

= Jayne Mansfield =

Jayne Mansfield ( born Vera Jayne Palmer ; April 19 , 1933 ? June 29 , 1967 ) was an American actress in film , theatre , and television . Mansfield became a major Broadway star in 1955 , a major Hollywood star in 1956 , and a leading celebrity in 1957 . She was also a nightclub entertainer , a singer , and one of the early Playboy Playmates . She was a major Hollywood sex symbol of the 1950s and early 1960s and 20th Century Fox 's main sex symbol actress , alongside Marilyn Monroe . She was also known for her well @-@ publicized personal life and publicity stunts , such as wardrobe malfunctions .

While Mansfield 's film career was short lived , she had several box @-@ office successes and won a Theatre World Award and a Golden Globe . She enjoyed success in the role of fictional actress Rita Marlowe , both in the 1955 ? 1956 Broadway version and the 1957 Hollywood film version of Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter ? . Her other major movie performances were for The Girl Can 't Help It ( 1956 ) , The Wayward Bus ( 1957 ) , and Too Hot to Handle ( 1960 ) . In the sexploitation film Promises ! Promises ! ( 1963 ) , she became the first major American actress to have a nude starring role in a Hollywood motion picture . Mansfield 's professional name came from her first husband , public relations professional Paul Mansfield . In 1967 , Mansfield was killed in a car crash at the age of 34 , along with two others .

= = Early life and education = =

Jayne Mansfield was born Vera Jayne Palmer on April 19 , 1933 , in Bryn Mawr , Pennsylvania . She was the only child of Herbert William Palmer ( 1904 ? 1936 ) , who was of German and English ancestry , and Vera ( Jeffrey ) Palmer ( 1903 ? 2000 ) , of English origin . She inherited more than \$ 90 @,@ 000 from her maternal grandfather Thomas ( \$ 738 @,@ 000 in 2016 dollars ) and more than \$ 36 @,@ 000 from her maternal grandmother , Beatrice Mary Palmer , in 1958 ( \$ 295 @,@ 000 in 2016 dollars ) .

She spent her early childhood in Phillipsburg , New Jersey , where her father was an attorney practising with future New Jersey governor Robert B. Meyner . In 1936 , her father Herbert William Palmer died of a heart attack while driving a car with his wife and daughter . In 1939 Vera married sales engineer Harry Lawrence Peers , and the family moved to Dallas , Texas , where she was known as Vera Jayne Peers .

As a child she wanted to be a Hollywood star like Shirley Temple , as did many other young girls of her time . She graduated from Highland Park High School in 1950 . At the age of 12 , she took lessons in ballroom dance . While in high school , Palmer took lessons in violin , piano and viola . She also studied Spanish and German . She consistently received high B 's in school , including mathematics .

She married Paul James Mansfield on May 10 , 1950 . Their daughter , Jayne Marie Mansfield , was born on November 8 , 1950 . After marriage , Mansfield and her husband enrolled in Southern Methodist University to study acting . In 1951 , she moved to Austin , Texas , with her husband , and studied dramatics at the University of Texas at Austin , until her junior year . There she worked as a nude model for art classes , sold books door to door , and worked as a receptionist of a dance studio . She also joined the Curtain Club , a popular campus theatrical society that featured Tom Jones , Harvey Schmidt , Rip Torn , and Pat Hingle among its members of that time .

In 1952 , she moved back to Dallas and for several months was a student of actor Baruch Lumet , father of director Sidney Lumet and founder of Dallas Institute of Performing Arts . Lumet called Mansfield and Rip Torn his " kids " , and provided her private lessons . Then she spent a year at Camp Gordon , Georgia ( a US Army training facility ) when Paul Mansfield served in the United States Army Reserve in the Korean War .

They moved to Los Angeles in 1954 , where Mansfield studied Theater Arts at University of California , Los Angeles ( UCLA ) during the summer , and returned to Texas to spend the fall quarter at Southern Methodist University . She managed to maintain a B grade average , between a variety of odd jobs , including selling popcorn at the Stanley Warner Theatre , teaching dance ,

vending candy at a movie theater , modeling part @-@ time at the Blue Book Model Agency , and working as a photographer at Esther Williams ' Trails Restaurant .

= = Early career = =

While attending The University of Texas at Austin , Mansfield won several beauty contests , including : Miss Photoflash , Miss Magnesium Lamp , and Miss Fire Prevention Week . The only title she refused was Miss Roquefort Cheese , because she believed it " ... just didn 't sound right . " Mansfield accepted a bit part in a B @-@ grade film titled Prehistoric Women ( produced by Alliance Productions , alternatively titled The Virgin Goddess ) in 1950 . In 1952 , while in Dallas , she and Paul Mansfield participated in small local @-@ theater productions of The Slaves of Demon Rum and Ten Nights in a Barroom , and Anything Goes in Camp Gordon , Georgia . After Paul Mansfield left for military service , Mansfield first appeared on stage in a production of Arthur Miller 's Death of a Salesman on October 22 , 1953 , with the players of the Knox Street Theater , headed by Lumet .

While at UCLA , she entered the Miss California contest ( hiding her marital status ) , and won the local round before withdrawing . She also won many small and local beauty pageants , including Miss Photoflash , Miss Magnesium Lamp , Miss Fire Prevention Week , Gas Station Queen , Miss Analgesin , Cherry Blossom Queen , Miss Third Platoon , Miss Blues Bonnet of Austin , Miss Direct Mail , Miss Electric Switch , Miss Fill @-@ er @-@ up , Miss Negligee , Nylon Sweater Queen , Miss One for the Road , Miss Freeway , Hot Dog Ambassador , Miss Geiger Counter , Best Dressed Woman of Theater , Miss 100 % Pure Maple Syrup , Miss July Fourth , Miss Texas Tomato , Miss Standard Foods , Miss Orchid , Miss Potato Soup , Miss Lobster , Miss United Dairies and Miss Chihuahua Show .

Early in her career , her prominent breasts were considered problematic , and led to her losing her first professional assignment ? an advertising campaign for General Electric that depicted young women in bathing suits relaxing around a pool . Emmeline Snively , head of the Blue Book Model Agency , sent her to photographer Gene Lester , which led to her short @-@ lived assignment in the General Electric commercial . In 1954 , she auditioned at both Paramount Pictures and Warner Bros. for a part in The Seven Year Itch , but failed to impress . She also auditioned at Paramount for Joan of Arc ? a project that was never completed ? and failed again . That year , she landed her first acting assignment in Lux Video Theatre , a series on CBS ( An Angel Went AWOL , October 21 , 1954 ) . In the show , she sat at the piano and delivered a few lines of dialogue for \$ 300 ( \$ 3 @,@ 000 in 2016 dollars ) .

She posed nude for the February 1955 issue of Playboy , modelling in pajamas raised so that the bottoms of her breasts showed . This increased the magazine 's circulation and helped launch Mansfield 's career . Playboy had begun publishing from publisher ? editor Hugh Hefner 's kitchen in 1953 , but became popular in the first decade of publication ? riding on the popularity of its early Playmates like Mansfield , Marilyn Monroe , Bettie Page and Anita Ekberg . Beginning in February 1955 , she formed a long @-@ standing relationship with Playboy . Shortly afterward , she posed for the Playboy calendar covering her breasts with her hands . Playboy featured Jayne every February from 1955 to 1958 , and again in 1960 .

