

08

SUNDAY APRIL 11 2021

A Princely Life

TRUTH STRANGER THAN FICTION

THE
WORLD
MOURNS

“On behalf of the New Zealand people, I would like to express my sincere condolences to Her Majesty and to all the Royal Family.”
NZ PRIME MINISTER JACINDA ADENI

Philip simply ‘The Man’ to stars

CHARLES MIRANDA

TO the world he is The Duke, but to the actors who played the Duke of Edinburgh in The Crown TV series on Saturday described Prince Philip simply as being “The Man”.

Matt Smith, who starred in the first two series of the big-budget Netflix series, offered his condolences to the Queen and summed up the Duke, as if almost in character.

He said: “Prince Philip was the man. And he knew it. 99 and out, but what an innings. And what style. Thank you for your service old chap – it won’t be the same without you.”

Smith portrayed Philip in the early days of the royal relationship including dramatised tensions in his marriage to the Queen played by Claire Foy. He was then replaced by actor Tobias Menzies for series three and four of the Crown, opposite Olivia Colman as the Queen.

Menzies wrote on Twitter: “If I know anything about the Duke of Edinburgh I’m fairly sure he wouldn’t want an actor who portrayed him on TV giving their opinion on his life, so I’ll leave it to Shakespeare.”

“O good old man! how well in thee appears. The constant service of the antique world...” RIP.”

A statement from the show, written by creator Peter Morgan, said: “Netflix, Left Bank Pictures, Sony Pictures Television and the production team on The Crown are deeply saddened. Our thoughts are with the royal family at this sad time.”



Matt Smith and Claire Foy made the world fall in love with the royals' enduring romance.

THE CROWN REVEALS HOW A TV HIT MADE US LOVE THE DUKE

KERRY PARNELL

He was pilloried for his decision to let television cameras into Buckingham Palace for the ill-fated 1969 BBC documentary Royal Family, so it was ironic that another TV show — Netflix series The Crown — would make the world view the Duke of Edinburgh through a different lens.

Before The Crown, Prince Philip was best-known for his frequent “gaffes” and un-PC

comments and memories of the dashing young war hero had all but faded for younger generations who only knew him as a gruff grandfather. So it was a surprise that a TV series about his early years would prove both a smash-hit and real-life renaissance for the Duke.

As depicted on screen, Philip's struggles to find a meaningful role in the Royal Family and life, made us understand exactly what it would have been like for an alpha male joining The Firm in the 1940s. It was also

resonant of the difficulties the young brides Diana and Fergie faced — and later still, Meghan.

But it was the love for his darling Lilibet that was the real game-changer.

Despite the Queen saying, “He has, quite simply, been my strength and stay all these years,” on their golden wedding anniversary, “and (we) owe him a debt greater than he would ever claim, or we shall ever know,” it was the scenes between the newlyweds in Africa, that brought to life one of the world's most enduring love stories.

They were the glamour couple of their day and actors Claire Foy and Matt Smith made us fall in love with them on-screen and for real. We watched as they navigated their marriage and their new, restrictive roles, when Philip's naval career got beached and he began a new one, albeit anchorless.

We felt his fury when prime minister Winston Churchill insisted the royal family take the name Windsor not Mountbatten, saying, “I’m nothing but a bloody amoeba. I am the only man in the country not allowed to give his name to his children.”



Final obituary rewrite for Iron Duke who cheated death

CHARLES MIRANDA

THE phone call was as sudden as it was alarming.

“You are going to be very busy tonight — Prince Philip is going to die,” a top Westminster source solemnly told me during a frantic ring-around to media bureau chiefs in the British capital.

This was April 2008 when the then 86-year-old had missed several public appointments for what was

initially a chest infection but that later saw him admitted to hospital.

Word spread and such was the state of the nation bracing for a royal funeral, Buckingham Palace was prompted to issue an extraordinary statement denying the Duke's death was imminent.

But the palace statement, and indeed the Westminster call-around to journalists, was telling of just how popular the prince was and the then expected impact his death would

have not just in Britain but throughout the Commonwealth.

That extraordinary scene was 13 years to the month too early.

Philip's death on Friday was realised and reverberated across both sides of the hemisphere.

This time the palace issued a simple statement and the royal family's official website switched to a holding page in memory of the duke.

It featured a central image of Philip on a black background,

accompanied by the Palace's statement. It seemed for a time he had come through so many health and other trials in his long life that newspapers around the world were permanently updating prewritten obituaries for “the iron duke” who as one royal courtier remarked to News Corp Australia after another health scare in 2016, he was “simply too stubborn to die”.

He proved all wrong for a long time but at the age of 99 years, he

passed away quietly with the Queen, close friends and aides by his side.

