

Hume Cronyn wikipedia

Hume Blake Cronyn, OC (July 18, 1911 – June 15, 2003) was a Canadian-American actor and writer who enjoyed a long career, often appearing professionally alongside his second wife, Jessica Tandy.

Age-Old Friends is a 1989 television drama film directed by Allan Kroeker and starring Hume Cronyn and Vincent Gardenia, who won Primetime Emmy Awards for their performances. It was written by Bob Larbey, based on his play A Month of Sundays.

The Los Angeles Times raved, "HBO tonight gives us the performance of the season in the story of the season. Hume Cronyn and Age-Old Friends are that outstanding."

Hume Cronyn won a Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Miniseries or Movie; and Vincent Gardenia won Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Miniseries or Movie.

While at the University of Toronto he enlisted in The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada and served during the North-West Rebellion of 1885 and fought in the Battle of Cut Knife. Afterwards he joined the 7th Fusiliers, and served as Major from 1899 to 1907.

An Anglican, he married Frances Amelia Labatt, second daughter of John Labatt, in 1892. He had three sons and two daughters, including Hume Cronyn the actor.

The Seventh Cross is a 1944 American drama film, set in Nazi Germany, starring Spencer Tracy as a prisoner who escaped from a concentration camp. The story chronicles how he interacts with ordinary Germans and gradually sheds his cynical view of humanity.

The film co-starred Hume Cronyn, who was nominated for the Oscar for Best Supporting Actor. It was the first film in which Cronyn appeared with his wife Jessica Tandy, and was among the first feature films directed by Fred Zinnemann; it was his first hit movie.

The movie was adapted from the 1942 novel of the same name by the German refugee writer Anna Seghers. Produced in the midst of the Second World War, it was one of the few films made during the war to deal with the existence of Nazi concentration camps.

In 1936 in Germany, seven prisoners escape from the fictitious Westhofen concentration camp (partly based on the real Osthofen concentration camp) near the Rhine. The escapees are: a writer, a circus performer, a schoolmaster, a farmer, a Jewish grocery clerk, George Heisler, and his friend, Wallau.

The camp commandant erects a row of seven crosses and vows to "put a man on each". The first to be apprehended is Wallau, who dies without giving up any information. With the dead Wallau narrating, the film follows Heisler as he makes his way across the German countryside, stealing a jacket to cover his prison garb. The Nazis round up other escaped prisoners, where they are returned to the camp and hung on crosses, suspended by their arms tied behind their backs. Through it all, the local population seems largely indifferent.

Anna Seghers, the author of the novel from which this movie was adapted, was a Communist, and Wallau and Heisler were Communists in the book. In Helen Deutsch's script, their political affiliation is not given. The political thrust of the film is thus about the anti-Fascist German resistance. Refugees from Nazi Germany played many small roles, with the small uncredited bit part of a janitor played by Helene Weigel, the prominent German actress and wife of Bertolt Brecht. Hugh Beaumont has an uncredited role as a truck driver.

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