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Kirk Douglas, acclaimed actor, dies at 103

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Kirk Douglas, acclaimed actor, dies at 103

Kirk Douglas, one of Hollywood's last golden age actors, has died at the age of 103. He died on Wednesday at his home in Beverly Hills, California. His son, actor Michael Douglas posted a statement announcing his father's death on his Facebook page.

"It is with tremendous sadness that my brothers and I announce that Kirk Douglas left us today at the age of 103," Michael wrote. "To the world he was a legend, an actor from the golden age of

movies who lived well into his golden years, a humanitarian whose commitment to justice and the causes he believed in set a standard for all of us to aspire to.



wonderful father-in-law, to his grandchildren and great grandchild their loving grandfather, and to his wife Anne, **a wonderful husband.**"

Robert Pattinson declared 'the most handsome man in the world'

Michael Douglas said that his father's life "was well lived, and he leaves a legacy in film that will endure for generations to come, and a history as a renowned philanthropist who worked to aid the public and bring peace to the planet," according to *CNN*.



The famed dimpled chin, winning smile actor with a piercing gaze was best known for his performances in films like *Spartacus*, *Lust for Life* and *Paths of Glory*. He consistently lit up the screens with grace and talent throughout his long career.

Douglas' health issues started back in 1996 when he suffered a stroke. This severely affected his ability to speak. But Douglas fought on and made progress. In 2011 he spoke at the Oscar Awards, did a little flirting with Anne Hathaway on stage and announced the awards for the best supporting actress.

Robert Berkvist of *The New York Times* said of Douglas: "Early on Mr. Douglas created a niche for himself, specializing in characters with a hard edge and something a little unsavory about them."

Born to Russian immigrant parents, and the only boy of six children, Douglas was a self-made star. He established himself as an actor following World War II, capitalizing on his looks and athleticism, according to *CNN*.



Douglas was married to his second wife, Anne, for more than 65 years. “She was the most difficult woman I ever met,” Douglas told *USA TODAY* in April 2017.

In addition to his son Michael, Mr. Douglas is survived by his wife and his two other sons, as well as five grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

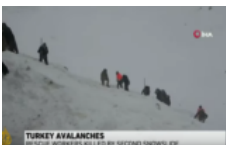
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Off-screen Douglas was well-known philanthropist and author. He also spent much of his time writing and wrote over a dozen popular books about his life and career.

According to *The New York Times*, back in 2008, [in an essay in Newsweek](#) (“What Old Age Taught Me”), Douglas wrote:

“Years ago I was at the bedside of my dying mother, an illiterate Russian peasant. Terrified, I held her hand. She opened her eyes and looked at me. The last thing she said to me was, ‘Don’t be afraid, son, it happens to everyone.’ As I got older, I became comforted by those words.”

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