celebs

Tributes pour in after 'Friends' actor Matthew Perry's shock death

AFP | Los Angeles

Shock over the sudden death of "Friends" star Matthew Perry rippled through Hollywood and beyond, as the beloved sitcom's creators paid tribute to the actor and fans gathered outside the New York apartment building featured on the show.

Perry, 54, was known globally for his portrayal of wise-cracking character Chandler Bing on the wildly popular "Friends," which ran for 10 seasons from 1994 to 2004.

First responders found Perry unconscious in a hot tub at his house Saturday and were unable to revive him, law enforcement sources told the Los Angeles Times.

Perry had battled addiction and serious health problems for years, but the sudden death of a man who delivered laughter into millions of homes was a gut-punch for those who knew him -- or who felt like they did.

"We are heartbroken by the tragic loss of our beloved son and brother," Perry's family said in a statement to People magazine. "Matthew brought so much joy to the world, both as an actor and a friend."

This was "The One Where Our Hearts Are Broken," co-creators Marta Kauffman and David Crane as well executive producer Kevin Bright said in a joint statement alluding to the titles of "Friends" episodes.

"We are shocked and deeply, deeply saddened... It still seems impossible," they said in the statement sent to AFP.

"We will always cherish the joy, the light, the blinding intelligence he brought to every moment -- not just to his work, but in life as well.

"He was always the funniest person in the room. More than that, he was the sweetest, with a giving and selfless heart."

In Los Angeles, people gathered before Perry's house to lay flowers.

And in New York's West Village, fans converged outside the "Friends" apartment building.

"I just wanted to pay my respects," said 26-year-old Canadian visitor Taylor Lanthier, who said Perry had "had a very impactful role in my life and always has given me tons of laughs."

Matthew Perry

There was no immediate public reaction from the rest of the main "Friends" cast, though Maggie Wheeler -- who played Chandler's annoying on-again, off-again girlfriend Janice -- posted a photo of them together on Instagram.

"What a loss. The world will miss you Matthew Perry," she wrote.

And Morgan Fairchild, who played Chandler's mother, wrote that she was "heartbroken."

"The loss of such a brilliant young actor is a shock," she posted on X.

"Friends," which followed the lives of six New Yorkers navigating adulthood, dating and careers, drew a massive global following.

But even as he delivered on-air gag after gag -- and earned a fortune -- Perry was struggling.

He attended multiple rehabilitation clinics to combat addiction to painkillers and alcohol. In 2018 he suffered a burst colon, related to drug usage, and underwent multiple surgeries.

In his memoir "Friends, Lovers and the Big Terrible Thing," published last year, Perry described going through detox dozens of times. He dedicated the book to "all of the sufferers out there," and wrote in the prologue: "I should be dead."

"I have mostly been sober since 2001," he wrote, "save for about sixty or seventy little mishaps over the years."

TMZ, which first reported the news of Perry's death, said no drugs were found at the scene. The Los Angeles Times and TMZ both said there were no signs of foul play, citing anonymous sources.

Perry was born in Massachusetts, then raised between Montreal and Los Angeles after his parents separated.

His father was a US actor and his mother a Canadian journalist who worked as a spokesperson for Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau.

Mark Wahlberg on why he works out so much: 'I want to live a long time!'

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Mark Wahlberg stays in shape because he wants to live for as long as possible

The 52-year-old actor underwent intense physical training for roles in his films 'Pain and Gain' and 'Infinite' and whilst initially, his efforts were about how he looked, he now stays in shape because he wants to make sure he is around for a long time.

He told People: "For me, now, it's much more about longevity than anything else. You know? Before it was about aesthetic when trying to get in shape. I want to live a long time. I feel better getting up early. If I don't work out in the morning, I have a really hard time doing it towards the end of the day."

The 'Unchartered' star went on to add that whilst he often feels like taking a day off if he "cuts corners" with his fitness regime then he will no longer be at his best as he encouraged others to take up some form of daily exercise.

He said: "I feel like [skipping the gym] every day but know what the feeling is going to be like after. That's hard to duplicate." If I cut corners, then I can't be at my best. Everything that I've done, that I've been successful at, is done by doing the work. I encourage everybody, even if you just work out for 10 minutes, you're going to feel better. We're all very fortunate and blessed. You want to live as long as possible. You want to be able to move, and certainly, you got to do it.

"Throughout the week, it gets progressively more difficult. But the great thing about F45 is that you can go at your own pace."

Mark Wahlberg

Jada Pinkett-Smith reveals she used to consider suicide: 'I couldn't figure another way out!'

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Jada Pinkett-Smith used to consider taking her own life.

The 52-year-old actress - who has children Jaden, 25, and 22-year-old Willow with estranged husband Will Smith - revealed that upon turning 40 she was in "so much pain" despite living her dream in Hollywood and used to look for places where she could stage her death as an accident so she could hide the truth from her family.

