a gun directly at someone on a set, he responded, "unless the person is the cinematographer who was directing me where to point the gun for her camera angle."

Baldwin said it was 45 minutes to an hour before he began to understand that a live round had been in the gun, and didn't know it for sure until he was being interviewed hours later. He thought Hutchins might have been hurt by a blank at close range or had a heart attack.

## Moments

"The idea that somebody put a live bullet in the gun was not even in reality."

He had one of several tearful moments when he described Hutchins, saying she was "somebody who was loved by everybody and admired by everybody who worked with her."

Baldwin said he was doing the interview to counter public misconceptions about the shooting and to make it clear that "I would go to any lengths to undo what happened."

But Baldwin said "I want to make sure that I don't come across like I'm the victim because we have two victims here."

Investigators have described "some complacency" in how weapons were handled on the "Rust" set. They have said it is too soon to determine whether charges will be filed, amid independent civil lawsuits concerning liability in the fatal shooting.

Baldwin said he met with the film's armorer Hanna Gutierrez Reed for a gun training session before the shoot, and she appeared capable and responsible.

"I assumed because she was there and she was hired that she was up to the job," he said.

Gutierrez Reed has been the subject of much of the scrutiny in the case. Her attorney has said she did not put the round in the gun, and believes she was the victim of sabotage. Authorities say they've found no evidence of that.

Baldwin, who was also a producer on the film, said there was no indication to him that crew members were unhappy with safety conditions on the set, though some resigned over the issue.

"I never heard one word about that, none," Baldwin said.

Baldwin said complaints about cost-cutting on the film have been misguided.

"Everybody who makes movies has the responsibility not to be reckless and careless with the money that you're given," he said.

Asked by Stephanopoulos whether the cost-cutting compromised safety, Baldwin said "In my opinion no."

"I personally did not observe any safety or security issues at all in the time I was there," he said.

Baldwin said he does not believe he will be criminally charged in the shooting.

"I've spoken to the sheriff's department multiple times," he said. "I don't have anything to hide."

He said the incident left him emotionally ravaged.

"I have dreams about this constantly," he said, "wake up constantly where guns are going off. These images have come into my mind and kept me awake at night and I haven't slept for weeks and I've really been struggling physically."

Asked by Stephanopoulos if his career is over, Baldwin said, "It could be."

He said his next production still wants him, "but I said to myself, 'do I want to work much more after this?'"

## Also:

**CHICAGO:** The state rested its case at **Jussie Smollett's** trial Thursday after key testimony from two brothers who said the former "Empire" actor plotted a racist and anti-gay attack on himself in downtown Chicago and paid them to carry it out.

After a three-day presentation of evidence, special prosecutor **Dan Webb** told the presiding judge Thursday evening that the prosecution was done. The defense began its case immediately, calling, among others, an emergency room physician who saw Smollett after the purported attack.

Judge **James Linn** told jurors there would be no testimony Friday, saying he expected they would begin deliberations no later than Tuesday.

The physician, **Dr. Robert Turelli**, testified he treated Smollett after he went to a hospital early on Jan. 29, 2019, telling Turelli he'd been attacked, punched and kicked. Turelli said Smollett had some bruises and scratches but no serious injuries.

Before the state rested Thursday, Smollett's lawyer worked to discredit the brothers' accounts, suggesting they attacked Smollett because they didn't like him, and tried to get him to pay them each \$1 million not to testify that he staged the assault.

Defense attorney **Shay Allen** suggested the brothers were motivated to accuse Smollett of staging the hoax because they disliked the performer — who is gay and Black — and then saw an opportunity to make money.

Olabingo Osundairo's testimony echoed the account his brother, **Abimbola Osundairo**, gave on the witness stand a day earlier, including that Smollett wanted the brothers to douse him with gasoline and put a noose around his neck, and that Smollett gave them a \$100 bill to buy the supplies and paid them with a \$3,500 check.



Ed Sheeran performs during the 2021 Jingle Ball at The Forum, Friday, Dec. 3, in Inglewood, Calif. (AP)

## Books

## Beloved entertainer in American history

## White's life a page-turner in new book

LOS ANGELES, Dec 5, (AP) — A photo of Betty White, with dimpled smile and guileless gaze, fills the cover of a coffee table book arriving the month before her 100th birthday.

The image evokes the genuine White, according to the book's author, Ray Richmond. After digging into her life and career, he concluded that she's as warm and appealing as appearances would have it.

But her willingness to play against type, whether as scheming Sue Ann on "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" or naïve Rose of "The Golden Girls," proves how game and talented White is, said Richmond.

