

Donald Sutherland, star of Don't Look Now and MASH, dies at 88

By Meg Byrom

DONALD Sutherland, best known for his starring roles in M*A*S*H and Don't Look Now, has died aged 88.

The Canadian actor passed away in Miami, Florida, after a long illness, his agent said yesterday.

In a career spanning more than 50 years – and 200 film and television credits – he made his name as the womaniser Captain Hawkeye Pierce in 1970's M*A*S*H, and was later cast as some of cinema's most notorious villains, including President Snow in The Hunger Games franchise.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Francine Racette, five children and four grandchildren. His son, the actor Kiefer Sutherland, 57, wrote in a tribute last night: 'With a heavy heart, I tell you that my father, Donald Sutherland, has passed away.'

'I personally think [he is] one of the most important actors in the history of film. Never daunted by a role, good, bad or ugly.'

'He loved what he did and did what he loved, and one can never ask for

'Never daunted by a role, good or bad'

more than that. A life well lived.' Born in New Brunswick in 1935, Sutherland studied engineering and drama at the University of Toronto.

He moved to London in 1957 to join drama school, and after a series of small roles on British shows including The Avengers he was cast in the 1967 war film The Dirty Dozen.

After M*A*S*H, he starred in 1973's horror Don't Look Now with Julie Christie, in which the pair's sex scene caused such a stir that some speculated the stars weren't just acting.

He played everything from an eccentric lover in Fellini's Casanova in 1976 to an IRA mobster with Sir Michael Caine in The Eagle Has Landed in 1977.

Though he won a Golden Globe for the 2002 TV thriller Path To War, an Emmy for the series Citizen X and an Academy Honorary Award at the Oscars in 2017, Sutherland is regarded as one of the best actors to have never received a major award for his film roles.

The veteran actor was married three times, to Lois Hardwick between 1959 and 1966, Shirley Douglas between 1966

and 1970, and Francine, whom he married in 1972.

In 1971's Klute, Sutherland played alongside Jane Fonda as a detective who falls in love with a sex worker.

The two began an affair in real life, and Ms Fonda credited him for her winning best actress at the 1972 Oscars.

Together they campaigned against the Vietnam War and

co-produced the anti-war documentary F.T.A. (Free The Troops) in 1972. This activism meant Sutherland was put on the US National Security Agency's 'watch list' between 1971 and 1973.

Dame Helen Mirren, who starred alongside Sutherland in 2017's The Leisure Seeker, yesterday described him as one of the 'smartest actors' she

has ever worked with. 'He had a wonderful inquiring brain, and a great knowledge on a wide variety of subjects,' she said. 'He was my colleague and became my friend. I will miss his presence in this world.'

Ron Howard, who directed him in 1991's Backdraft, said he was 'one of the most intelligent, interesting and engrossing film actors of all time'.



Don't Look Now: With Julie Christie in 1973



Legacy: As Hawkeye in 1970's M*A*S*H and, right, with son Kiefer Sutherland



Ephraim Hardcastle



WILL Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby be embarrassed at next

month's General Synod by his association with disgraced ex-Post Office boss Paula Vennells? Evangelical Dr Ian Paul has tabled an awkward private members' motion. 'That this Synod, in the light of the comment by the Archbishop that "Paula Vennells has shaped my thinking over the years", request that a full review be undertaken of [her] influence on the culture, decisions, appointments, and strategies of the House of Bishops and the wider church.' Justin's only blessing is that the Synod debate, on July 5, is likely to be submerged in election results.

WHEN King Charles published a book of his own watercolours in 1991, he wrote: '[Painting] refreshes parts of the soul that other activities cannot reach.' Ad man Terry Lovelock, who coined that phrase to sell Heineken beer, asked for permission to apply to the Lord Chamberlain for a royal warrant, as 'purveyor of slogans and aphorisms to Prince Charles'. Back came the response from HRH: Terry would have to provide pithy lines for at least three years before a warrant could be bestowed. See you after the ad break, sire.

DID Sarah Ferguson, back in the Royal Ascot fold with daughters Beatrice and Eugenie, spare a thought for her exiled ex-spouse Andrew? Before his defenestration, he attended most days. On past Fridays when Fergie attended the royal enclosure – but not the royal box for the sake of Prince Philip's blood pressure – Andrew gallantly gave up his carriage seat and travelled by car with his ex and their daughters. Fergie may have been confined to the Ascot Authority box but Andrew and the girls nipped in regularly to see her and smuggled her into the royal box when Philip left, usually after the fourth race. Alas, poor Andrew, they don't seem willing to return the favour and give up the high life to stay home and watch the racing on the telly with him.

PROMOTING his new biography on the Beckhams, Tom Bower, highlighting Becks' 'complicated' tax affairs, claims that a forensic accountant he'd hired to look into the companies of David, pictured, emerged 'baffled.'



'He discovered that Beckham was owed £9million by the German tax authorities because his accountant had forgotten to claim it,' Bower tells Sky News. 'So I told his PR woman and he got £9million thanks to me. But he hasn't said "thank you"! Is the old rogue having a giraffe?'

How WFH won't make you more productive

ROLLING out of bed for a Zoom call makes employees happier than going into the office, but research shows that it doesn't make them more productive.

Working on a hybrid schedule – three days in the office and two at home – resulted in staff enjoying their jobs more, but it failed to increase output, according to a study.

Researchers from Stanford University and the Chinese University of Hong Kong split 1,612 employees at a technology

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company in China into two groups. One worked solely from the office, while the other was given a hybrid pattern.

After six months, hybrid working improved job satisfaction and reduced resignation rates by a third. Employees

said they valued days at home as much as a 10 per cent pay rise.

Writing in the journal Nature, the researchers said: 'A hybrid schedule with two days a week working from home does not damage performance.'

But there was no productivity boost, which they said could have been due to fewer of face-to-face interactions.

LITTLEJOHN'S BACK ON TUESDAY

THROTTLEBOTTOM Nick Robinson notes in The Spectator that Sir Keir Starmer confessed he had been in the crowd when Gareth Southgate missed a penalty against Germany at Euro 96. 'If Starmer wins on July 4 and Southgate takes England to the final of the Euros, I wonder if we could persuade our new prime minister to stay away in case he jinxes it?'

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