



Akim Tamiroff

October 29, 1899 - September 17, 1972

Palm Springs, California

Akim Tamiroff, Armenian-American character actor and one of Hollywood's Golden Age specialists in accented menace and comic gravity, died in Palm Springs, California, on September 17, 1972. He was seventy-two. Born October 29, 1899, in Tiflis (Tbilisi) in the Russian Empire, he trained for the stage, emigrated, and built a film career that made a thick accent into an instrument rather than a handicap - gangsters, generals, and oddball patriarchs who stole scenes without needing the marquee.

Two Academy Award nominations for Best Supporting Actor - *The General Died at Dawn* (1936) and *For Whom the Bell Tolls* (1943) - marked studio respect. Later audiences remember him as Uncle Joe Grandi in Orson Welles's *Touch of Evil* (1958), a performance of sweating comic dread that still feels dangerous. Dozens of credits across Paramount and other lots made him a reliable exotic for an industry that typed by ear; within that constraint he found craft, timing, and a face the camera liked to linger on.

He worked into an era when television and changing studio economics reduced the old character-player ecosystem, yet the best reels still circulate among cinephiles who collect supporting turns the way others collect stars. Palm Springs was a quieter ending than Culver City sound stages.

He died there on September 17, 1972, leaving a filmography that character-actor fans still cite when arguing that supporting players carry Hollywood's texture.

Tamiroff's imprint is the proof that a supporting name can outlast many leading ones when the work is specific. Notice Nearby keeps the death date so September 17 remembers the Armenian-American actor who made accent into art.

Services

Died in Palm Springs, California, September 17, 1972. Armenian-American film actor; two Academy Award nominations for Best Supporting Actor; notable roles include Touch of Evil.

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