

JESSICA WALTER • 1941-2021

## Wickedly smart and smartly wicked, actress brought strength to the screen

BY ROBERT LLOYD

Los Angeles Times

Jessica Walter, who died unexpectedly Wednesday at home in New York, was a wickedly smart, smartly wicked actress. Her work ran from drama to melodrama and comedy, from big, wide-screen Hollywood productions to quirky small films, through the heights and depths of television, from the middle of the mainstream to close to the edge, leading to late-career fame as a star of the dysfunctional family comedy "Arrested Development" and the saucy spy cartoon "Archer."

Being versatile and open, she was rarely out of work in a six-decade career; there was a youthfulness to her person — even as she did not bother to mask her age — and an adventurousness to her choices that made Walter interesting to an audience whose parents were not born when "Play Misty for Me" was released in 1971.

Clint Eastwood's directorial debut, and a kind of precursor to "Fatal Attraction," "Misty" threw a spotlight on Walter — already more than a decade into her career — as a woman who mistakes a one-night stand with Eastwood's jazz DJ



Kevork Djanssezian/AP file

**Actress Jessica Walter applauds after "Arrested Development" wins for outstanding comedy series during the 56th Annual Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles in 2004.**

for a lifetime commitment, and when he drops her, turns murderous. ("The next scream you hear will be your own," ran the ads.) Her all-in performance goes right to the edge but not over the top; she's more attractive in her psychopathic way than Eastwood's actual love interest, played by Donna Mills. She's the smoking engine of the film, and had she stopped acting the next day, we would still remember her.

Walter was casually glam-

orous and poised and sure of speech, an alumna of New York's High School of Performing Arts and Sanford Meisner's Neighborhood Playhouse School of Theater. She had spine and strength; she was not formed to play wallflowers, shrinking violets, dishrags or doormats, nor was she the first person you'd cast as a happy homemaker.

Although Walter once described herself as "really a nice, boring person," there must have been a spark of the imp within her. She embraced the rude, the weird, the mad. It was a short walk from Lucille Bluth to Malory Archer, the self-aggrandizing, sex-driven head of a spy ring and hostile mother of H. Jon Benjamin's idiot secret agent in FX's "Archer."

Together, "Arrested Development" and "Archer" positioned in her within modern comedy and set the stage for her late career, including a hilariously profane turn in Julie Klausner and Billie Eichner's "Difficult People" and a couple of episodes of Tru TV's "At Home With Amy Sedaris" as Amy's old teacher Mrs. Brittlecrunch, who drops in to cheerily embarrass the host.

### OBITUARY

## Remembering Justin

July 17, 1977 - March 7, 2021

It is with great sadness the family of Justin Douglas Ward shares the news of his unexpected death on Sunday, March 7, 2021, at the age of 43.

Justin was born in Bend on July 17, 1977. He attended Jewell Elementary and Cascade Junior High. He then attended Bend Senior High School. He played football, pole vaulted and was a member of the ski team. He graduated in 1996 with honors, earned many awards and left an imprint as a Lava Bear. He then attended University of Portland and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Business in 2000 with an emphasis in accounting and an MBA in 2002 after spending a year of study abroad in Salzburg, Austria. He moved back to Bend soon after graduation and worked in the family business at Crown Villa RV Park. Alongside his Sister and Dad, he created a world class RV resort that hosted visitors from all over the world. He has most recently built a successful business, WATT Construction with his Brother-in-Law, Aaron Platt.

As a native Oregonian, Justin loved the outdoors from a young age and carried on his passion for hunting, fishing, horseback riding, boating and snow skiing with his family.

Some of his happy childhood days included waterskiing, houseboating at Lake Powell, bird hunting along the John Day River, deer hunting in the Ochoco Mountains, family travel trailer trips to all edges of the NW and the family lake cabin in the summers. He loved his world experiences hunting with his Dad from the mountains of Colorado and Alaska to Africa and Argentina and many hunting trips with his high school and college friends in some of the most beautiful places in America. Just to name a few Andy Rhoads, Matt Smith, Craig Sopke & Aaron Platt. He was an incredible marksman. The more challenging the hunt the better Justin performed.

