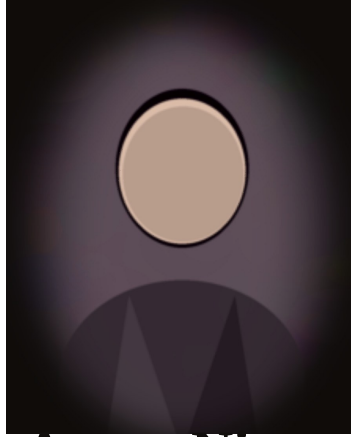




Agnes Nixon

December 10, 1922 - September 28, 2016

Haverford, Pennsylvania

Agnes Nixon - American television writer and producer who turned daytime serials into a place where social issues could wear lipstick and still draw blood - died in Haverford, Pennsylvania, on September 28, 2016. She was ninety-three. Born Agnes Eckhardt on December 10, 1922, in Chicago, she studied drama at Northwestern, apprenticed under Irna Phillips, and learned that soap opera's daily grind could carry abortion, racism, addiction, and Vietnam into living rooms that pretended they only wanted romance.

One Life to Live (1968) and All My Children (1970) became ABC fixtures; Loving followed. She wrote characters who argued across class and color lines when sponsors flinched, then wrapped the argument in cliffhangers so audiences came back tomorrow. Emmy recognition and a daytime empire never fully erased the industry habit of underestimating "women's shows"; Nixon treated underestimation as fuel. In later years she appeared in cameos and watched her canvases outlive the network afternoon.

Haverford was the Main Line quiet after decades of New York and Chicago deadlines. She died of Parkinson's disease complications, leaving decades of story bibles and a template for socially conscious serial drama.

Chicago roots and Phillips's tutelage taught structure; ABC's gamble taught scale. She proved a housewife's hour could hold a public square.

She died in Haverford on September 28, 2016. Somewhere a boardroom still underestimates daytime - and somewhere a writer still uses Nixon's trick of hiding a sermon inside a wedding.

Nixon's gift was domestic epic - making America argue with itself between commercial breaks. Notice Nearby keeps the death date so September 28 remembers the Chicago-born architect of All My Children and One Life to Live.

Services

Died in Haverford, Pennsylvania, September 28, 2016. Television writer-producer; All My Children; One Life to Live; Loving.

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