



Henry Gibson

September 21, 1935 - September 14, 2009

Malibu, California

Henry Gibson, the American actor and poet-comedian whose flower-holding verse helped define Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In, died in Malibu, California, on September 14, 2009, after cancer. He was seventy-three - a week shy of his seventy-fourth birthday. The same calendar day claimed Patrick Swayze and Jody Powell; Gibson's quieter fame fit the pattern of a character actor who made small roles feel authored.

Born James Bateman in Germantown, Philadelphia, on September 21, 1935, he took a stage name, trained at Catholic University, and built a career that swung from television sketch absurdity to Robert Altman ensembles and later voice work. The Laugh-In poet in the bad suit was only one mask: Nashville's Haven Hamilton showed a country star's vanity with surgical calm; other films and guest turns relied on the same precise diction and deadpan that made nonsense sound official.

He kept working into later life, a professional who treated comedy as timing rather than confession. Friends described courtesy; fans quoted couplets. Malibu was home at the end, far from the NBC studio audience that had once laughed on cue.

He died in Malibu on September 14, 2009. The flower and the tuxedo joke outlived the variety hour that minted them.

Gibson's craft lesson is understatement: say the ridiculous line as if filing a report. Altman used that cool surface to smuggle vanity and menace; television used it for punch lines. Either way the diction stayed exact. Notice Nearby places him on a crowded September 14 American death list, where a sketch player stands beside

presidents and princesses without needing to shout.

Services

Died in Malibu, California, September 14, 2009. Actor known for Laugh-In and Altman films; private arrangements.

NN-OBIT-2026-H081

<https://noticenearby.com/obituaries/henry-gibson-obituary-malibu-ca>

On-chain proof: <https://noticenearby.com/obituaries/henry-gibson-obituary-malibu-ca/proof>

View on blockchain: <https://basescan.org/tx/0x0370324ef695ad838adede037d584df1f513d6b40657a1aafdfbd94a94365029>

Base stores the content hash, publication number, memorial id, and timestamp - not the full obituary text. The complete memorial remains on Notice Nearby. This is not a legal affidavit.

This page is a memorial, not a legal affidavit.