

7-time Emmy winner Ed Asner dies age 91

US television actor Ed Asner, winner of a record seven Emmy awards, has died at age 91, his family said Sunday. "We are sorry to say that our beloved patriarch passed away this morning, peacefully. Words cannot express the sadness we feel," his family wrote on the actor's Twitter account. "With a kiss on your head-Goodnight dad. We love you." His publicist said Asner died of natural causes.

Asner originally made a name for himself playing newsroom boss Lou Grant on "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," the iconic sitcom that ran from 1970 to 1977, and then later on a spinoff show centered on his character. He won three of his seven Emmys for playing the character, and is one of only two actors to win a comedy and drama Emmy for the same role on different shows.

Asner won himself a new generation of fans with his portrayal of another tough guy with a heart of gold: widower Carl Fredericksen in the 2009 animated movie



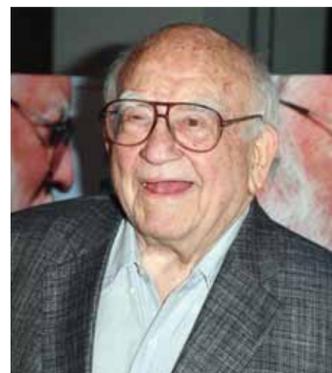
In this file photo actor Ed Asner and character Carl Fredericksen arrive for the premiere of Disney Pixar's "Up" at the El Capitan Theatre in Hollywood on May 16, 2009. — AFP photos

"Up," which was nominated for the Oscar for best picture. In the film, Asner voices a hardened old man who ties thousands of balloons to his house and flies it to South America, seeking to fulfill his late wife's wish for adventure. Edward Asner was

born on November 15, 1929 in Kansas City, Missouri. The youngest of five children, he worked on his high school newspaper-foreshadowing his stint playing an editor on the small screen-and played football. As an adult, he worked on an

auto-assembly line, though he said in a 1973 interview he had dreams of seeing South America-again foretelling a future character-or Alaska. He then served in the army before finally making his way into acting.

He appeared in a series of off-Broadway plays, television shows and movies before getting his big break with "The Mary Tyler Moore Show." A liberal activist, he participated in protests in support of labor unions and against the death penalty. He also served two terms as president of the Screen Actors Guild. In May, Asner's friend and "Mary Tyler Moore" co-star Gavin MacLeod passed away. Asner shared his grief on Twitter. "My heart is broken. Gavin was my brother, my partner in crime (and food) and my comic conspirator," he wrote. "I will see you in a bit Gavin. Tell the gang I will see them in a bit. Betty! It's just you and me now," he added, referring to legendary actress Betty White, who is currently the only living alum of the show. — AFP



In this file photo actor Ed Asner attends the premiere of "The Leisure Seeker" on January 9, 2018 at the Pacific Design Center in West Hollywood, California.



In this file photo taken on August 17, 2008 Jamaican 72-year-old musician Lee Scratch Perry and his reggae band perform on the world stage on the Hajogyar (Shipyards) Island in Budapest on the last day of the week-long Sziget festival in the Hungarian capital. — AFP

Lee 'Scratch' Perry, reggae and dub wizard, dies at 85

Lee "Scratch" Perry, the wildly influential Jamaican singer and producer who pushed the boundaries of reggae and shepherded dub, died Sunday. He was 85 years old. No cause of death was given, but Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness said in a statement the visionary died while in the Noel Holmes Hospital in Lucea. "Today Jamaica has lost the rhythm and soul of a prolific music icon who has inspired many," Holness said in the release. "Lee 'Scratch' Perry was truly one of the most important and creative figures to have come out of Jamaica."

A producer for a wide array of artists including Bob Marley, Perry's mastery traversed time and genre, his impact evident from hip hop to post-punk, from The Beastie Boys to The Clash. Born March 20, 1936 in the rural Jamaican town of Kendal, Rainford Hugh "Lee" Perry left school at age 15, moving to Kingston in the 1960s. "My father worked on the road, my mother in the fields. We were very poor. I went to school... I learned nothing at all. Everything I have learned has come from nature," Perry told the British music outlet NME in 1984. "When I left school there was nothing to do except field work. Hard, hard labor. I didn't fancy that. So I started playing dominoes. Through dominoes I practiced my mind and learned to read the minds of others."

"This has proved eternally useful to me." He began selling records for Clement Coxsone Dodd's sound system in the late 1950s, while also cultivating his own recording career. Perry broke ranks with Dodds over personal and financial conflicts, moving to Joe Gibbs's Amalgamated Records before also falling out with Gibbs. In 1968, he formed his own label, "Upsetter Records." His first major single, "People Funny Boy"-a jibe at Gibbs-was praised for its innovative use of a crying baby recording, an early use of a sample.

