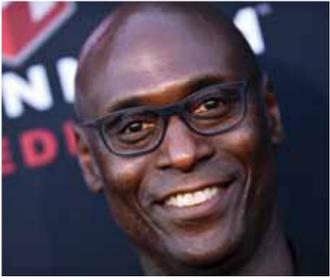


Lifestyle | Features

'The Wire' star Lance Reddick dies at 60



In this file photo US actor Lance Reddick arrives for the Los Angeles premiere of "Angel Has Fallen" at the Regency Village theatre in Westwood, California. — AFP

Actor Lance Reddick who played steely Baltimore police lieutenant Cedric Daniels in hit TV show "The Wire" has died, his publicist said Friday. He was 60. Reddick, who also appeared in the "John Wick" series of films opposite Keanu Reeves, was found dead at his home in the Studio City area of Los Angeles, trade title TMZ reported. "Acclaimed actor Lance Reddick passed away suddenly this morning from natural causes," publicist Mia Hansen told AFP. "Lance will be greatly missed."

Reddick rose to prominence in 2000 on the HBO prison drama "Oz" in which he played an undercover detective battling the drugs trade, but who soon gets drawn into addiction. But it was for his

role on "The Wire" that he became best known. The HBO show, which ran for five seasons, followed a narcotics division pitting their wits against the city's powerful drug gangs.

With its complex writing and gritty casting, "The Wire" is often cited as one of the best ever TV shows. It made household names of several of its stars, including Dominic West, Idris Elba, Wendell Pierce, Michael B. Jordan and the late Michael Kenneth Williams, who delivered one of the most singular performances in recent screen history as Omar Little. After "The Wire," Reddick was cast in "John Wick" as Charon, a concierge at a New York hotel who worked alongside Reeves' hitman.

Reeves and "John Wick" director Chad Stahelski told Variety they were mourning the loss of the cast member. "We are deeply saddened and heartbroken at the loss of our beloved friend and colleague," a statement said. "He was the consummate professional and a joy to work with." Fellow "The Wire" star Pierce paid tribute on Twitter to "a man of great strength and grace. The epitome of class." Reddick's death was a "sudden unexpected sharp painful grief for our artistic family. An unimaginable suffering for his personal family and loved ones. Godspeed my friend. You made your mark here. RIP."

Horror writer Stephen King tweeted that he had been halfway through re-

watching "The Wire." "Wonderful actor; wonderful man. This is sad news," he wrote. Performer Ben Stiller praised a "beautiful and compelling actor," recalling how Reddick had worked with his mother, Anne Meara, in a play. "He was exquisite in that and all he did," he tweeted.

HBO's corporate account wrote Reddick was "held in the highest regard by all who knew and worked with him and we are proud to be part of his legacy. He will be missed dearly." Reddick is survived by his wife Stephanie Reddick, and children Yvonne Nicole Reddick and Christopher Reddick, his publicist said. — AFP

'Dallas' star Patrick Duffy joins St Patrick's Day celebrations in Ireland

Thousands of people including "Dallas" star Patrick Duffy turned Dublin into a sea of green Friday for the annual St Patrick's Day parade, as Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar visited Washington. The US actor, whose great-grandfather emigrated to the United States in the 1920s, helped kick off the festivities by blowing out the candles on a large green cake to mark his 74th birthday.



International guest, US actor Patrick Duffy, at the head of the parade, waves to the crowds at the annual St Patrick's Day parade in Dublin. — AFP photos



A participant poses for a photograph while attending the annual St Patrick's Day parade in Dublin.

"The beauty of my feeling of being in this parade is the coming together of the heritage that I have, that I'm discovering on a daily basis by being here," said Duffy, who is this year's international guest of honor. "Return is the key word that people feel when they come to Ireland, the sense is that you're returning somewhere," he told reporters.



Performers take part in the annual St Patrick's Day parade in Dublin.

In Washington, Varadkar was due to meet US President Joe Biden for lunch later as part of his annual Washington visit to mark the Irish patron saint's day. Biden is fiercely proud of his Irish roots. Earlier Friday, Varadkar and his partner Matthew Barrett enjoyed a St Patrick's Day breakfast event hosted by Vice President Kamala Harris.