She told People: "When I turned 40, I was in so much pain. I couldn't figure a way out besides death. So I made a plan. But, while I was really living the dream, I hit a huge wall — a massive amount of depression. I think that I looked at having outside sources to supplement for the voids that I was feeling inside. I started looking for places, cliffs where I could have an accident, because I didn't want my kids to think that their mother had committed suicide."

Jada Pinkett-Smith

Kesha is 'out of her comfort zone' on first dates

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Kesha feels she's out of her comfort zone whenever she goes on a first date.

The 36-year-old pop star is always anxious before her dates - but she's fortunate to have a strong support system around her.

The 'Tik Tok' hitmaker - who prefers not to label her sexuality, having previously identified as bisexual - told PEOPLE: "My best friend is so great. She'll just sit on the other side of the bar and be like, 'Give me a signal.'"

Kesha also revealed that she feels nervous whenever she boards a flight.

The singer shared: "I get nervous every time I fly - whenever the plane takes off, wherever we land. I just annoy the person next to me and make them hold my hand."

Kesha

Meanwhile, in 2022, Kesha took to social media to discuss her sexuality.

The pop star explained that she couldn't put a label on her sexuality.

She wrote on Instagram at the time: "Happy pride! In case I haven't been straight forward enough (LOL) I just wanted to take a sec to tell everyone that you are not only enough, just as you are, but the world is so lucky to have you.

"I'm not gay. I'm not straight. I don't know what I am. I love people. I love people because we are all our own little consciousness journeys, dancing around the sun [sun emoji]

"How weird and interesting and fun this life is, right? I refuse to be anything, really, except for open to it all ? I know it can be confusing sometimes, but you are so seen and loved. Love u animals, happy pride (sic)."

SUDOKU

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9				4				
			3				4	7
	4			2		6		
		7				3		
		3		8			5	
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				3				4
	3	1	8				9	

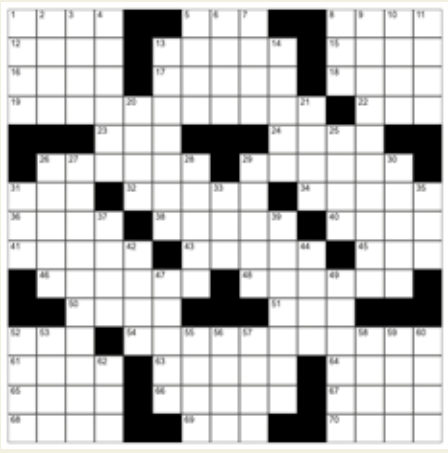
Yesterday's solution

2	3	9	8	7	1	5	4	6
7	8	4	6	5	2	1	9	3
6	1	5	4	3	9	7	8	2
3	2	1	9	8	5	4	6	7
5	4	7	3	2	6	9	1	8
8	9	6	7	1	4	2	3	5
9	5	3	2	4	8	6	7	1
4	7	2	1	6	3	8	5	9
1	6	8	5	9	7	3	2	4

How to play

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

CROSSWORD



Across

1- Benny, Björn, Anni-Frid, and Agnetha; 5- Acquire; 8- Let's just leave __ that; 12- __-do-well; 13- State of confusion; 15- Free from contamination; 16- Chinese weight; 17- Cover story; 18- Hurler Hershiser; 19- Floating above the surface; 22- Close friend; 23- Nope; 24- Story; 26- Handy; 29- Powerful; 31- Polo Grounds legend; 32- Govt. security; 34- Put __ to (halt); 36- Bouillabaisse, e.g.; 38- Walk; 40- Drinks slowly; 41- Strange and mysterious; 43- Cinder; 45- It may be picked; 46- Trust; 48- Be right with ya; 50- Other, in Oaxaca; 51- Plant juice; 52- Frequently, in verse; 54- Freed; 61- Purchases; 63- Fold; 64- Function; 65- Little devils; 66- Torment; 67- Periods of history; 68- Watchful one; 69- "As if!"; 70- Unpleasantly moist;

Down

1- Farm dwellers; 2- Boyfriend; 3- Page; 4- She's a Dahl; 5- Arizona river; 6- Way out; 7- Big brass; 8- Wall St. debut; 9- Oil derived from the resin of pine trees; 10- Specialty; 11- Blab; 13- Organized search for a criminal; 14- Old Ford; 20- Floating platform; 21- Parting word; 25- Not so much; 26- Say; 27- Anything unoriginal; 28- "Arabesque" actress; 29- Singer Bryson; 30- Theme; 31- Sugary suffix; 33- President pro __; 35- L.A. clock setting; 37- Wither; 39- Compactness; 42- Bronte heroine; 44- Get as a result; 47- Pizazz; 49- Was merciful to; 52- Village Voice award; 53- Fumelike; 55- King of comedy; 56- Emperor of Rome 54-68; 57- Wagon; 58- When said three times, a 1970 war movie; 59- Dash; 60- Writing table; 62- Georgia, once: Abbr.;

Yesterday's solution