In August 1956 , Paul Mansfield claimed custody of their daughter , claiming Jayne was an unfit mother because she appeared nude in Playboy . In 1964 , the magazine repeated the pictorial . Photos from that pictorial were reprinted in a number of Playboy issues , including : December 1965 ( " The Playboy Portfolio of Sex Stars " ) , January 1979 ( " 25 Beautiful Years " ) , January 1984 ( " 30 Memorable Years " ) , January 1989 ( " Women of the Fifties " ) , January 1994 ( " Remember Jayne " ) , November 1996 ( " Playboy Gallery " ) , August 1999 ( " Playboy 's Sex Stars of the Century " ; Special edition ) , and January 2000 ( " Centerfolds of the Century " ) . In the week following her first Playboy appearance , Mansfield caught Hollywood and media attention by dropping her bikini @-@ top at a press junket for the Jane Russell film Underwater ! ( RKO , 1955 ) .

= = Film career = =

== Career beginnings ( 1954 ? 1955 ) ==

Mansfield 's first film part was a supporting role in Female Jungle , a low @-@ budget drama completed in ten days while she was still a student at UCLA . Her part was filmed over a span of just a few days , and she was paid \$ 150 ( \$ 1 @,@ 000 in 2016 dollars ) . The film was released unofficially in early 1955 . In February 1955 , James Byron , her manager and publicist , negotiated a seven @-@ year contract with Warner Brothers , who were intrigued by her publicity antics . The contract initially paid her \$ 250 a week ( \$ 2 @,@ 000 in 2016 dollars ) and landed her two films ? one for an insignificant role and another unreleased for two years . She filed for separation from Paul Mansfield that January . Mansfield was given bit parts in Pete Kelly 's Blues ( 1955 ) , starring Jack Webb , and Hell on Frisco Bay ( 1955 ) , starring Alan Ladd . She acted in one more movie with Warner Brothers ? another small , but significant role opposite Edward G. Robinson in the courtroom @-@ drama Illegal ( 1955 ) . Dissatisfied with the Warner contract , she hired attorney Greg Bautzer to get out of it .

Then her agent , William Shiffrin , signed her to play fictional film star Rita Marlowe in the Broadway play Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter ? with Orson Bean and Walter Matthau . It became her first major performance , garnering her critical attention , although not always positive , and public popularity . After securing the part in the show , she accepted producer Louis W. Kellman 's offer to play a dramatic role in The Burglar ( 1957 ) , director Paul Wendkos 's film adaptation of David Goodis ' novel . The film was done in film noir style , and Mansfield appeared alongside Dan Duryea and Martha Vickers . The Burglar was released two years later , when Mansfield 's fame was at its peak . She was successful in this straight dramatic role , though most of her subsequent film appearances were either comedic or capitalized on her sex appeal . It was Kellman 's first major venture , and he claimed to have " discovered " Mansfield .

== Film stardom ( 1955 ? 1958 ) ==

Mansfield returned to Hollywood on May 3 , 1956 , wearing a \$ 20 @,@ 000 mink coat ( \$ 174 @,@ 000 in 2016 dollars ) but without any work . Twentieth Century @-@ Fox immediately signed a six @-@ year contract with her in an effort to mold her as a successor to the increasingly difficult Marilyn Monroe , their resident blonde bombshell , who was separated from the studio at the time . Mansfield was still under contract to Broadway and continued playing Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter ? on the stage .

Mansfield received her first starring film role as Jerri Jordan in the Frank Tashlin 's The Girl Can 't Help It ( 1956 ) . The film , originally titled Do @-@ Re @-@ Mi , featured a high @-@ profile cast of contemporary Rock @-@ n @-@ Roll and R & B artists including Gene Vincent , Eddie Cochran , Fats Domino , The Platters , and Little Richard . The Girl Can 't Help It was released in December 1956 and became one of the year 's biggest successes , both critically and financially . Fox thereby bought Mansfield out of her Broadway contract for \$ 100 @,@ 000 ( \$ 870 @,@ 000 in 2016 dollars ) and shut the production of Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter ? down after 444 performances . Soon afterwards , Fox started promoting Mansfield as " Marilyn Monroe king @-@ sized " , in an effort to threaten Monroe to return to the studio and finish the contract she had committed to .

Mansfield then played a dramatic role in The Wayward Bus ( 1957 ) adapted from John Steinbeck 's novel . In this film , she attempted to move away from her " blonde bombshell " image and establish herself as a serious actress . It enjoyed moderate success at the box office , and Mansfield won a Golden Globe in 1957 for New Star of the Year ( beating Carroll Baker and Natalie Wood ) for her performance as a " wistful derelict " . It was " generally conceded to have been her best acting " , according to The New York Times , in a fitful career hampered by her flamboyant image , distinctive voice ( " a soft @-@ voiced coo punctuated with squeals " ) , voluptuous figure and limited acting range .

In 1957 , Tashlin cast Mansfield in the film version of the Broadway show Will Success Spoil Rock

Hunter ? reprising her role of Rita Marlowe alongside co @-@ stars Tony Randall and Joan Blondell . Fox launched their new blonde bombshell with a forty @-@ day sixteen @-@ country tour of Europe for the studio . She attended the premiere of film ( released as Oh ! For a man in the UK ) in London , and met the Queen of England as part of the tour .

Mansfield 's fourth starring role in a Hollywood film was in Kiss Them for Me ( 1957 ) , for which she received prominent billing alongside Cary Grant . However , in the film itself she is little more than comic relief ; Grant 's character prefers a sleek , demure redhead played by fashion model Suzy Parker . Kiss Them for Me was described as " vapid " and " ill @-@ advised " , and was a critical and box office flop . The film was Mansfield 's final starring role in a mainstream Hollywood studio film . It also marked one of the last attempts by 20th Century @-@ Fox to publicize her .

The continuing publicity surrounding Mansfield 's physical appearance failed to sustain her career . Fox gave her a leading role opposite Kenneth More in The Sheriff of Fractured Jaw ( 1958 ) , a western comedy filmed on location in England . In the film Mansfield sang three songs , but the studio had her voiced dubbed by singer Connie Francis . When the film was released in the United States in 1959 , it was Mansfield 's last mainstream film success . Mansfield was offered a part opposite James Stewart and Jack Lemmon in the romantic comedy Bell , Book and Candle ( 1958 ) , but had to turn it down because of her pregnancy . Thereafter , Fox attempted to cast Mansfield opposite Paul Newman in Rally ' Round the Flag , Boys ! ( 1958 ) , his ill @-@ fated first attempt at comedy . After intense lobbying by Newman and Joanne Woodward , however , she was replaced by Mansfield 's Wayward Bus co @-@ star Joan Collins .

= = = Career decline ( 1959 ? 1963 ) = = =

With decreased demand for big @-@ breasted blonde bombshells and an increased negative backlash against her excessive publicity , she became a box @-@ office has @-@ been by the early 1960s , but she remained a popular celebrity , continuing to attract large crowds outside the United States by way of lucrative and successful nightclub acts .

Despite her publicity and popularity , Mansfield had no quality film roles after 1959 . She was also unable to fulfill a third of her time contracted to Fox because of her repeated pregnancies . Fox stopped viewing her as major Hollywood star material , and started loaning her out to foreign productions until the end of her contract in 1962 . She was first loaned out to English studios and then to Italian studios for a series of low @-@ budget films , many of them obscure and some considered lost .

In 1959 , Fox cast her in two independent gangster films filmed in the United Kingdom : The Challenge and Too Hot to Handle . Both films were low @-@ budget , and their American releases were delayed . Too Hot to Handle was not released in the United States until 1961 ( as Playgirl After Dark ) , and The Challenge in 1963 ( as It Takes a Thief ) . In the United States , censors objected to a scene in Too Hot to Handle where Mansfield , wearing silver netting with sequins painted over her nipples , appeared nearly nude .

When Mansfield returned to Hollywood in mid @-@ 1960 , 20th Century @-@ Fox cast her in It Happened in Athens ( 1962 ) . She received first billing above the title , but only appeared in a supporting role . It Happened in Athens starred Trax Colton , a handsome newcomer and an unknown whom Fox was trying to mold into a heartthrob . This Olympic Games @-@ based film was shot in Greece in fall 1960 , but was unreleased until June 1962 . It was a box office failure , and Mansfield 's 20th Century @-@ Fox contract was dropped .