He gained fame both in Jamaica and abroad, especially in Britain, drawing acclaim for his inventive production, studio

wizardry and eccentric persona. In 1973, Perry built a backyard studio in Kingston, naming it the "Black Ark," which would birth countless reggae and dub classics. Adept at layering rhythm and repetition, Perry became a sampling grandmaster whose work created new courses for music's future. The producer for a number of landmark dub records-along with Marley, he worked with Max Romeo, Junior Murvin and The Congos-Perry was key in taking Jamaican music to the international stage, crafting sounds that would endure for decades.

'Salvador Dali of music'

Perry's layering techniques were the stuff of legend; he used stones, water and kitchen utensils to create surreal, often haunting, sonic density. According to lore, he created drum effects by burying a mic at the base of a palm tree, and wove the sound of marijuana smoke blown into a mic into his works. "You could never put your finger on Lee Perry-he's the Salvador Dali of music," Keith Richards told Rolling Stone in 2010. "He's a mystery. The world is his instrument. You just have to listen. More than a producer, he knows how to inspire the artist's soul," Richards told the magazine.

"He has a gift of not only hearing sounds that come from nowhere else, but also translating those sounds to the musicians. Scratch is a shaman." The highly sought-after producer-the likes of Paul McCartney recorded with him-continued to mix and release his own music with his band the Upsetters, but began suffering mentally in the 1970s. The Black Ark fell into disrepair. The studio ultimately burned down; Perry holds he set it ablaze himself in the early 1980s.

Perry began traveling and living abroad, ultimately settling in Switzerland for a time with his family, and remained prolific until his death. "Pure Innovation. Pure Imagination. This Man Was Plug Ins long before you studio cats today can simply press one button and instantly created sound chaos," wrote Roots drummer Questlove. "What a character! Totally ageless! Extremely creative, with a memory as sharp as a tape machine! A brain as accurate as a computer!" wrote the British artist Mad Professor, Perry's longtime collaborator, on social media Sunday. Praising Perry's "pioneering spirit and work," the Beastie Boys also tweeted an homage: "We are truly grateful to have been inspired by and collaborated with this true legend." — AFP

Slasher film 'Candyman' slices way to top N America box office

Universal's slasher film "Candyman" has topped North American box offices in its opening weekend, with an estimated \$22.4 million take nearly equal to its production budget, industry watcher Exhibitor Relations said Sunday. Analysts said that three-day total surpassed expectations for an R-rated film opening in the Covid-19 era-and with powerful Hurricane Ida depressing attendance in some Southern states. The film, written by Jordan Peele and with Yahya Abdul-Mateen II in the blood-spattered starring role, had a budget of \$25 million, according to Hollywood Reporter.



McCarthy was left stinging by grapefruit spa treatment

Melissa McCarthy felt like her body was on "fire" when she underwent an unusual spa treatment - bathing in water and grapefruit juice. The 51-year-old actress stars with Nicole Kidman, Michael Shannon, Luke Evans, Samara Weaving and more in new Hulu miniseries "Nine Perfect Strangers," which is based on Australian author Liane Moriarty's book of the same name which follows a group of city dwellers who in search of spiritual healing check into an upscale California wellness retreat. Melissa has recalled the wellness treatment that she had which did not go well, as the citrus fruit essence left her stinging all over and in some intimate areas.

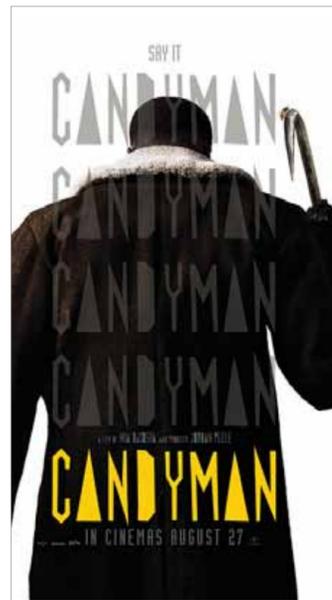
The "Spy" star said: "I've gone to a spa once and got into this tub with extract of grapefruit or something and it was literally on fire. "I'm trying - not very gracefully - to get out of the bath with some amount of modesty and the person just stands there and goes, 'Oh yes, it stings intensely.' I was like, 'Well, let's wash it off,' and she goes, 'It's gonna keep burning for quite a while.' And then I was done." Melissa's "Nine Perfect Strangers" co-star Nicole, 54, has also had a spa nightmare, which involved a saltwater tank. In a joint interview with Melissa for the US edition of OK! magazine, Nicole said: "I did that thing with my boyfriend at the time where you lie in saltwater in a tank. — Bang Showbiz

faceted and how it's important not to dismiss "fatphobia," which is very "real". In an interview with the Los Angeles Times newspaper, Sarah said: "It's very hard for me to talk about this without feeling like I'm making excuses.

