



Name: Helen Hayes

Years: Oct. 10, 1900 - March 17, 1993

Residence: Nyack, NY

Brief biography:

Helen Hayes was born in Washington D.C., where she spent her early life and began her acting career at age five on the stage and age ten on the screen. Helen met Charlie MacArthur, a journalist and playwright, at a party and they were married until his death in 1956. They had a daughter, Mary (who sadly died of polio at age 19), and adopted a son, James. Helen acted in an incredible number of stage productions, films and television shows for the duration of her career. She retired from the stage in 1971 because of respiratory problems that were agitated by stage dust, and was active on the big and small screens until 1986. She died in Nyack, NY, in 1993 of heart failure after living a very full life. Helen won the Academy Award for Best Actress for her work in *The Sin of Madelon Claudet*, which was also her first sound film, as well as the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress in *Airport*. Despite critical success, she preferred acting on stage to movies. For that work, she received a total of four Tony Awards: two for Best Performance by a Leading Lady in a Play, and two achievement awards. Hayes also won a Grammy and an Emmy, and was the second

person to receive the four big awards (Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, Tony). Helen also has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Helen has been commemorated in many ways. The Fulton Theatre was renamed after her in 1955; however, it was much later demolished. In 1983 the Little Theater on West 45th Street was re-named The Helen Hayes Theatre in her honor, as was a theatre in Nyack. The Helen Hayes Awards in Washington, DC, are also named for her.

Major achievements:

Winner of two Academy Awards (Best Actress, Best Supporting Actress), an Emmy (Best Actress), four Tony Awards (two Best Performance by a Leading Lady in a Play, Vernon Rice-Drama Desk Award, Lawrence Langner Memorial Award), a Grammy (Best Spoken Word), and many other achievements cofounded the National Wildflower Research Center (now Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center)

For more information:

Hayes' memoirs: *A Gift of Joy*, *On Reflection*, and *My Life in Three Acts*

Resources:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helen_Hayes

<http://www.helenhayes.com/>