In 1961 , Mansfield signed on for an above @-@ the @-@ title billing minor role in The George Raft Story . Starring Ray Danton as Raft , the film showcased Mansfield as a glamorous film star in a small part . Soon after the release of The George Raft Story , Mansfield returned to European films . Over the next few years she appeared primarily in low @-@ budget foreign films such as : Heimweh nach St. Pauli ( 1963 , Germany ) , L 'Amore Primitivo ( 1964 , Italy ) , Panic Button ( 1964 , Italy ) and Einer frisst den anderen ( 1964 , Germany ) .

In 1963 , Tommy Noonan persuaded Mansfield to become the first mainstream American actress to appear nude in a starring role in the film Promises ! Promises ! . Nude photographs of Mansfield on

the set were published in the June 1963 issue of Playboy , which resulted in obscenity charges against Hugh Hefner in Chicago city court . Promises ! Promises ! was banned in Cleveland , but enjoyed box @-@ office success elsewhere . As a result of the film 's success , Mansfield landed on the Top 10 list of box @-@ office attractions for that year .

= = = Final years ( 1964 ? 1967 ) = = =

Soon after her success in Promises ! Promises ! Mansfield was chosen from many other actresses to replace the recently deceased Marilyn Monroe in Kiss Me , Stupid , a 1964 romantic comedy that would co @-@ star Dean Martin . She turned the role down due to her pregnancy with daughter Mariska Hargitay ( known best for her role as Detective Olivia Benson on the television show Law & Order : Special Victims Unit ) , and was replaced by Kim Novak . That same year , Mansfield appeared in a salacious @-@ for @-@ its @-@ time pinup book called " Jayne Mansfield for President : the White House or Bust , " which was promoted on billboards ; the photographs were taken by commercial and fine art photographer David Attie . In 1966 Mansfield was cast in Single Room Furnished , directed by then @-@ husband Matt Cimber . The film required Mansfield to portray three different characters , and was her first starring dramatic role in several years . It was briefly released in 1966 , but did not enjoy a full release until 1968 , almost a year after her death .

After Single Room Furnished wrapped , Mansfield was cast opposite Mamie Van Doren and Ferlin Husky in The Las Vegas Hillbillies ( 1966 ) , a low @-@ budget comedy from Woolner Brothers . It was her first country and western film , and she promoted it through a 29 @-@ day tour of major U.S. cities , accompanied by Ferlin Husky , Don Bowman , and other country musicians . Before filming began , Mansfield said she would not " share any screen time with the drive @-@ in 's answer to Marilyn Monroe , " meaning Van Doren . Though their characters do share one scene , Mansfield and Van Doren filmed their parts at different times , later edited together .

Mansfield 's wardrobe relied on the shapeless styles of the 1960s to hide her weight gain after the birth of her fifth child . Despite career setbacks , Mansfield remained a highly visible celebrity during the early 1960s , through her publicity antics and stage performances . In early 1967 , Mansfield filmed her last film role : a cameo in A Guide for the Married Man , a comedy starring Walter Matthau , Robert Morse , and Inger Stevens . Mansfield is listed as one of the technical advisers , along with other popular stars in the opening credits .

= = Stage career = =

Mansfield acted both on stage and in films . She was a student of acting , theater arts and dramatics in college and with Baruch Lumet . She started acting with campus clubs and summer stock theatre . Her first big break was on Broadway with Will success spoil Rock Hunter , for which she won a Theatre World Award as the most promising actress . In her later career she was more busy on stage , performing and making appearances with her nightclub acts , club engagements and performance tours . By 1960 , she made personal appearances for everything from supermarket promotions to drug store openings , at \$ 10 @,@ 000 per appearance ( \$ 80 @,@ 000 in 2016 dollars ) .

= = = Theater = = =

During her tenure at Dallas , she and Paul Mansfield participated in a number of local theater productions . Between 1951 and 1953 she acted in The Slaves of Demon Rum , Ten Nights in a Barroom and Anything Goes . Her performance in an October 1953 production of Arthur Miller 's Death of a Salesman in Dallas , Texas , attracted Paramount Pictures to audition her . Lumet trained her for the audition . In 1955 , she went to New York and appeared in the Broadway production of George Axelrod 's comedy Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter ? , also featuring Orson Bean and Walter Matthau . She starred as Rita Marlowe ( a wild , blonde Hollywood starlet a la Monroe ) in the musical spoofing Hollywood in general and Marilyn Monroe in particular . Her wardrobe in the play ,

namely a bath @-@ towel , caused a sensation . Brooks Atkinson of the New York Times described the " commendable abandon " of her scantily clad rendition of Rita Marlowe in the play as " a platinum @-@ pated movie siren with the wavy contours of Marilyn Monroe " . She performed in 450 shows of the play between 1955 and 1956 . She was considered one of the biggest Broadway @-@ to @-@ Hollywood success stories .

In 1964 , she performed in stage productions of Gentlemen Prefer Blondes at Carousel Theater and Bus Stop at Yonker Playhouse . Both co @-@ starred Mickey Hargitay and were well @-@ reviewed . Mansfield toured small towns in the US alternating between the two plays . In 1965 , she performed in another pair of plays ? Rabbit Habit at Latin Quarter and Champagne Complex at Pabst Theater . Both were directed by Matt Cimber and were poorly reviewed .

= = = Nightclub = = =

In February 1958 , Tropicana Las Vegas launched Mansfield 's striptease revue The Tropicana Holiday ( produced by Monte Proser , co @-@ starring Mickey Hargitay ) under a four weeks contract that was extended to eight . The opening night raised \$ 20 @,@ 000 for March of Dimes ( \$ 164 @,@ 000 in 2016 dollars ) . She received \$ 25 @,@ 000 per week for her performance as Trixie Divoon in the show ( \$ 205 @,@ 000 in 2016 dollars ) , while her contract with 20th Century Fox was paying her \$ 2 @,@ 500 per week ( \$ 21 @,@ 000 in 2016 dollars ) . She had a million @-@ dollar policy with Lloyd 's of London in case of Hargitay dropping her as he whirled Mansfield around for the show . When her film offers disappeared , Mansfield turned to Las Vegas again . In December 1960 , Dunes hotel and casino launched Mansfield 's revue The House of Love ( produced by Jack Cole , co @-@ starring Hargitay ) . She received \$ 35 @,@ 000 a week as her salary ( \$ 280 @,@ 000 in 2016 dollars ) , which was the highest in her career .

Her wardrobe for the shows at Tropicana and Dunes featured a gold mesh dress with sequins to cover her nipples and pubic region . That controversial sheer dress was referred to as " Jayne Mansfield and a few sequins " . In early 1963 , she performed in her first club engagement outside Las Vegas , at Plantation Supper Club in Greensboro , North Carolina , earning \$ 23 @,@ 000 in a week ( \$ 178 @,@ 000 in 2016 dollars ) , and then at Iroquois Gardens in Louisville , Kentucky . She returned to Las Vegas in 1966 , but her show was staged at Fremont Street , away from the Strip where Tropicana and Dunes was . Her last nightclub act French Dressing was at Latin Quarter in New York in 1966 , also repeated at Tropicana . It was a modified version of the Tropicana show , and ran for six weeks with fair success .

