



Oliver Burgess Meredith

November 16, 1907 - September 9, 1997

Malibu, California

Oliver Burgess Meredith died at his home in Malibu, California, on September 9, 1997. He was eighty-nine. Born in Cleveland on November 16, 1907, he became one of those American actors who seem to have been in everything: stage, radio, film noir, war pictures, television villains, and, late, a boxing trainer who would not stay down.

He played George to Lon Chaney's Lennie in *Of Mice and Men*, took roles that required a quick mind behind a battered face, and spent the blacklist years navigating a industry that had turned suspicious of its own talent. Television later gave him the Penguin - a gleeful, umbrella-wielding chaos agent - and then Mickey Goldmill in the Rocky films, a part that made him newly beloved to people who had never seen the earlier work.

Directing and writing interested him; so did the craft of disappearing into a scene without sanding off the odd edges. Colleagues remembered a professional who could be mischievous and exacting in the same rehearsal. Alzheimer's and cancer marked the end; the credits do not.

Malibu was the last house. The voice - dry, urgent, capable of a growl or a chuckle - is still in the reels.

Services

Died at home in Malibu, California, on September 9, 1997, after Alzheimer's disease and melanoma. He was eighty-nine.

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