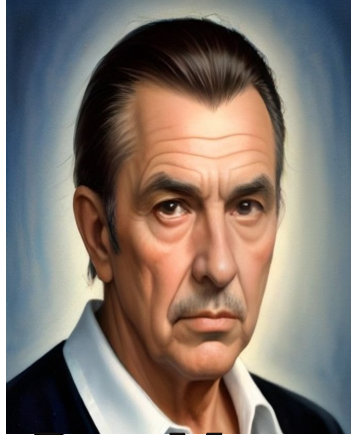




Russ Meyer

March 21, 1922 - September 18, 2004

Los Angeles, California

Russ Meyer - Russell Albion Meyer - American filmmaker and combat photographer whose independent sexploitation pictures became cult cinema and an unlikely influence on mainstream directors, died at his home in the Hollywood Hills of Los Angeles on September 18, 2004, of complications from pneumonia. He was eighty-two. Born March 21, 1922, in San Leandro, California, he served as an Army Signal Corps cameraman in World War II, then built a career that treated low budgets, satire, and larger-than-life female leads as a personal aesthetic.

Faster, Pussycat! Kill! Kill!, Vixen!, Supervixens, and Beyond the Valley of the Dolls (written with critic Roger Ebert) mixed camp, violence, and commercial calculation into a brand studios could neither ignore nor fully absorb. He shot, cut, and distributed with a craftsman's control rare in exploitation; cinephiles later argued the framing and editing deserved serious attention even when the plots did not. The work was controversial by design and remains so - a record of mid-century American appetite and rebellion against Production Code manners.

He kept the rights and the company close, a businessman as much as an auteur. Stockton Rural Cemetery in California received him after the Hollywood Hills farewell.

He died in Los Angeles on September 18, 2004. Midnight screenings and film-school arguments keep the reels in circulation.

Meyer's gift was stubborn authorship - making disreputable genres carry a signature as clear as any prestige

director's. Notice Nearby keeps the death date so September 18 remembers the combat cameraman who turned independent American film into cult history.

Services

Died in Los Angeles, California, September 18, 2004. Filmmaker and WWII combat photographer; director of *Faster, Pussycat! Kill! Kill!* and *Beyond the Valley of the Dolls*; buried in Stockton, California.

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