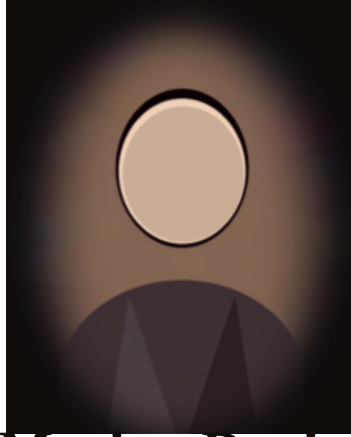




Marion Davies

January 3, 1897 - September 22, 1961

Los Angeles, California

Marion Davies - born Marion Cecilia Douras - American actress, comedienne, and producer whose career was entangled with publishing magnate William Randolph Hearst, died of cancer in Los Angeles on September 22, 1961. She was sixty-four. Born January 3, 1897, in Brooklyn, she began in Broadway chorus lines and silent comedy before Hearst's Cosmopolitan Productions poured resources into vehicles that both elevated and typecast her.

Critics who dismissed the Hearst patronage often missed her gift for light comedy - films such as *Show People* and *The Patsy* still look sharp to modern viewers willing to look past the legend. Orson Welles's *Citizen Kane* later cast a long shadow over her reputation; Welles himself later said the fictional Susan Alexander was not a fair portrait of Davies's talent. She invested wisely, entertained lavishly at San Simeon and Santa Monica, and quietly helped friends through the Depression with loans that were never advertised.

Cancer claimed her in Hollywood after decades as one of the industry's most famous - and most debated - leading women. She left a filmography that rewards rediscovery beyond the gossip that once defined her.

She died in Los Angeles on September 22, 1961. Restorations and retrospectives keep proving the comedienne outlasted the caricature.

Davies's gift was buoyant timing - comic intelligence that studio machinery could amplify but not invent. Notice Nearby keeps the death date so September 22 remembers the Brooklyn actress who survived Hearst-era mythmaking and left real laughs on celluloid.

Services

Died in Los Angeles, California, September 22, 1961. Silent and early sound film actress and producer; known for Show People and The Patsy; buried at Hollywood Forever Cemetery.

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