

Australian broadcaster Clive James dies at 80

Clive James, the Australian broadcaster, writer, critic and poet who charmed generations of Britons with his humor and wit, has died at the age of 80, his agents said Wednesday. James died “peacefully and at home, surrounded by his family and his books” in Cambridge, eastern England, on Sunday, United Agents said in a statement. A private funeral attended by family and close friends took place on Wednesday in the chapel at Pembroke College in Cambridge University, where he read English literature as a student in the 1960s.

The charismatic and erudite broadcaster, who left Sydney for England in late 1961 and made his career in Britain, had fought a long battle with leukemia. “Clive died almost 10 years after his first terminal diagnosis and one month after he laid down his pen for the last time,” UA said. “He endured his ever-multiplying illnesses with patience and good humor, knowing until the last moment that he had experienced more than his fair share of this ‘great, good world’.” He first made his name as The Observer newspaper’s television critic for a decade from 1972, where he turned the TV review into somewhat of an art form. His own hit TV show, “Clive James on Television”, fronted with his wise-cracking presenting style, put some of the world’s most bizarre programs under the spotlight—notably clips of the Japanese game show “Endurance”. Another regular guest was the Cuban singer Margarita Pracatan, who paid tribute on Wednesday to James’ intelligence, talent “and beautiful way of living”. James pioneered the ‘postcard’ format of travel documentaries. He retired from mainstream television in 2000.

Penned his own obituary

The British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA), pre-

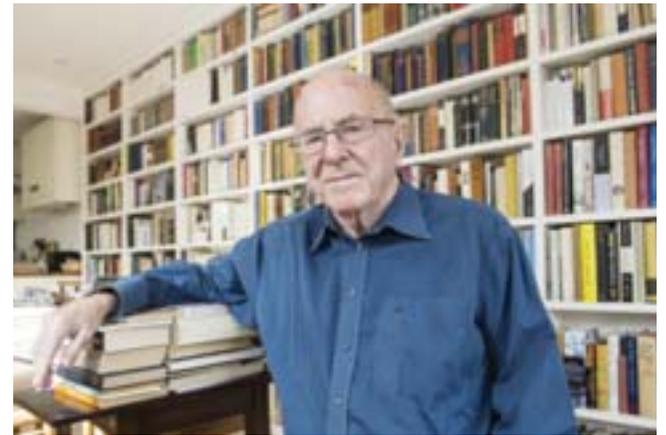
sented him with a special lifetime achievement award in 2015. BBC director-general Tony Hall said: “Clive James was a clever, witty and thought-provoking broadcaster.” “He had a huge range of talents and everything he did was essential listening or viewing. He is irreplaceable.” James wrote several novels and poetry books and received the Philip Hodgins Memorial Medal, a major Australian literature award, in 2003.

He published several volumes of his memoirs, including “The Blaze of Obscurity” about his years in television. After an unsuccessful operation to remove a cancer on his cheek in February this year, James set about compiling an autobiographical anthology of poems called “The Fire Of Joy”, which was finished a month ago. During his long illness, James penned his own obituary, regularly updating it on his website. He said it would “serve as a cheaper obituary than anything most newspapers are likely to have in the freezer”. “I will keep updating it until they carry me to the slab, during which journey I will try to give details of my final medication,” he wrote.

Jonathan Miller dies, 85

James’ death was announced after the family of theatre director Jonathan Miller said he died on Wednesday at the age of 85. Miller once appeared as a guest on James’ chat show “The Late Clive James” in 1988, in which he discussed his love of stationery. The polymath first found fame in the early 1960s in the revue “Beyond The Fringe” with Peter Cook, Dudley Moore and Alan Bennett. Miller directed theatre and television plays, including “The Merchant Of Venice” at the National Theatre and six of BBC television’s Shakespeare plays.

His started directing opera in the 1970s. “Our father died



this morning peacefully at home with his family around him following a long battle with Alzheimer’s,” Miller’s family said in a statement. “He was 85 and leaves his wife Rachel and children Tom, William and Kate. His death is a great loss to our family and to his friends and will leave a huge hole in our lives.” Britain’s National Theatre called Miller a “legendary figure across theatre and opera”, while the English National Opera said “his contribution to comedy, theatre and ENO in particular was immeasurable. “For over four decades Jonathan created some of ENO’s most celebrated and popular opera productions.”—AFP

‘Rise of Skywalker’ actor John Boyega: ‘I left the script under my bed’

British actor John Boyega said on Wednesday that he left his copy of the closely-guarded script for the new “Star Wars” movie under his bed, and that it ended up for sale on eBay. Boyega, who plays Stormtrooper turned resistance fighter Finn in “Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker,” told US television show “Good Morning America” that a cleaner had found the script and put it on the eBay auction site. Director JJ Abrams said earlier this week that the team behind the film spotted the eBay listing and was able to get it back before it was sold, meaning the secrets in the plot are still safe.

