

Cloris Leachman



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REMEMBERING CLORIS LEACHMAN
April 30, 1926 - January 27, 2021

<https://www.indiewire.com/features/general/cloris-leachman-dies-at-94-1234612301/>

Academy Award-winning actress Cloris Leachman has died at the age of 94. The news was originally broken by TMZ who reported the actress passed away of natural causes on Tuesday night at her home in Encinitas, California. Leachman boasted nearly 300 credit in film and television, throughout her career, making memorable turns in “The Last Picture Show,” “Young Frankenstein,” “The Twilight Zone,” and “Raising Hope.”

Leachman was born in Des Moines, Iowa on April 30, 1926. She started acting as a teenager, and after graduating high school she enrolled at Northwestern University in its School of Education. Her classmates included fellow comics Paul Lynde and Charlotte Rae. In 1946, Leachman participated in the Miss America pageant where she placed in the top 16. She used the scholarship she won to attend the famed Actors Studio in New York City, learning under acclaimed director Elia Kazan.

Cloris Leachman | The Complete "Pioneers of Television" Interview <https://www.televisionacademy.com/video/hall-fame-2011-inductee-cloris-leachman-exclusive-interview>

Cloris Leachman Career Retrospective | SAG-AFTRA Foundation Conversations

Leta Powell Drake Interview with Cloris Leachman

Mel Brooks: Make a Noise - Cloris Leachman - INTERVIEW DATE:
2012-06-22

'The Last Picture Show': An Oral History

“.....Bridges What about Cloris' last scene?! Isn't it powerful? Peter doesn't cut, he just hangs and hangs. God! F-!

Leachman I was mad that Peter only let me do that scene once. When it was over, I went, “No, Peter, wait, we have to do it again. The first part I didn't do right.” He said, “Yes, you did. You're going to win an Academy Award for it.” Bogdanovich I said, “Cut, print, you just won the Oscar.” She said, “I can do it better.” I said, “No you can't.” Because it was so fresh and she was shaking. I knew she couldn't possibly do it better. She could hardly breathe.

Made in 10 weeks for \$1.3 million, The Last Picture Show opened on Oct. 22, 1971. It made more than \$29 million at the box office while bowling over critics and Oscar voters, who nominated it for Best Picture and also handed nods to Johnson, Leachman, Burstyn, Bridges, Bogdanovich. Leachman and Johnson, who died in 1996, won.

Shepherd The movie premiered at the New York Film Festival, and my mother insisted on coming. Afterward, she said to Peter, “Maybe you'll do better next time.”

Bogdanovich Actually what she said was: “Better luck next time.” That pissed me off a bit. She was shocked by the nudity being somewhat provincial.

Leachman I know I didn't cry the first time I saw it. I couldn't do anything. I was just frozen. It was the second time when all of my emotions came out.

Bogdanovich I was shooting my next movie, What's Up, Doc? at Warner Bros. and I got a call from the producer. He said, “Are you sitting down? This is [from the] Newsweek review: The Last Picture Show is the most impressive work by a young American director since Citizen Kane.” I said, “Holy sh!” That was a big moment. You only get discovered once.

Bridges I was living in my bachelor pad in Malibu. Those days I was staying out late and sleeping late, and early in the morning, around five or six, the phone rings and they told me I got nominated. It was out of nowhere. It

wasn't like today when the award ought to go to the best PR person. It's all just campaigning. But back then, it was a total surprise.

Burstyn I won the New York Film Critics award, so I was already primed for the nominations. Peter had said that the part of Ruth was the Academy Award winning part and I thought it was too. I didn't go to the ceremony, but I was rooting for Cloris.

Leachman Ellen had already received the New York Film Critics award and Ann-Margret had gotten the Golden Globe - you never get it under those circumstances. So I didn't expect it at all. I got a dress and it was thrilling. The only thing I was thinking when they called my name was: They got it wrong.....”

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