That, coupled with an impressive work ethic, carried her from a cameo on television in its 1930s infancy to the darling of "Saturday Night Live" in the 21st century, with a myriad of show business gigs along the way.

"You could make a convincing case that Betty White is the most versatile and beloved entertainer in American history," said Richmond, whose "Betty White: 100 Remarkable Moments in an Extraordinary Life" (becker&mayer! Books) is out Tuesday.

Besides starring in sitcoms and making guest appearances in dozens of others, she was a reliably witty game show host and guest; parade emcee (California's Rose Parade and New York's Thanksgiving Day parade) and soap opera actor ("The Bold and the Beautiful"). She dabbled in drama on the big screen (including as a U.S. senator in 1962's "Advise & Consent") and on TV ("Bones," "Boston Legal").

Hosting "Saturday Night Live" in 2010 — at age 88 — earned her a fifth Emmy Award and a new generation of admirers.

White, who will reach centenarian status on Jan. 17, 2022, didn't participate in the book. Richmond,

a veteran entertainment reporter and critic, instead relied on research and interviews with her friends and colleagues, including Carol Burnett, Candice Bergen and Gavin MacLeod (Murray on "The Mary Tyler Moore Show").

MacLeod, who died last May at age 90, wrote the book's forward. Saluting White as a great performer and "national treasure," he deemed her "one of the most caring and loving human beings I've ever known."

She's also a pro, said Bill D'Elia, producer with David E. Kelley of "Boston Legal." Kelley, who had worked with White on his film "Lake Placid," delighted in giving her salty language and bad behavior to play, D'Elia says in the book.

"David loved the contrast of her image versus what the character was saying," he said. "She would happily say anything and do anything the story and script called for."

## Attention

The book briefly sketches the Illinois native's early years before moving to a breezily detailed account of White's success in Hollywood. The great loves of her life — husband Allen Ludden, who was a game show host, and animals of all breeds — also get attention. Among the book's photos is one of the couple on the day of their Las Vegas wedding in 1963 (Ludden died in 1981).

There are also studio and publicity shots of White alone and with her co-stars. One was taken the night she, Bea Arthur, Rue McClanahan and Estelle Getty re-enacted scenes from "The Golden Girls" at a royal variety show in London attended by Britain's Queen Mother, who is said to have requested their performance.

Among the moments and milestones recounted in "Betty White: 100 Remarkable Moments in an Ex-

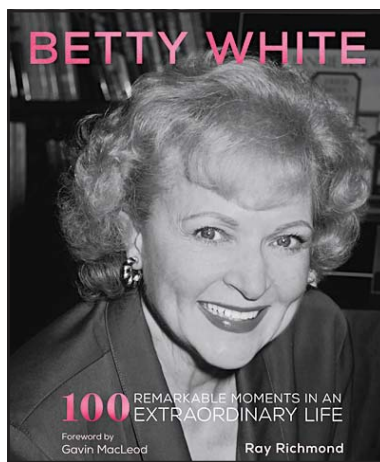
traordinary Life":

■ After singing at her 1939 high school graduation, White and another student were asked to join an experimental TV test in Los Angeles. As the pair danced and sang on the sixth floor of a building owned by auto dealer and broadcast pioneer Earle C. Anthony, the performance was transmitted to the lobby. The audience: the teens' parents and a few others.

■ When the United States entered World War II in December 1941, White, then just shy of 20, joined a women's volunteer organization that provided home-front support. She drove trucks carrying supplies for soldiers housed at Los Angeles-area camps during the day; at night, she joined dances for troops set to be deployed overseas.

■ "The Betty White Show," with White hosting a half-hour of songs and interviews, debuted in 1954 on NBC. It included 21-year-old Black tap dancer Arthur Duncan at a time when people of color were rarely seen on TV. Station managers citing viewer complaints threatened to pull the show. A defiant White began booking Duncan more frequently, with the network's backing. Duncan, who became a longtime regular on "The Lawrence Welk Show" starting in the 1960s and is now 88, is quoted in the book saluting White for defending him and "opening a lot of doors for me in performing."

■ White moved in glamorous circles, and created them. Burnett recalls joining "game nights" at the White-Ludden house. Charades, board games and such were the entertainment, and "they would have people there like Fred Astaire just hanging around. And Burt Reynolds. My gosh, there were just so many," Burnett said.