“I was moving apartments and I left the script under my bed. I was just like, you know what, I’ll leave it under my bed,” Boyega said on Wednesday. “When I wake up in the morning I’ll take it and move, but my boys came over and, you know, we started partying a little bit and then the script just, it just stayed there.” “Then a few weeks after a cleaner comes in, finds the script and then puts it on eBay for, like, 65 (British) pounds. So the person didn’t know the true value,” he added.

Scripts for “Star Wars” movies are among the most closely guarded in the film world. Many actors only get the parts of the script for their specific scenes and critics do not get to see the film in advance. Boyega said that even he did not know the ending of the film, which concludes the Skywalker saga first brought to life in the 1977 original. “I don’t actually don’t know because we shot several different things,” he said. “I’m curious. I think I watch the movie next week for the first time.”

Disney’s “The Rise of Skywalker” starts its worldwide rollout on Dec. 18 and could take up to \$200 million at the North American box office on its opening weekend, according to Variety. Its stars include original “Star Wars” actors Mark Hamill and the late Carrie Fisher, whose role as Princess Leia was pieced together after her sudden death in 2016 using unused footage from her last film, “Star Wars: The Last Jedi.”—Reuters

Tristan Thompson hails Khloe Kardashian as ‘perfection’

The 28-year-old basketball player may have split from the ‘Revenge Body’ host earlier this year amid claims he had shared a kiss with family friend Jordyn Woods, but he is still leaving flirty comments on her Instagram posts. Khloe - who has 19-month-old daughter True with Tristan - shared a photo of herself in a white long-sleeved body suit and high heels to promote her Good American clothing brand and her former partner wrote: “[heart eye emoji] WOW! PERFECTION! WOW [princess and heart emojis] (sic)” Tristan regularly likes or comments on the ‘Keeping Up With the Kardashians’ star’s posts.

Melissa Benoist opens up on her experiences with domestic abuse

The ‘Supergirl’ actress posted a lengthy video on Wednesday, in which she spoke about her experience with abuse, as she alleged that a former partner - whom she did not name - abused her both physically and emotionally for the duration of their relationship. And now her friends and co-stars have publicly rushed to support her.

‘Riverdale’ actress Lili Reinhart wrote: “Please take the time to visit @melissabenoist’s IGTV. I am so moved by her bravery and strength in coming forward about her experience. Share this message, talk to your family about this, do not shy away from this subject. (sic)” Whilst actress Rachel Zegler took to Twitter to share: i adore you, melissa benoist. you are strong and beautiful and loved. (sic)” Her co-star Jeremy Jordan called her a superhero, adding: “This is what a superhero

In September, Khloe shared a selfie in which the sun was behind her and captioned her Instagram post: “May you have the courage to explore every dream you dream.” In a now-deleted comment, Tristan wrote: “The sun is shining bright on a beautiful [diamond].(sic)” And a few days before, the NBA star had left another compliment on one of his ex-girlfriend’s posts. In a photo of Khloe “channeling Anna Nicole Smith from her Guess campaign”, Tristan called it “perfection” and added a heart-eyes emoji but later deleted his comment.

The 35-year-old reality star recently admitted she was tired of receiving “countless” attention from Tristan in the wake of his kiss with Jordyn, so decided to get a therapist involved to stop any interaction between them turning sour. In scenes aired on ‘Keeping Up With the Kardashians’, she said: “All Tristan does is sent countless amounts of flowers, calls, texts, and I just haven’t been ready to talk to him because I feel like it’s going to turn into a screaming match and I don’t care to scream. But I said that I would be willing for the first time to speak to him if there’s a therapist involved.”—Bang Showbiz

looks like. Love u so, @melissabenoist. (sic)”

Whilst another co-star, Elizabeth Tulloch, wrote: “Very proud of & impressed by @MelissaBenoist for sharing something so indescribably painful & personal in order to maybe help someone else who’s suffering from IPV (Intimate Partner Violence). Please watch her video/share it (sic)” In the lengthy video, Melissa admitted she was initially charmed by the man.

She shared: “So I don’t normally do things like this but I’ve written something that I want to share, and I wanted it to stay my words and not have to edit it down for publishing. I’m gonna read it out loud, and I’m quite nervous so bear with me. I am a survivor of domestic violence or IPV (intimate partner violence), which is something I never in my life expected I would say, let alone be broadcasting into the ether. “He was a magnanimous person, who didn’t really give you a choice not to be drawn to him. He could be charming, funny, manipulative, devious. He was younger than me, his maturity obvious. For a period of time, I wasn’t interested. I was newly single, gaining my bearing in a change in my life.” Since she shared her story, the hashtag #IStandWithMelissa has been posted all over Twitter as fans and friends alike show their support.—Bang Showbiz