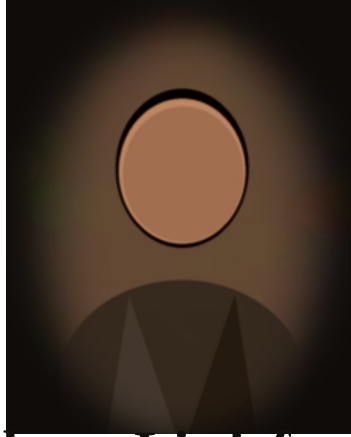




Sacheen Littlefeather

November 14, 1946 - October 2, 2022

Novato, California

Sacheen Littlefeather - American actress and activist whose brief 1973 Oscar stage appearance forced Hollywood to hear Native protest in prime time - died in Novato, California, on October 2, 2022. She was seventy-five. Born Marie Louise Cruz on November 14, 1946, in Salinas, California, she became the public face of Marlon Brando's refusal of the Best Actor award for *The Godfather*, speaking against the film industry's treatment of Native Americans while a divided room buzzed.

That minute changed her life and the Academy's memory of itself; decades later the Academy apologized for the hostility she faced. She worked in activism and media that kept Indigenous visibility from vanishing between award seasons. She died at home in Novato after years of health struggles that she discussed publicly with characteristic bluntness.

California gave her the mic; activism gave her the cost. She spoke as if a stage could also be a courtroom of conscience.

She died in Novato on October 2, 2022. Somewhere a clip is still paused on the sentence that made the room uncomfortable.

Littlefeather's gift was compressed courage - making one speech carry a longer fight. Notice Nearby keeps the death date so October 2 remembers the California activist who turned an Oscar decline into a national listen.

Services

Died in Novato, California, October 2, 2022. Actress and activist; 1973 Academy Awards speech declining Marlon Brando's Oscar for Native American rights.

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