At home you would find him working the land on his farm with his three sons and looking for new adventures. You could often find Justin spending time hunting and fishing at the Dowell Ranch and other places across Oregon and Idaho with his family. Justin was an incredible father who always took time with his boys Zane (7), Colt (5), Sky (3) teaching them how to be great outdoorsmen like himself.

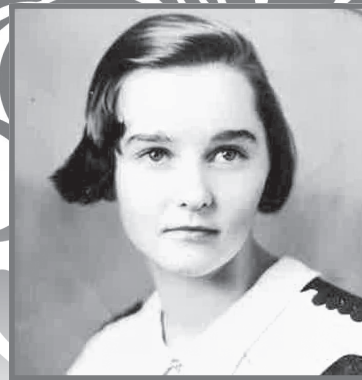
Justin will be held in our hearts and never forgotten by his family; parents Kim and Sally Ward, his sisters, Donna (Andy) Moore, Dayna (Jake) Ralston and Jessica Ward. Justin will also be forever remembered by his nieces and nephews Charlie & Sally Moore, Savannah & Brynley Ralston, Cash & Iris Ward, aunts & uncles(11), cousins(14), his childhood, college, adult friends and co-workers. He will be lovingly remembered by his wife Amy, his Boys, in-laws Winton Platt, Patty (Mike) Begin, brother-in-laws Aaron (Kristen) Platt and Randy (Valerie) Platt.

We all will miss the sly smile, dimples and wittiness. Keep Justin in your hearts and prayers.

To make memorial donations and Participate in a Memory Book for his boys being created by his brother in law Aaron & Kristen Platt, please visit Niswonger-Reynolds Funeral Home website: [www.bendfuneralhomes.com](http://www.bendfuneralhomes.com)



### OBITUARY



## Constance "Connie" Eileen Riddell Elkins

June 28, 1922 - November 2, 2020

Connie Elkins, at the remarkable age of 98, passed away of natural causes on November 2, 2020. Connie was born in Portland, Oregon on June 28, 1922. She grew up in Monmouth in a historic house near the Normal School (teachers' college, which much later became Western Oregon University.) Connie spent her childhood practicing her violin and piano, studying foreign languages, listening to "Big Band" on the radio, and playing on the famous Riddell sheep farms.

A top student all her academic life, Connie graduated from high school at age 16. Her family then leased their house to the college and moved to Eugene, where Connie was accepted to the University of Oregon School of Music. She studied violin with Dr. Rex Underwood. It was during these college years that this five foot-two, eyes of blue, brunette beauty met her future husband on a blind date. William "Bill" David Elkins II was tall, dark, and handsome; and always liked to say, "I fell in love with Connie before I ever met her, hearing her play the piano as I climbed the stairs to her front door."

Then came Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941. Bill enlisted in the army, became an officer, and was sent to Florida. Before he left, he slipped an engagement ring on Connie's finger. One year later Connie graduated from University of Oregon with two degrees: Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Arts. A twenty year old who had never been separated from her family, Connie boarded a train and traveled all by herself across the country during wartime. When she arrived at Drew Field, Tampa, Florida, she married Bill on December 18, 1942.

They spent about a year together on posts in Florida and Mississippi, where Connie developed a lifelong fear of snakes. When Bill was deployed to Saipan, Connie returned to Eugene to deliver their first child, William David "Dave" Elkins III. He was nearly a year old before Bill saw him. With family to help with the baby, Connie went back to the university for her masters in music education. When the war was over, Bill and Connie were reunited. They made Eugene their home, and built the house they would live in for 44 years. They raised three children there.

Connie devoted her career to classical music, with a little jazz and Frank Sinatra on the side. She played in the orchestra that became the Eugene Symphony. The first chairs of the string section formed a quartet that performed throughout the northwest. Their shining hour was a day spent with Swiss composer Ernest Bloch, in his home at Agate Beach on the Oregon coast. He coached as they rehearsed his string quartet, which soon after they performed for an international music conference in Salt Lake City.