Her nightclub career became inspirations for films , documentaries and a musical album . 20th Century Fox Records recorded The House of Love for an album entitled Jayne Mansfield Busts Up Las Vegas in 1962 . She played the roles of burlesque entertainer Midnight Franklin in Too Hot to Handle ( 1960 ) and Las Vegas show girl Tawni Downs in The Las Vegas Hillbillies ( 1966 ) . In 1967 , independent documentary Spree ( alternative title Las Vegas by Night ) on the antics of Las Vegas entertainers was released . The film , narrated as a part of a travelogue of Vic Damone and Juliet Prowse , featured Mansfield , Hargitay , Constance Moore and Clara Ward as guest stars . Mansfield strips and sings " Promise Her Anything " from the film Promises ! Promises ! . A court order prohibited using any of the guest stars to promote the film .

= = Television career = =

Mansfield 's first leading role on television was with NBC 's Sunday Spectacular " The Bachelor " in 1956 . In her first appearance on British television in 1957 she recited from Shakespeare ( including a line from Hamlet ) and played piano and violin . Her notable performances in television dramas included episodes of Burke 's Law , Alfred Hitchcock Presents , The Red Skelton Hour ( three episodes ) , Kraft Mystery Theater and Follow the Sun . Mansfield 's performance in her first series Follow the Sun ( " The Dumbest Blonde " ; Season 1 , Episode 21 ; February 4 , 1962 ; produced by 20th Century Fox Television ) was hailed as the advent of " a new and dramatic Jayne Mansfield " . She appeared on a number of game shows including Talk it up , Down You Go ( as a regular

panelist in ) , The Match Game ( one rare episode has her as a team captain ) , and What 's My Line ? ( as a special mystery guest ) .

She performed in a number of variety shows including The Jack Benny Program ( on which she played violin ) , The Steve Allen Show and The Jackie Gleason Show ( during the mid @-@ 1960s , when the show was the second @-@ highest @-@ rated program in the U.S. ) . In November 1957 , she was portrayed in one of her nightclub acts in a special episode of The Perry Como Show ( Holiday in Las Vegas ) , which created " a situation " for the audience according to NBC , the television network that broadcast the show . She was a guest on three episodes of The Bob Hope Show touring team . In 1957 , she toured United States Pacific Command areas of Hawaii , Okinawa , Guam , Tokyo and Korea with Bob Hope for the United Service Organizations for 13 days appearing as a comedian ; and in 1961 , toured Newfoundland , Labrador and Baffin Island for a Christmas special . Her talk show career includes a large number of appearances . She appreciated the publicity and appeared frequently in the talk format . . One of her more notable appearances on a variety show was on The Ed Sullivan Show ( Season 10 , Episode 35 ; May 26 , 1957 ) right after her success with Rock Hunter . In the show she played violin with a six @-@ person back @-@ up . After the show she exclaimed , " Now I am really national . Momma and Dallas see the Ed Sullivan show ! " .

By 1958 , she charged \$ 20 @,@ 000 per episode for television performance ( \$ 164 @,@ 000 in 2016 dollars ) . In 1964 , Mansfield turned down the role of Ginger Grant on the up @-@ and @-@ coming television sitcom Gilligan 's Island . Although her acting roles were becoming marginalized , Mansfield rejected the part as it epitomized the stereotype she wished to rid herself of . The part eventually went to Tina Louise . A widespread rumor that Jayne Mansfield had a breast @-@ flashing dress mishap at the 1957 Academy Awards was found baseless by Academy researchers . Ten days before her death , she read To the Virgins , to Make Much of Time , a poem by Robert Herrick about early death on The Joey Bishop Show ( Mansfield 's last television appearance ) .

As late as the mid @-@ 1980s , Mansfield remained one of the biggest television draws . In 1980 , The Jayne Mansfield Story aired on CBS starring Loni Anderson in the title role and Arnold Schwarzenegger as Mickey Hargitay . It was nominated for three Emmy Awards . She was featured in the A + E Networks TV series Biography in an episode titled Jayne Mansfield : Blonde Ambition . The TV series won an Emmy Award in outstanding non @-@ fiction TV series category in 2001 . A & E again featured her life in another TV serial , Dangerous Curves , in 1999 . In 1988 , her story and archival footage was a part of TV documentary Hollywood Sex Symbols .

= = Music career = =

Mansfield had classical training in piano and violin . She sang in film soundtracks , on stage for her theatrical and nightclub performances , and had singles and albums published . After her death , Mansfield became an inspiration for punk @-@ rock musicians .

= = Soundtracks = =

Mansfield sang in English and German for a number of her films , including The Girl Can 't Help It ( " Ev 'rytime " and " Rock Around the Rock Pile " ) , Illegal ( " Too Marvelous for Words " ) , The Las Vegas Hillbillies ( " That makes it " ) , Too Hot to Handle ( " Too Hot To Handle " , " You Were Made For Me " , " Monsoon " and " Midnight " ) , Homesick for St. Pauli ( " Wo Ist Der Mann " and " Snicksnack Snuckelchen " ) , The Challenge ( " The Challenge of Love " ) , The Sheriff of Fractured Jaw ( " Strolling Down The Lane With Billy " and " If The San Francisco Hills Could Only Talk " ) , and Promises ! Promises ! ( " I 'm in Love " , alternative title " Lullaby of Love " ) . In The Sheriff of Fractured Jaw she lip synced to the voice of Connie Francis for " In The Valley Of Love " , while signing two other songs .

= = Live performances = =

In 1958 , an orchestra was recorded for the 31st Academy Awards ceremony with Jack Benny on first violin , Jayne Mansfield on violin , Dick Powell on trumpet , Robert Mitchum on woodwind , Fred Astaire on drums and Jerry Lewis as conductor ; however , the performance was canceled . She played violin with a six @-@ musician back @-@ up ensemble on The Ed Sullivan Show , and sang " Too Marvelous for Words " for The Jack Benny Program ( " Jack Takes Boat to Hawaii " ; Episode 9 , Season 14 ; November 26 , 1963 ) . She sang in her club performances regularly featuring songs like Call Me , This Queen has her aces in all the right places , Plain Jane , Quando @-@ Quando , Besame Mucho , and the song made famous by Marilyn Monroe ? Diamonds Are a Girl 's Best Friend .

= = = Albums = = =

In 1962 , 20th Century Fox Records released an album titled Jayne Mansfield Busts Up Las Vegas , which was a recording of her Las Vegas revue The House of Love . In 1964 MGM Records released a novelty album called Jayne Mansfield : Shakespeare , Tchaikovsky & Me , in which Mansfield recited Shakespeare 's sonnets and poems by Marlowe , Browning , Wordsworth , and others against a background of Tchaikovsky 's music . The album cover depicted a bouffant @-@ coiffed Mansfield with lips pursed and breasts barely covered by a fur stole , posing between busts of Tchaikovsky and Shakespeare . The New York Times described the album a reading of " 30 @-@ odd poems in a husky , urban , baby voice " . The reviewer went on to remark that " Miss Mansfield is a lady with apparent charms , but reading poetry is not one of them . "

= = = Singles = = =

Jimi Hendrix played bass and added lead in his session musician days for Mansfield in 1965 on two songs ( " As The Clouds Drift By " and " Suey " ) , released as a 45 @-@ rpm single released by London Records in 1966 . Ed Chalpin , the record producer , claimed that Mansfield played all the instruments on the singles . According to Hendrix historian Steven Roby ( Black Gold : The Lost Archives Of Jimi Hendrix , Billboard Books ) , this collaboration occurred because they shared the same manager . Wo ist der Mann sung in German and released by Polydor Records in Austria was much in demand immediately after its release in August 1963 . The A @-@ side featured Hans Last 's Schnicksnack @-@ Snuckelchen . Two original soundtracks from The Las Vegas Hillbillies ? That Makes It ( an answer to The Big Bopper 's " Chantilly Lace " ) on side @-@ A and Little Things Mean a Lot on side @-@ B ? was released in 1964 on the Original Sound label .

