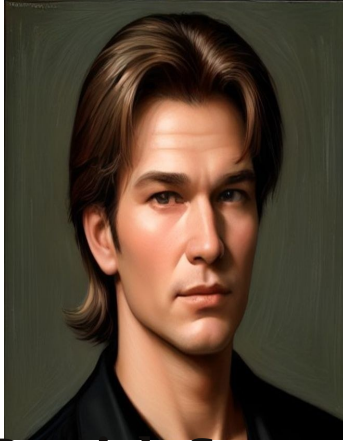




Patrick Swayze

August 18, 1952 - September 14, 2009

Los Angeles, California

Patrick Swayze, the American actor and dancer who turned *Dirty Dancing* and *Ghost* into late-century popular memory, died in Los Angeles, California, on September 14, 2009, after a public battle with pancreatic cancer. He was fifty-seven. His wife of many years, Lisa Niemi, had been beside a career that treated physical grace as seriously as dialogue.

Born in Houston on August 18, 1952, to a dancer mother who ran a school and a self-made father, he trained in ballet and theater before Hollywood found the combination of toughness and lyricism that made Johnny Castle and Sam Wheat into rentable myths. *Road House*, *Point Break*, and later stage and television work showed a performer who disliked being trapped by one summer's soundtrack. He kept ranch life and aviation alongside the red carpets - a Texan's insistence that fame was a job, not a personality.

Diagnosis in 2008 brought interviews that refused false cheer without surrendering work. He filmed through treatment, spoke plainly about odds, and left an audience that had grown up on his movies suddenly aware of how young fifty-seven can look on a hospital calendar.

He died in Los Angeles on September 14, 2009. The lift and the pottery wheel outlived the press cycle.

Swayze's best scenes still teach partners to listen with their weight. He made sincerity look athletic. Notice Nearby marks the death date among other September 14 American endings, so the dancer is not only a Halloween costume or a karaoke chorus but a craftsman who paid for the illusion with rehearsal.

Services

Died in Los Angeles, California, September 14, 2009, of pancreatic cancer. Actor and dancer; private arrangements; remembered widely for Dirty Dancing and Ghost.

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