He was known to be dreading celebrating his 100th birthday, once remarking he “bits falling off”.

He found reports over the years of his greatly exaggerated imminent demise amusing and, while a private man who declared to palace courtiers when he did finally pass he wanted “no fuss”, his inspiring dedication to the realm will this week be fondly and appropriately remembered.

SUNDAY APRIL 11 2021

129

“

The thoughts of Canadians are with Queen Elizabeth II and the members of the Royal Family as they mourn such a significant loss.

CANADIAN PM JUSTIN TRUDEAU

“

He was an extremely kind & charming man with an exceptional dedication to Queen and Country.

DAME SHIRLEY BASSEY

“

Rest in peace. A lifetime of public service. My thoughts are with the Queen and the Royal Family

SIR RICHARD BRANSON

PRINCE PHILIP
1921-2021



THE 'REAL' PHILIP



Tobias Menzies (also right) and Olivia Colman depicted the middle chapters of the royal marriage which included the drama of Charles's unhappy marriage.

We were there when the Queen dealt with Philip's rumoured affairs and his membership of the Thursday Club with Australian pal Mike Parker. He denied it — once telling the Independent, "I have never moved anywhere without a policeman accompanying me. So how the hell could I get away with anything like that?"

Whatever the truth, it was no mean feat the pair kept their relationship steady, the Queen becoming the longest-reigning British monarch and Philip, the oldest-ever male in the Royal Family. "The Queen's) serene acceptance of

the man kept the marriage alive," says biographer Ingrid Seward. "She has always been wise enough to accept his phenomenal energy and let him get on with things. He, in turn, has been her greatest support and has always protected her."

Their evolution was brought to life as Olivia Colman and Tobias Menzies took us through the next chapters of their life in seasons three and four of *The Crown*.

The on-screen depiction of Philip's close relationship with Diana throughout her troubled marriage, came as a surprise to many, despite this

being backed up by Diana to Andrew Morton and biographers Seward and Tina Brown. Tobias made us love the Prince all over again — but it will be down to actor Jonathan Pryce in the next season to take us through what was Philip's finest hour, when he walked with William and Harry behind Diana's coffin.

William once described his grandfather as "a legend," but it was *The Crown* that turned the legend into gold.

Prince's legacy touches millions

CHARLES MIRANDA

THE Duke of Edinburgh's Award is likely to be judged Prince Philip's greatest legacy.

Aimed at both able-bodied and disabled youngsters, it became one of the best known self-development and

adventure schemes for 14-24-year-olds, particularly in Australia where it continues to enjoy immense popularity.

In 2016 the scheme celebrated its 60th anniversary, by which time it was estimated to have involved more than eight million youths from more than 130 nations.

In Australia, more than 800,000 young people have participated in the awards with 40,000 involved annually.

Despite his part in its success, Philip was always modest about his role.

He once said he "couldn't care less" if the scheme was seen as a big part of his legacy.

"Legacy? ... It's got nothing to do with me. It's there for people to use. I couldn't care less," he barked.

But he was passionate, proud and devoted to the scheme and what it achieved.

Philip was inspired to start the program by an eccentric headmaster, Dr Kurt Hahn, and his school days at Gordonstoun in Scotland.

It was launched in 1956 initially for young men leaving school and starting National Service. Two years later a girls scheme began and some time later the two became one.

Prince Philip was always closely involved in the organisation and defended it against accusations that it was an award only for the middle classes.



Sweet act of child's play with JFK Jr

BEN PIKE

IN the aftermath of one of the most horrific moments in US history, the assassination of JFK, John F. Kennedy Jr asked one simple question: "Where's daddy?"

The two-year-old had just lost his father the 35th US

president. Prince Philip flew to Washington for the funeral. It was during this time that Prince Philip's love of children and his rapport with them shone through.

"At the White House on Sunday, Nov. 24, 1963, Jacqueline Kennedy was looking for John Jr and

the shooting, Prince Philip flew to Washington for the funeral. It was during this time that Prince Philip's love of children and his rapport with them shone through. "At the White House on Sunday, Nov. 24, 1963, Jacqueline Kennedy was looking for John Jr and

Brandus wrote on Twitter yesterday. "There she found the Prince sprawled on the floor, playing and laughing with the murdered president's son. Days from his third birthday, John had said earlier that he "didn't have anybody to play with" (also: "where's Daddy?") and Har Majesty's

Queen met John F. Kennedy and wife Jackie in 1961 during a visit to Buckingham Palace. Mr Brandus went on to say that in May 1965, the British government gave an acre of land to the US for a memorial to the murdered president at Runnymede — the site 750