This cover image released by becker&mayer! shows 'Betty White: 100 Remarkable Moments in an Extraordinary Life.' (AP)



Jackson



Sher

## Variety

**NASHVILLE, Tenn:** Country musician **Stonewall Jackson**, who sang on the Grand Ole Opry for more than 50 years and had No. 1 hits with "Waterloo" and others, died Saturday after a long battle with vascular dementia. He was 89.

The Opry, the longest-running radio show in history, announced Jackson's death in a news release.

Jackson, a guitarist, performed on the Opry beginning in 1956 and was still appearing on the show in 2010. His real name was Stonewall, after Confederate Gen. **Thomas 'Stonewall' Jackson**.

According to WSMV-TV, the late **Porter Wagoner** would introduce Stonewall on his show by saying he came to the Opry "with a heart full of love and a sack full of songs."

"Waterloo" was a hit on the country and pop charts in 1959. His other hits, mostly in the 1960s, included "Don't Be Angry," "B.J. the D.J.," "Why I'm Walkin'," "A Wound Time Can't Erase" and "I Washed My Hands in Muddy Water."

In 1971, he recorded his version of Lobo's "Me and You and a Dog Named Boo."

Over the course of his career, Jackson landed 44 singles on the Billboard country chart.

In 2008, at age 75, he settled a federal age discrimination lawsuit against the Opry. He claimed Opry officials had cut back his appearances starting in 1998, and sought \$10 million in compensatory damages and \$10 million in punitive damages. Terms of the settlement were not disclosed.

Jackson was born in eastern North Carolina and was raised on a south Georgia farm.

Jackson's mentor in his early career was country legend **Ernest Tubb**, who bought him his first stage clothes and hired him as his opening act. He was presented with the Ernest Tubb Memorial Award in 1997 for his contributions to country music, according to the Grand Ole Opry website.

In 1991, he privately published his autobiography, "From the Bottom Up." (AP)

**LONDON:** **Antony Sher**, one of the most acclaimed Shakespearean actors of his generation, has died aged 72, the Royal Shakespeare Company said Friday.

Sher had been diagnosed with terminal cancer earlier this year. His husband, Royal Shakespeare Company Artistic Director **Gregory Doran**, took leave from his job to care for him.

Born in **Cape Town, South Africa** in 1949, Sher moved to **Britain** in the late 1960s to study drama. He joined the RSC in 1982 and had a breakthrough role in

1984 as the usurping king in "Richard III."

He went on to play most of Shakespeare's meaty male roles, including Falstaff in the "Henry IV" plays, Leontes in "The Winter's Tale," Shylock in "The Merchant of Venice," Iago in "Othello" and the title characters in "Macbeth" and "King Lear."

Non-Shakespearean roles for the company, based in the Bard's hometown of Stratford-upon-Avon, included **Willy**

**Loman in Arthur Miller's** "Death of a Salesman" and the title role in Moliere's "Tartuffe."

Sher also performed with Liverpool's innovative Everyman Theatre and at many of London's main theaters, getting his first West End starring role as a drag artist in **Harvey Fierstein's** "Torch Song Trilogy." He won the 1985 best-actor Olivier Award jointly for "Torch Song Trilogy" and "Richard III."



Olivia Rodrigo arrives at the Variety 2021 Music Hitmakers Brunch at City Market Social on Saturday, Dec. 4, in Los Angeles. (AP)

He gained a second Olivier, as well as a Tony Award nomination for playing artist **Stanley Spencer** in Pam Gems' "Stanley" at the National Theatre and on Broadway.

After winning acclaim as a pillar of British theater, Sher began to explore both his Jewish and his South African heritage.

He adapted Primo Levi's powerful Auschwitz memoir "If This is a Man" into a one-man stage show, "Primo," that ran on Broadway in 2005.

He created the solo show despite being afflicted with debilitating stage fright. (AP)

**PRAGUE:** **Miroslav Zikmund**, a legendary Czech travel writer, has died. He was 102.

The museum in the eastern city of **Zlín**, where Zikmund had lived, announced his death in a statement, saying he "left for his final journey" on Wednesday. Details were not given. His family also confirmed his death, according to Czech public radio.

Born Feb 14, 1919 in the city of **Pízen**, Zikmund teamed up with his university classmate and friend **Jiri Hanzelka** for two big and sometimes dangerous trips throughout **Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Middle East** and elsewhere that took years.

During their first trip, which began in 1947, they drove a Czech-made Tatra 87 limousine through Africa from north to south, then moved on to Latin America.

After visiting more than 40 countries, they returned home after 3 1/2 years. The Communists took power in **Czechoslovakia** during their absence, in 1948. (AP)