"I think fatphobia is real. I think to pretend otherwise causes further harm. "And it is a very important conversation to be had." If she was asked to wear one again, she would decline. She continued: "I think the thing I think about the most is that I regret not thinking about it more fully. "And that is an important thing for me to think about and reflect on. I also know it's a privileged place to be sitting and thinking about it and reflecting on it, having already gotten to do it, and having had an opportunity that someone else didn't have. — Bang Showbiz

Last week's box office leader, Twentieth Century's sci-fi comedy "Free Guy," slipped to second place, at \$13.6 million. The family-friendly film stars Ryan Reynolds as an Everyman bank teller who finds he is a character in a huge video game. In the third spot, also down one position, was Paramount animation "Paw Patrol: The Movie," at \$6.6 million. Based on a popular kids' television show, it tells the story of a boy named Ryder and the brave pooches who help him save Adventure City from an evil mayor. In fourth was Disney's family adventure film "Jungle Cruise" at \$5 million, bringing its North American total just past \$100 million. The studio is also offering the movie on its Disney Plus streaming service. And in fifth was horror feature "Don't Breathe 2" from Sony, at \$2.8 million. Rounding out the top 5 were:

- "Respect" (\$2.3 million)
- "The Suicide Squad" (\$2 million)
- "The Protege" (\$1.7 million)
- "The Night House" (\$1.2 million)
- "Black Widow" (\$855,000)—AFP



After much hype and delay, Kanye West's 'Donda' has arrived

Following weeks of delay and several stadium-filled public listening sessions, Kanye West's "Donda" arrived Sunday morning. The two-hour, 27 track-long album features a laundry list of special appearances, including from Jay-Z, The Weeknd, Travis Scott and Lil Baby. More controversially, Marilyn Manson—who is accused of rape and sexually and psychologically abusing several women—and DaBaby—who recently sparked anger for homophobic remarks during a performance—are credited on West's 10th studio album.

Chris Brown, who pleaded guilty to abusing mega star Rihanna 2009, is also listed as a composer and lyricist on the track "New Again." The album—which touches on religious themes of redemption along with turmoil in West's personal life—changed dramatically over the past month during West's listening sessions held in Atlanta, Las Vegas and Chicago. It's possible West will continue tinkering even after

Michael B. Jordan pays tribute to Chadwick Boseman

Michael B. Jordan has paid tribute to Chadwick Boseman on the first anniversary of his death. Michael, 34, shared a picture of himself and his late "Black Panther" co-star, who passed away on August 28, 2020, after a secret battle with colon cancer. Michael captioned the image: "Not a day goes by bro... Love and miss you but I know you still with us." Kerry Washington also shared a tribute to Chadwick, 43, writing: "One year without Chadwick Boseman. Thank you for watching over us. We miss you King." "Avengers" actor Mark Ruffalo wrote: "Can't believe how fast time has gone. Thinking of you today," while Boseman's "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" co-star Viola Davis shared: "This day last year you left this earth and us... Man you are missed!" And Lupita Nyong'o, who played Nakia, the love interest of Boseman's character T'Challa, took to Instagram to share a special tribute to her late friend. She posted a picture of them laughing together and wrote: "I did not know I could miss both his laughter and his silence in equal measure. "I do, I do... One year after his passing, the memory of @chadwickboseman

he released it to streaming on Sunday. After dropping "The Life of Pablo" in 2016, West continued altering the record, adding vocals, new lyrics and remixes. Always one to court controversy, West angered some fans after both DaBaby and Manson appeared at his Chicago listening session on Thursday, on the porch of a makeshift house meant to resemble West's childhood home. Also at the session was Kim Kardashian, who filed for divorce this year, ending her nearly decade-long union with West. But at the Chicago listening event she fueled speculation they were getting back together after appearing in a white gown and veil. —AFP



In this file photo rapper Kanye West speaks during his meeting with former US President Donald Trump in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, DC. — AFP

remains this alive in me (sic)" In a tribute to Chadwick following his death, the actress revealed that his tragic passing was a "punch to her gut every morning". Lupita wrote: "I write these words from a place of hopelessness, to honor a man who had great hope. I am struggling to think and speak about my friend, Chadwick Boseman, in the past tense. It doesn't make sense. The news of his passing is a punch to my gut every morning. "I am aware that we are all mortal, but you come across some people in life that possess an immortal energy, that seem like they have existed before, that are exactly where they are supposed to always be - here! ... that seem ageless... Chadwick was one of those people. (sic)". — Bang Showbiz



Michael B. Jordan and Chadwick Boseman



Paulson admits she 'regrets' wearing a fat suit to play Tripp

Sarah Paulson has admitted, in hindsight, she shouldn't have worn a fat suit for her portrayal of Linda Tripp in "Impeachment: American Crime Story". The 46-year-old star plays the real-life civil servant who served a major role in exposing Bill Clinton's affair with Monica Lewinsky in 1998 in the third season of the FX true crime anthology television series. And the actress has reflected on the criticism she