In addition to the Dublin parade, celebrations were due to take part across Ireland's towns and cities. The Dublin parade featuring the traditional marching bands and pageants will only be the second since an enforced hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As well as locals, the event is a major draw for international visitors, many of whom

have Irish ancestry. At the Cheltenham Festival—an annual event for Irish horseracing fans, spectators got into the spirit, donning green outfits and shamrock sunglasses. St Patrick is also a patron saint in Nigeria—home to a stronger version of Ireland's famous Guinness stout. In southern England, heir to the British throne Prince William

and his wife Catherine marked the day by meeting members of the Irish Guards, a regiment of the British army. Catherine, also known as the princess of Wales, took over Friday as the honorary colonel of the Irish Guards, replacing her husband. — AFP



An actor dressed as St Patrick works the crowd as revelers attend the annual St Patrick's Day parade in Dublin.



Revelers pose for a photograph while attending the annual St Patrick's Day parade in Dublin.

Actor Sam Neill reveals blood cancer diagnosis

Actor Sam Neill has revealed he is being treated for stage-three blood cancer, writing in a memoir that he was "possibly dying" from the illness diagnosed a year ago. The New Zealander, who burst to fame after starring as Dr Alan Grant in the 1993 blockbuster "Jurassic Park," said he began treatment last March for non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Neill, 75, makes the revelation in his book "Did I Ever Tell You This?," which is being released next week.

In the opening chapter, written while undergoing chemotherapy, Neill said: "The thing is, I'm crook. Possibly dying. I may have to speed this up." The actor told The Guardian he is now in remission but will continue to undergo chemotherapy for the remainder of his life.

"I can't pretend that the last year hasn't had its dark moments," he said. "But those dark moments throw the light into sharp relief, you know, and have made me grateful for every day and immensely grateful for all my friends. Just pleased to be alive."

Neill's vast acting career began in the 1970s and has spanned dozens of roles in TV and film, including "Peaky Blinders," "The Hunt for Red October," and "The Piano". He is currently preparing for a role in a television adaptation of Liane Moriarty's bestselling novel "Apples Never Fall," which will be filmed in Australia. When he's not acting, Neill also runs vineyards in the picturesque Central Otago region of New Zealand's South Island. —AFP



In this file photo actor Sam Neill arrives for the premiere of "Blackbird" during the Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto, Ontario. — AFP

Paris' Moulin Rouge promises to scrap troubled snake act

Paris' storied Moulin Rouge cabaret venue said Thursday it would stop immersing non-aquatic snakes in water after the controversial stage act provoked outcry from animal rights activists. The institution's daily show features a sequence with a dancer playing alongside pythons in a see-through pool.

The cabaret, founded in 1889, has now bowed to pressure from Paris officials and campaigners who said it was cruel to submerge terrestrial snakes. Animal rights advocates said they had seen the snakes trying to keep their heads above water in the vexed segment. The two species used in the act, Southeast Asian reticulated and Indian pythons, are protected and live on land, officials from the French capital's mayoral office told the venue in a letter.

"They may be strong swimmers, but the staging does not take into account the species' natural behavior," the notice said. The Moulin Rouge did not give an

end date for the show and said it had to give "reasonable notice" to performers. "Aware of societal developments on animal welfare, the Moulin Rouge will stop this number," the venue said, adding that respect for animals had "always been essential" to its operation.

Heated campaign

The move follows a heated campaign with petitions and demonstrations. "The snakes have no business being there," Amandine Sanvisens, co-founder of the PAZ animal rights group, previously said. "This isn't the right

environment for reptiles". Last year the cabaret told Le Parisien newspaper: "We have never mistreated and will never mistreat animals."

It claimed it used "a species of aquatic python, equally at home in the water as on land" in the show. But Alice Georges, a keeper at exotic pet shop Ferme Tropicale de Paris, said she had spotted reticulated and Indian pythons in videos of the act posted online. "These aren't aquatic snakes. What they're being forced to endure is horrible," she said. —AFP