= = Personal life = =

Film critic and exploitation movie expert Whitney Williams wrote of Mansfield in Variety in 1967 that " her personal life out @-@ rivaled any of the roles she played " . Mansfield was married three times , divorced twice , and had five children . She was ( reportedly ) intimately involved with numerous individuals , including Claude Terrail ( owner of the Paris restaurant Tour d 'Argent ) , Robert F. Kennedy , John F. Kennedy , Brazilian billionaire Jorge Guinle , her attorney Samuel S. Brody , Las Vegas entertainer Nelson Sardelli , and producer Enrico Bomba . She met John F. Kennedy through his brother @-@ in @-@ law Peter Lawford at Palm Springs , California in 1960 , before he had his alleged affair with Marilyn Monroe , but the alleged affair did not last . At her death , Mansfield was accompanied by Sam Brody , her lawyer and alleged lover at the time .

She had a daughter with her first husband , public relations professional Paul Mansfield . She was the mother of three children from her second marriage to actor / bodybuilder Mickey Hargitay . She also had a son with her third husband , film director Matt Cimber .

= = = First marriage = = =

Jayne met Paul Mansfield , a popular student at Highland Park High School , Dallas , at a party on



Christmas Eve of 1949 . On May 6 , 1950 , they married in Fort Worth , Texas . At the time of their marriage , Jayne was 17 , and three months pregnant . Paul Mansfield was 20 . While most major biographies put the date at May 6 , some sources say the marriage was on May 10 , 1950 . According to biographer Raymond Strait , she had an earlier " secret " marriage on January 28 , after which she conceived her first child . On November 8 , 1950 , Mansfield gave birth to their daughter , Jayne Marie Mansfield . Some sources cite Paul Mansfield as the father of her child , while others allege the pregnancy was the result of date rape .

Paul Mansfield hoped the birth of their child would discourage her interest in acting . When it did not , he agreed to move to Los Angeles in late 1954 to help further her career . In 1952 , she juggled motherhood and classes at the University of Texas . Early in 1952 , Paul was called to the United States Army Reserve for the Korean War . While he served in the army , she spent a year at Camp Gordon , Georgia . Her life became easier with Paul 's army allotment . Coming back from the Korean War in 1954 , he took a job with a small newspaper in East Los Angeles , California , and lived in a small apartment in Van Nuys , Los Angeles , with Jayne and her pets ? a Great Dane , three cats named Sabina , Romulus , and Ophelia , two chihuahuas , a poodle dyed pink , and a rabbit . While in California , she left Jayne Marie with her maternal grandparents and spent the summer semester at UCLA .

After a series of marital rows around Jayne 's ambitions , infidelity , and animals , they decided to annul the marriage . It was a long process . In February 1955 , Jayne filed for separate maintenance , and in August 1956 , Paul filed for custody of their daughter Jayne Marie . Jayne divorced Paul Mansfield in California on October 21 , 1956 . Paul Mansfield divorced her in Texas on March 16 , 1957 , on the grounds of mental cruelty . They finally received their divorce papers on January 8 , 1958 . After the divorce , she decided to keep " Mansfield " as her professional name . Paul Mansfield remarried , settled into the public relations business and moved to Chattanooga , Tennessee ? but failed to win custody suits over Jayne Marie or restrain her from traveling abroad with her mother .

Two weeks before her mother 's death in 1967 , 16 @-@ year @-@ old Jayne Marie accused her mother 's boyfriend at that time , Sam Brody , of beating her . The girl 's statement to officers of the Los Angeles Police Department the following morning implicated her mother in encouraging the abuse , and days later a juvenile court judge awarded temporary custody of Jayne Marie to Paul 's uncle William W. Pigue and his wife Mary . Following her 18th birthday , Jayne Marie complained that she had not received her inheritance from the Mansfield estate or heard from her father since Jayne 's death .

= = = Second marriage = = =

Mansfield met her second husband Mickey Hargitay at the Latin Quarter in New York on May 13 , 1956 , where he was performing as a member of the chorus line in Mae West 's show . Hargitay was an actor and bodybuilder who had won the Mr. Universe competition in 1955 . Mansfield immediately fell for him , which subsequently resulted in a squabble with West . In the ensuing row Mr. California , Chuck Krauser , beat up Hargitay . Krauser was arrested and released on a \$ 300 bond ( \$ 3 @,@ 000 in 2016 dollars ) .

Hargitay proposed to Mansfield with a \$ 5 @,@ 000 10 @-@ carat diamond ring on November 6 , 1957 ( \$ 211 @,@ 000 in 2016 dollars ) , right after she returned from her 40 @-@ day European tour . On January 13 , 1958 , days after her divorce from Paul was finalized , Mansfield married Hargitay at the Wayfarers Chapel in Rancho Palos Verdes , California . The unique glass chapel made public and press viewing of the wedding easy . Mansfield wore a sensational pink skintight wedding gown made of sequins with a 30 @-@ yard flounce .

Hargitay 's first film appearance with Mansfield was a bit part in Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter ? . The couple became a popular publicity and performing team touring widely in stage shows , wherein Jayne 's leopard @-@ spot bikini became a topic of discussion and newspaper coverage . Hargitay 's tossing her around his waist and spinning her in wide circles as a highlight of her shows made more headlines . On screen , he was Mansfield 's male lead in her Italian ventures ? The Loves of

Hercules and L 'Amore Primitivo , and a major supporting character in Promises ! Promises ! . On stage , he was the male lead in The Tropicana Holiday , The House of Love , French Dressing and other nightclub acts .

They were also popular for their personal appearances in television shows such as Bob Hope Christmas Specials . Mansfield and Hargitay had a number of business holdings , including the Hargitay Exercise Equipment Company , Jayne Mansfield Productions , and Eastland Savings and Loan . She co @-@ wrote the autobiographical book Jayne Mansfield 's Wild , Wild World with Hargitay . The book also contained 32 pages of black @-@ and @-@ white photographs from the film on glossy paper .

Mansfield 's son Zoltan was in the news when a lion named Sammy attacked him and bit his neck while he and his mother were visiting the theme park Jungleland USA in Thousand Oaks , California on November 23 , 1966 . He suffered from severe head trauma , underwent three surgeries at Community Memorial Hospital in Ventura , California , including a six @-@ hour brain surgery , and contracted meningitis . He recovered . Mansfield 's attorney Sam Brody sued the theme park on her behalf for \$ 1 @,@ 600 @,@ 000 ( \$ 11 @,@ 355 @,@ 000 in 2016 dollars ) . The negative publicity led to closure of the theme park .

In 1962 , she had a well @-@ publicized affair with Enrico Bomba , the Italian producer and production manager of her film Panic Button . Hargitay accused Bomba of sabotaging their marriage . In 1963 , she had another well @-@ publicized relationship with singer Nelson Sardelli , whom she said she planned to marry when her divorce from Mickey Hargitay was finalized . The couple divorced in Juarez , Mexico , in May 1963 , where Nelson Sardelli accompanied Mansfield in her legal preparations . She had previously filed for divorce on May 4 , 1962 , but told reporters " I 'm sure we will make it up . " Their acrimonious divorce had the actress accusing Hargitay of kidnapping one of her children to force a more favorable financial settlement .

= = = Between marriages = = =

After their divorce , Mansfield discovered she was pregnant . Since being an unwed mother would have killed her career , Mansfield and Hargitay announced they were still married . Mariska was born January 23 , 1964 , after the actual divorce but before California ruled it valid . Mariska later became an actress , best known for her role as Olivia Benson in Law & Order : Special Victims Unit . After her birth , Mansfield sued to get the Juarez divorce declared legal and won . The divorce was recognized in the United States on August 26 , 1964 . Shortly after Mansfield 's funeral , Mickey Hargitay sued his former wife 's estate for more than \$ 275 @,@ 000 ( \$ 1 @.@ 95 million in 2016 dollars ) to support the children whom he and his third ( and last ) wife , Ellen Siano , would raise . Hargitay was appointed the guardian of Micky , Zoltan and Mariska by a court decree in June 1967 , though they went on living with their mother . He married airline stewardess Ellen Siano in 1968 , who accompanied him to New Orleans when he went to pick up his three children with Mansfield after her death . In January 1969 , he lost his claim of \$ 275 @,@ 533 from Mansfield 's estate to support the three children ( \$ 1 @,@ 778 @,@ 000 in 2016 dollars ) . Towards the very end of her life and some time after her divorce with Hargitay , Mansfield told her ex @-@ husband , on a television talk show , she was sorry for all the trouble she gave him .