Connie taught orchestra in the public schools, and private violin and piano in her home. She volunteered for the music program at the Pearl Buck School for handicapped children. She was a member of the Committee for the Performing Arts, that raised money to help build the Hult Center. She served on the board of the Eugene Junior Symphony all the years her children were members. She was a Cub Scout and Girl Scout leader, and taught Sunday School at the Congregational Church where the family attended.

Connie was a loyal member of PEO, Mu Phi Epsilon, OMEA, and three bridge clubs. In the winter, she skied, both nordic and alpine, more for the love of Bill than of skiing. In the summer she could be found in the orchestra pit for the community musical, or on the Pacific Crest Trail for the annual family backpack trip. She continued her love affair with Romance languages until the end of her days.

When Bill sold his cable television company and retired, Connie gave up teaching so they could travel. And travel they did, all around the world, sometimes taking their children and grandchildren with them. In 1984 they built a vacation home in Bend, where the family then gathered for all holidays. In June of 1990 they sold their family home in Eugene, and moved to Bend. Two months later their house burned to the ground in the Awbrey Hall fire. With love from and for their family, and support from the community, Connie and Bill rebuilt their home and their lives. They continued to travel until they were in their mid-eighties.

December 2014 was the final chapter in their love story. On December 9th, Bill turned 94. On December 18th, Connie and Bill celebrated their 72nd wedding anniversary. On December 30th, with Connie's hand in his, Bill passed away. Connie never played her violin again.

She spent her remaining years in assisted living, with an attentive family close by. Other than short term memory and hearing loss, Connie was healthy and content, if not happy. For five and a half years Connie had two outings every week, to hair and Sunday brunch. She attended the Central Oregon Symphony concerts and her daughter's piano recitals. She had many out-of-town family visitors, who brought her gifts and took her out for a meal. She was well loved and never forgotten.

From March 16th to October 1st, 2020, Connie's facility was in lockdown, due to COVID-19. Then through the month of October family was allowed in to see Connie, to say hello and goodbye. Bill, before he died, had promised to take Connie back to Ireland one last time. On the evening of November 2nd, Connie must have dreamed of Bill and decided to take him up on his offer.

*May joy and peace surround you,  
Contentment latch your door,  
And happiness be with you now  
And bless you evermore.  
- Irish Toast*

Connie was preceded in death by her father, John Alexander Riddell, who died when Connie was 5; her mother, Cora Greene Riddell, who lived to be 90; her uncle and stepfather, David Riddell, who died when she was 8; two older sisters who died in the Spanish Influenza Pandemic of 1918; younger sister, Davida Riddell Bergstrom, whom Connie adored; and her beloved husband, Bill. She is survived by her son Dave Elkins (Karson) of Eugene, daughter Margaret Littlehales (Tom) of Bend, and son Dr. John Elkins of Salt Lake City; grandsons Dr. Dave Elkins (Dr. Gina), Mike Elkins, and Paul Elkins of Salem; granddaughter Tonya Littlehales (Geof Hasegawa) of Bend; grandsons Ben Elkins of Palo Alto, and Chris Elkins of Salt Lake City; 8 great grandchildren; and two nieces and a nephew, Kris, Dena, and Eric Bergstrom.

The family wishes to thank the staff of Mt. Bachelor Memory Care for six years of professional and compassionate care; Heart n' Home Hospice for additional care and medical attention the last few months of Connie's life; and Baird Funeral Home of Bend for making the final arrangements for both Bill and Connie.

A private family urn committal will be held on April 17, 2021 at the Masonic Cemetery of Albany, where Connie will be laid to rest next to her husband, Bill.

Contributions may be made in Connie's name to Central Oregon Symphony (15 SW Colorado Ave., Ste. 320, Bend, Or 97702); or to University of Oregon School of Music and Dance (1225 University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403-1225.)