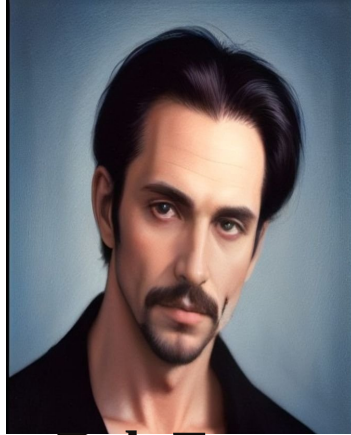




Bob Fosse

June 23, 1927 - September 23, 1987

Washington, District of Columbia

Bob Fosse - Robert Louis Fosse - American dancer, choreographer, and director whose angular jazz vocabulary reshaped Broadway and Hollywood musicals, died of a heart attack in Washington, D.C., on September 23, 1987. He was sixty. Born June 23, 1927, in Chicago, he learned nightclub craft early, danced on Broadway, and then built a signature style of turned-in knees, rolled shoulders, and hat-brim precision that audiences could recognize in a single freeze-frame.

Cabaret earned him the Academy Award for Best Director; Chicago, Pippin, and Sweet Charity stacked Tony Awards; Liza with a Z proved the same eye could command television. He also directed the darker features Lenny and All That Jazz, folding autobiography, rehearsal rooms, and mortality into the same restless camera. Colleagues remembered a perfectionist who smoked through notes and demanded that every finger land on purpose.

He collapsed walking to the opening of a Sweet Charity revival at the National Theatre and was taken to George Washington University Hospital, where he died. Washington was a touring stop, not a retirement town - the work still had him on the sidewalk between curtain calls.

He died in Washington on September 23, 1987. Dance studios still teach the Fosse vocabulary as if it were a dialect with its own grammar.

Fosse's gift was disciplined sensuality - making isolation and syncopation feel both glamorous and unsparing. Notice Nearby keeps the death date so September 23 remembers the Chicago kid who taught American musicals

how to move on a knife edge.

Services

Died in Washington, D.C., September 23, 1987. Choreographer and director; Oscar for Cabaret; multiple Tony Awards; buried at Quogue Cemetery, New York.

NN-OBIT-2026-H146

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