= = = Third marriage = = =

Mansfield became involved with her third husband Matt Cimber ( a.k.a. Matteo Ottaviano , né Thomas Vitale Ottaviano ) , an Italian @-@ born film director , when he directed her in a well @-@ reviewed stage production of Bus Stop in Yonkers , New York costarring Hargitay . She married him on September 24 , 1964 , in Mulegé , Baja California Sur , Mexico . The couple separated on July 11 , 1965 , and filed for divorce on July 20 , 1966 . Cimber took over the management of her career during their marriage , and guided her through a series of increasingly tawdry projects like Promises , Promises and The Las Vegas Hillbillies . Her marriage to Cimber began to collapse in the wake of Mansfield 's alcohol abuse , open infidelities and her disclosure to Cimber that she had only been

happy with her former lover , Nelson Sardelli . Work on Mansfield 's film , Single Room Furnished directed by Cimber ( 1966 ) was suspended .

Mansfield at the time had descended into alcoholism , drunken brawls and cheap burlesque shows . By July 1966 , Mansfield started living with her attorney Sam Brody , who had frequent drunken brawls with her and mistreated her eldest daughter Jayne Marie . Sam 's wife Beverly Brody filed a divorce suit naming Mansfield as the " 41st other woman " in Sam 's life . Cimber 's divorce from the actress was pending when she was killed . The couple had one son , Antonio Raphael Ottaviano ( a.k.a. Tony Cimber , born October 18 , 1965 ) . Mansfield 's youngest child , Tony was raised by his father , Matt Cimber and his third wife , dress designer Christy Hilliard Hanak , whom he married on December 2 , 1967 . Tony Cimber later worked as an announcer for Married ... with Children and a producer for Gorgeous Ladies of Wrestling .

= = Image = =

She was a major Hollywood sex symbol of the 1950s and early 1960s and 20th Century Fox 's alternative to Marilyn Monroe . She came to be known as the " Working Man 's Monroe " . She was one of Hollywood 's original blonde bombshells , and , although many people have never seen her movies , Mansfield remains one of the most recognizable icons of 1950s celebrity culture .

According to Hollywood historian and biographer James Robert Parish , Mansfield 's hourglass figure ( she claimed dimensions of 40 @-@ 21 @-@ 35 ) , unique sashaying walk , breathy baby talk and cleavage @-@ revealing costumes made a lasting impact on popular culture . According to Hollywood historian Andrew Nelson , she was seen as Hollywood 's gaudiest , boldest D @-@ cupped B @-@ grade actress from 1955 until the early 1960s .

Frequent references have been made to Mansfield 's very high IQ , which she claimed was 163 . In addition to English , she spoke four other languages . She learned French , Spanish , and German in high school , and she studied Italian in 1963 . Reputed to be Hollywood 's " smartest dumb blonde " , she later complained that the public did not care about her brains : " They 're more interested in 40 ? 21 ? 35 , " she said .

= = = Blonde = = =

A natural brunette , Mansfield had her hair bleached and colored platinum blonde when she moved to Los Angeles , and became one of the early " blonde bombshells " , along with Marilyn Monroe , Betty Grable and Mamie Van Doren . In 1958 , she also had her eyebrows dyed platinum . Following Jean Harlow ( who started the trend with her film Bombshell ) , Monroe , Mansfield , Van Doren and Diana Dors helped establish the stereotype typified by a combination of curvaceous physique , very light @-@ colored hair and a perceived lack of intelligence . A review of English @-@ language tabloids shows it to be one of the most persistent blonde stereotypes ? along with busty blonde , and blonde babe .

Mansfield , Monroe and Barbara Windsor have been described as representations of a historical juncture of sexuality in comedy and popular culture . Academics also added Anita Ekberg and Bettie Page to the list of catalysts of the trend of exaggerated female sexuality , besides Mansfield and Monroe . M. Thomas Inge describes Mansfield , Monroe and Jane Russell as personification of the bad girl in popular culture . Monroe , Mansfield , Judy Holliday and Goldie Hawn are also identified to have established the stereotype of the " dumb blonde " , typified by their combination of overt sexuality and apparent inability to understand everyday life . Instead of the asexualized and virginal " nice girls " of earlier films , the pneumatic blonde bombshells took over the screen in the 1950s to become a cult that has been consistently emulated from that era onward . Social historian Joan Jacobs Brumberg described the 1950s as " an era distinguished by its worship of full @-@ breasted women " and attributes the paradigm shift to Mansfield and Monroe . Patricia Vettel @-@ Becker made that observation more specific by attributing the phenomenon to Playboy and the appearance of Mansfield and Monroe in the magazine .

### == Rivalry ==

Throughout her career , Mansfield was compared by the media to the reigning sex symbol of the period , Marilyn Monroe . 20th Century Fox groomed her , as well as Sheree North , to substitute Monroe , their resident " blonde bombshell " , while Universal Pictures launched Van Doren as their substitute . The studio launched Mansfield , their new bombshell , with a grand 40 @-@ day tour of England and Europe from September 25 to November 6 , 1957 . She adopted Monroe 's vocal mannerisms instead of her original husky voice and Texan speech , performed in two plays that were based on Marilyn Monroe vehicles ? Bus Stop and Gentlemen Prefer Blondes , and her role in The Wayward Bus was strongly influenced by Monroe 's character in Bus Stop .

Other studios also tried to find their own version of Monroe . Columbia Pictures tried it with Cleo Moore , Warner Bros. with Carroll Baker , Paramount Pictures with Anita Ekberg , and Metro @-@ Goldwyn @-@ Mayer with Barbara Lang , while Diana Dors was dubbed as England 's answer to Mansfield . Jacqueline Susann wrote , " When one studio has a Marilyn Monroe , every other studio is hiring Jayne Mansfield and Mamie Van Doren . " The crowd of contenders also included Sheree North , Kim Novak , Joi Lansing , Beverly Michaels , Barbara Nichols and Greta Thyssen , and even two brunettes ? Elizabeth Taylor and Jane Russell . Mamie Van Doren , Diana Dors and Kim Novak also acted in various productions of Gentlemen Prefer Blondes . Even when Mansfield 's film roles were drying up she was widely considered Monroe 's primary rival ; Mansfield considered Mamie Van Doren her professional nemesis . At one point , Monroe , Mansfield , and Mamie were known as The Three M 's .

### == Anatomy ==

Because of her striking figure , newspapers in the 1950s routinely published her body measurements , which once led to evangelist Billy Graham exclaiming , " This country knows more about Jayne Mansfield 's statistics than the Second Commandment . " Mansfield claimed a 41 @-@ inch bust line and a 22 @-@ inch waist when she made her Broadway debut in 1955 , though some scholars dispute those figures . She was known as the Cleavage Queen and the Queen of Sex and Bosom .

Mansfield 's breasts fluctuated in size , it was said , from her pregnancies and nursing her five children . Her smallest bust measurement was 40D ( 102 cm ) , which was constant throughout the 1950s , and her largest was 46DD ( 117 cm ) , measured by the press in 1967 . According to Playboy , her vital statistics were 40D @-@ 21 @-@ 36 ( 102 @-@ 53 @-@ 91 cm ) on her 5 ' 6 " ( 1 @.@ 68 m ) frame . According to her autopsy report , she was 5 ' 8 " ( 1 @.@ 73 m ) .

