



Miriam Hopkins

October 18, 1902 - October 9, 1972

New York, New York

Miriam Hopkins, the quick-witted Georgia-born actress who brought a sharp, sophisticated sparkle to the early talkies, died of a heart attack in New York City on October 9, 1972. She was sixty-nine.

Ellen Miriam Hopkins was born in Savannah on October 18, 1902, and spent part of her childhood in Bainbridge, Georgia, before moving north and studying dance. She began as a chorus girl on Broadway in the early 1920s and worked her way into dramatic roles on the New York stage, a training that gave her an unusually crisp sense of timing when Paramount brought her to pictures at the start of the sound era.

She was at her best in the stretch of films made before Hollywood's production code was strictly enforced. For Ernst Lubitsch she played a lovestruck princess in *The Smiling Lieutenant* and a stylish pickpocket in *Trouble in Paradise*, then shared a famously unconventional arrangement with Fredric March and Gary Cooper in *Design for Living*. In Rouben Mamoulian's *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* she gave a raw, frightened performance as the barmaid Ivy. In 1935 she starred in *Becky Sharp*, the first feature filmed entirely in three-strip Technicolor, and earned an Academy Award nomination.

At Warner Bros. she shared the screen with Bette Davis in *The Old Maid* and *Old Acquaintance*, and the rivalry between the two actresses became Hollywood legend. She returned to the stage often, replacing Tallulah Bankhead in *The Skin of Our Teeth*, and later took character parts, winning notice as the aunt in William Wyler's *The Heiress* and playing in *The Children's Hour*, a story she had first filmed decades earlier as *These Three*.

She was known as a demanding colleague and a generous hostess, a woman who read widely and collected

friends among writers. She was buried in Bainbridge, the small Georgia town she had always counted as home.

Services

Died in New York City, October 9, 1972, of a heart attack, aged 69. Interment: Oak Hill Cemetery, Bainbridge, Georgia. Portrait: studio publicity photograph (public domain), hosted by Notice Nearby.

NN-OBIT-2026-H247

<https://noticenearby.com/obituaries/miriam-hopkins-obituary-new-york-ny>

On-chain proof: <https://noticenearby.com/obituaries/miriam-hopkins-obituary-new-york-ny/proof>

View on blockchain: <https://basescan.org/tx/0x8d46f3c34498f246feea0265c9fe4d036cb934419c2fe96fc37366ff1d38fd86>

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.