It has been claimed that her bosom was a major force behind the development of the 1950s brassieres , including the whirlpool bra , cuties , the shutter bra , the action bra , latex pads , cleavage @-@ revealing designs , and uplifted outlines . R. L. Rutsky and Bill Osgerby have claimed that it was Mansfield , along with Marilyn Monroe and Brigitte Bardot , who made the bikini popular . Drawing on the Freudian concept of fetishism , British science fiction writer and socio @-@ cultural commentator J. G. Ballard commented that Mae West , Mansfield and Monroe 's breasts " loomed across the horizon of popular consciousness . " But , as the 1960s approached , according to Dave Kehr , the anatomy that had made her a star turned her into a joke . In this decade , the female body ideal shifted to appreciate the slim waif @-@ like features popularized by supermodel Twiggy , actress Audrey Hepburn and others , demarcating the demise of the busty blonde bombshells .

### == Publicity ==

Mansfield 's publicity drive was one of the best in Hollywood . For publicity she gave up all privacy , keeping her doors always open to photographers . In 1954 , the day before Christmas she walked into publicist James Byron 's office with a gift and asked him to supervise her publicity . From that time till the end of 1961 , Byron shaped much of her publicity . Byron appointed most people in her

team ? William Shiffrin ( press agent ) , Greg Bautzer ( attorney ) and Charles Goldring ( business manager ) , and constantly planted bits of publicity material in the media . She appeared in about 2 @, @ 500 newspaper photographs between September 1956 and May 1957 , and had about 122 @, @ 000 lines of newspaper copy written about her during this time .

Because of the successful media blitz , she quickly became a household name . In 1960 , Mansfield topped press polls for more words in print than anyone else in the world , made more personal appearances than a political candidate , and was regarded as the world 's most @-@ photographed Hollywood celebrity . She made news on a regular basis , from dresses falling off , to clothing that burst strategically at the seams , to low cut dresses worn without a bra . Things started to get over the top , even by her standards , when she took charge of her own publicity without advice . According to Shiffrin , " She became a freak . " James Bacon wrote in the Los Angeles Herald @-@ Examiner in 1973 , " Here was a girl with real comedy talent , spectacular figure and looks and yet ridiculed herself out of business by outlandish publicity . "

Mansfield received her first truly negative publicity when she and Hargitay pleaded poverty when Mary Hargitay requested additional child support for Tina Hargitay in September 1958 . Mary was Mickey 's first wife , divorced on September 6 , 1956 , and Tina his nine @-@ year @-@ old first child . Mansfield said that she slept on the floor of her mansion , was unable to buy furniture , and spent only \$ 71 on Jayne Marie ( \$ 1 @, @ 000 in 2016 dollars ) . During this marriage she had three children , Miklós Jeffrey Palmer Hargitay ( born December 21 , 1958 ) , Zoltán Anthony Hargitay ( born August 1 , 1960 ) , and Mariska Hargitay ( born January 23 , 1964 ) .

= = = Publicity stunts = = =

In January 1955 Mansfield appeared at a Silver Springs , Florida , press junket promoting the film Underwater ! , starring Jane Russell . Mansfield purposely wore a too @-@ small red bikini , lent to her by photographer friend Peter Gowland . When she dove into the pool for photographers , her top came off , creating a burst of media attention . The ensuing publicity led to Warner Bros. and Playboy approaching her with offers . In June 8 of the same year , her dress fell down to her waist twice in a single evening ? once at a movie party , and later at a nightclub . In February 1958 , she was stripped to the waist at a Mardi Gras party in Rio de Janeiro . In June 1962 , she shimmied out of her polka @-@ dot dress in a Rome nightclub . In the three years since making her Broadway debut in Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter ? , Mansfield had become the most controversial star of the decade .

In April 1957 , her breasts were the focus of a notorious publicity stunt intended to deflect media attention from Sophia Loren during a dinner party in the Italian star 's honor . Photographs of the encounter were published around the world . The best @-@ known photo showed Loren 's gaze falling on the cleavage of the American actress ( who was seated between Loren and her dinner companion , Clifton Webb ) when Mansfield leaned over the table , allowing her breasts to spill over her low neckline and exposing one nipple . The Jayne Mansfield @-@ Sophia Loren photo inspired a number of later photographers . The photograph of that episode was a UPI sensation , appearing in newspapers and magazines with the word " censored " hiding the actress 's exposed bosom .

At the same time , the world 's media were quick to condemn Mansfield 's stunts . One editorial columnist wrote , " We are amused when Miss Mansfield strains to pull in her stomach to fill out her bikini better ; but we get angry when career @-@ seeking women , shady ladies , and certain starlets and actresses ... use every opportunity to display their anatomy unasked " . By the late 1950s , Mansfield began to generate a great deal of negative publicity because of repeated exposure of her breasts in carefully staged public " accidents " . Richard Blackwell , her wardrobe designer ( who also designed for Jane Russell , Dorothy Lamour , Peggy Lee and Nancy Reagan ) , dropped her from his client list because of those accidents . In April 1967 , Los Angeles Times wrote , " She confuses publicity and notoriety with stardom and celebrity and the result is very distasteful to the public . "

= = = Signature color = = =

Mansfield adopted pink as her color in 1954 and was associated with pink for the rest of her career . Her original choice was purple , but she thought it too close to lavender , Kim Novak 's signature color . " It must have been the right decision , " she said , " because I got more column space from pink than Kim Novak ever did from lavender . " For her wedding to Hargitay she wore a tight @-@ fitting gown of pink lace with a flounce of 30 yards of pink tulle ( designed by a 20th Century @-@ Fox costume designer ) , and at the reception she had Hargitay drink pink champagne . In November 1957 ( shortly before their marriage ) , Mansfield bought the 40 @-@ room Mediterranean @-@ style mansion ( formerly owned by Rudy Vallée ) at 10100 Sunset Boulevard in Beverly Hills . Much of the money to buy the house came from her inheritance from Elmer Palmer , her maternal grandfather . Mansfield had the house painted pink , with cupids surrounded by pink fluorescent lights , pink fur in the bathrooms , a pink heart @-@ shaped bathtub and a fountain spurting pink champagne ; she then dubbed it the " Pink Palace " . Hargitay ( a plumber and carpenter before taking up bodybuilding ) built the pink heart @-@ shaped swimming pool . The year after reconstructing the " Pink Palace " as a " pink landmark " , she began riding a pink Cadillac Eldorado Biarritz convertible with tailfins , then the only pink Cadillac in Hollywood . Though Elvis Presley 's Pink Cadillac came about in 1955 , it was in Memphis , Tennessee .

= = = Religion = = =

In August 1963 , Jayne Mansfield decided to convert to Catholicism . Although she never actually converted , she did attend Catholic services when she was in Europe , and followed Catholic practices when she was involved with a Catholic partner ( including Hargitay , Sardelli and Cimber ) .

In May 1967 , her performance at the Mount Brandon Hotel in Tralee , Ireland , was canceled because Catholic clergy condemned it . She wanted to marry Cimber in a Catholic ceremony , but was unable to find a priest who would perform the ceremony . While involved with Brody , she also showed interest in Judaism .

In San Francisco for the 1966 Film Festival , Mansfield visited the Church of Satan with Sam Brody ( her lawyer and boyfriend ) to meet Anton LaVey , the church 's founder . LaVey awarded Mansfield a medallion and the title " High Priestess of San Francisco 's Church of Satan " . The media enthusiastically covered the meeting and the events surrounding it , identifying her as a Satanist and romantically involved with LaVey . That meeting remained a much @-@ publicized and oft @-@ quoted event of her life , as well as the history of the Church of Satan . Additionally , Karla LaVey confirmed in a 1992 interview with Joan Rivers that Mansfield was indeed a practicing Satanist and that she had a romantic relationship with Anton LaVey . Her funeral ceremony was conducted by a Methodist minister .

= = Death = =

Mansfield was in Biloxi , Mississippi , for an engagement at the Gus Stevens Supper Club . After two appearances the evening of June 28 , 1967 , Mansfield , her lover Sam Brody , their driver Ronnie Harrison ( age 20 ) , and three of Mansfield 's children ? Miklós , Zoltán and Mariska ? departed Biloxi after midnight in Stevens ' 1966 Buick Electra 225 . Their destination was New Orleans , where Mansfield was scheduled to appear on WDSU 's " Midday Show " at noon the next day . At approximately 2 : 29 a.m. , on U.S. Highway 90 east of the Rigolets Bridge ( at approximately 30 ° 05 ' 26 " N 89 ° 46 ' 54 " W ) the Buick crashed at high speed into the rear of a tractor @-@ trailer that had slowed behind a truck spraying mosquito fogger and which was shrouded in the insecticide fog . The three adults in the front seat were killed instantly . The children , who were asleep in the rear seat , survived with minor injuries .

Reports that Mansfield was decapitated are untrue , although she suffered severe head trauma . The urban legend was spawned by the appearance in police photographs of a crashed car with its top virtually sheared off , and what resembled a blonde @-@ haired head tangled in the car 's

smashed windshield . However , this was a wig Mansfield was wearing and possibly parts of her actual hair and scalp . The death certificate stated that the immediate cause of Mansfield 's death was a " crushed skull with avulsion of cranium and brain " . After her death , the NHTSA recommended requiring an underride guard ( a strong bar made of steel tubing ) on all tractor @-@ trailers , although the trucking industry was slow to adopt this change . This bar is known as a " Mansfield bar " , or an " ICC bar " .

Mansfield 's funeral took place on July 3 in Pen Argyl , Pennsylvania . It was conducted by Rev. Charles Montgomery , a pastor of the Zion Methodist Church ( which was later destroyed by fire in February 1970 and rebuilt as Grace United Methodist Church ) . The funeral was private , a service held at the chapel of the Pullis Funeral Home . Of her three husbands , only Mickey Hargitay was present at the funeral . She is interred in Fairview Cemetery , southeast of Pen Argyl , beside her father Herbert William Palmer . Her heart @-@ shaped gravestone reads , " We Live to Love You More Each Day " . A cenotaph was placed in the Hollywood Forever Cemetery in Hollywood by the Jayne Mansfield Fan Club , but incorrectly cites her year of birth as 1938 ( Mansfield tended to provide incorrect information about her age ) . In 1968 , two wrongful @-@ death lawsuits were filed on behalf of Jayne Marie Mansfield and Matt Cimber , the former for \$ 4 @.@ 8 million ( \$ 40 @.@ 4 million in 2016 dollars ) and the latter for \$ 2 @.@ 7 million ( \$ 22 @.@ 7 million in 2016 dollars ) .

= = Recognition = =

In February 1955 , Mansfield was the Playmate of the Month in Playboy , in which she subsequently appeared more than 30 times .

She received a Theatre World Award ( Promising Personality ) for Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter ? in 1956 .

She received a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on February 8 , 1960 for her contribution to motion pictures .

She received a Golden Globe Award ( New Star of the year , Actress ) for Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter ? in 1957 .

On Mother 's Day of 1960 , the Mildred Strauss Child Care Chapter of Mount Sinai Hospital , New York City declared her family as the " Family of the Year " .

Italian film , radio and television journalists awarded her the Silver Mask award in 1962 .

Mansfield received the Oscar of the Two World award in Italy .

In 1963 , Mansfield was voted one of the top @-@ 10 box @-@ office attractions by an organization of American theater owners for her performance in Promises ! Promises ! ( a film banned in parts of the U.S. ) .

In 1968 , Hollywood Publicists Guild declared a " Jayne Mansfield Award " would be given to the actress who received the maximum exposure and publicity in a year . Raquel Welch was the first winner of the award in 1969 .

= = Legacy = =

Mansfield left behind five children , three ex @-@ husbands , a crumbling estate including the Pink Palace , a large number of followers , and a lasting impact on popular culture .

= = = Estate = = =

After Mansfield 's death , Hargitay , Cimbers , Vera Peers ( Jayne Mansfield 's mother ) , William Pigue ( Jayne Marie 's legal guardian ) , and Charles Goldring ( Jayne Mansfield 's business manager ) , as well as Bernard B. Cohen and Jerome Webber ( both administrators of the estate ) filed suits to gain control of her estate without success . Mansfield 's estate was appraised initially at \$ 600 @,@ 000 ( \$ 3 @,@ 506 @,@ 000 in 2016 dollars ) , including the " Pink Palace " estimated at \$ 100 @,@ 000 ( \$ 584 @,@ 000 in 2016 dollars ) , a sports car sold for \$ 7 @,@ 000 ( \$ 41

@, @ 000 in 2016 dollars ) , her jewelry , and Sam Brody 's \$ 185 @, @ 000 estate left to her by his last testimony ( \$ 1 @, @ 081 @, @ 000 in 2016 dollars ) . In 1971 , Beverly Brody sued the Mansfield estate for \$ 325 @, @ 000 ( \$ 1 @, @ 899 @, @ 000 in 2016 dollars ) worth of presents and jewelry given to Jayne by Sam Brody , which was settled out of court . However , four of her elder children ( Jayne Marie , Mickey , Zoltan and Mariska ) went to court in 1977 to find that approximately \$ 500 @, @ 000 in debt that Mansfield had incurred ( \$ 2 @, @ 922 @, @ 000 in 2016 dollars ) , including \$ 11 @, @ 000 for lingerie ( \$ 64 @, @ 000 in 2016 dollars ) , \$ 11 @, @ 600 for plumbing of the heart @-@ shaped swimming pool ( \$ 68 @, @ 000 in 2016 dollars ) , and litigation had left the estate insolvent .

The Pink Palace was sold . Its subsequent owners included Ringo Starr , Cass Elliot and Engelbert Humperdinck . In 2002 Humperdinck sold it to developers , and the house was demolished in November of that year . What remained of her estate subsequently came under the management of CMG Worldwide , an intellectual property @-@ management company .

= = = Following = = =

Several entertainers have been dubbed as the " new Jayne Mansfield " , including Italian actress Marisa Allasio and professional wrestler Missy Hyatt . Actress , model and Playmate of the Year ( 1993 ) Anna Nicole Smith was dubbed " a Jayne Mansfield for the ' 90s " because of her physical resemblance to Mansfield , similar desperation , and a mix of glamour and tragedy . Drag queen and actor Divine was selected by film maker John Waters to parody Mansfield in Mondo Trasho .

By the mid @-@ 1950s , there were many Jayne Mansfield fanclubs in United States and outside . The Jayne Mansfield Fan Club , headed by Sabin Gray , was very active in the 1980s , and was cited by Los Angeles Daily News as one of the major fan clubs for a Hollywood star . In 1992 , a second fan club named Simply Davoon was founded by Mike DiGiacomo , which lent its picture collection to Jocelyn Faris to illustrate Jayne Mansfield : A bio bibliography . Frank Ferruccio , head of Mansfield 's Online Fan Club , lent his collection of Mansfield memorabilia to Slate Belt Heritage Center in Bangor , Pennsylvania , wrote two books on her , and organized a large fan gathering on her 75th birthday at Fairview Cemetery . Farruccio and the Online Fan Club has been visiting her grave in Pen Argyl with a fans to commemorate her birth and death anniversaries since the mid @-@ 1990s on her birthdays .

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