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Phyllis Somerville dead: **The Big C and To Kill A Mockingbird** actress dies aged 76

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PHYLLIS SOMERVILLE - who has starred in the likes of The Big C, Little Children, Outsiders and Broadway's To Kill A Mockingbird - has died aged 76.

Phyllis Somerville stars in Surviving Family in 2012

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Actress Phyllis Somerville has died aged 76. The star's death was confirmed to Deadline news by her manager.

TRENDING



[James Jordan inundated with support after heartbreaking news 'Worst time of my life'](https://www.express.co.uk/celebrity-news/1310555/James-Jordan-dad-health-tumour-instagram-family-news-latest)

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The American actress died from natural causes at her home yesterday.

In her 60-year career, she starred in the likes of Little Children, The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, Surviving Family, The Big C and Outsiders.

As well as her famous on-screen roles, Phyllis was also known for her work in Broadway.

She made her Broadway debut as Wilma in the musical Over Here! in 1974.

READ MORE: [James Jordan inundated with support after heartbreaking news](https://celebrity-news/1310555/James-Jordan-dad-health-tumour-instagram-family-news-latest) ((celebrity-news/1310555/James-Jordan-dad-health-tumour-instagram-family-news-latest))



Phyllis Somerville has died aged 76 (Image: GETTY)



Phyllis Somerville dead: The actress played Marlene in The Big C (Image: PH)



Phyllis Somerville dead: The actress died from natural causes at her home (Image: GETTY)

Most recently, Phyllis appeared on Broadway in the original cast of Aaron Sorkin's 2018 adaptation of *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Phyllis previously opened up about her role as Marlene in *The Big C* and the show's approach to cancer.

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Opening up in 2010 to AARP, she said: "I like humour that's dark.

"Having had people in my family die, there was never a moment at any of the funerals where we didn't get into some kind of giggle fit.

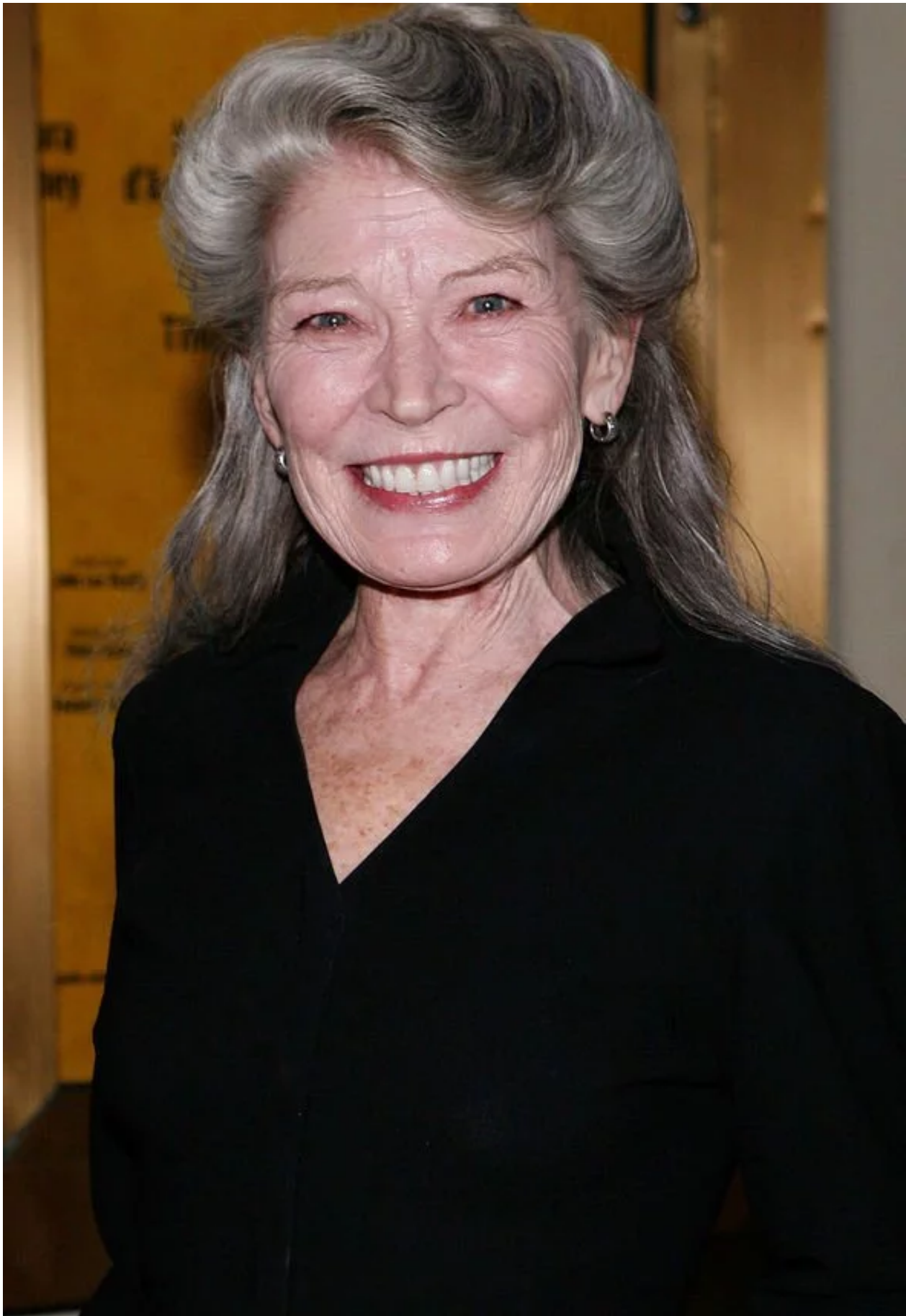


Kate Garraway: Peter Andre's wife addresses star's husband's health

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Phyllis Somerville dead: The actress as her character May McGorvey in the Little Children (Image: PH)



Phyllis Somerville dead: Tributes have flooded in for the late actress on social media (Image: GETTY)

“When your emotions are that close to the edge, there has to be laughter. I think that’s really good theatre, and I think these scripts do that very well.”

In *Little Children*, Phyllis portrayed the mother of Jackie Earle Haley’s child molester character.

When asked how she sympathised with the role, she added: “Maybe it’s easier when it’s something you know nothing about, because I haven’t been a mother.

"But I think that love is just there — she sees the good in him. She knew who he was but loved him anyway, and she never gave up hope.

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"That's who she was. She wasn't about to give up on her son."

In 2012, the actress scooped the award for Best Supporting Actress at the Golden Door Film Festival for her role as Aunt Mary in Surviving Family.

Four years later, she won the same gong for her role in the 2015 drama Stuff at the Long Island International Film Expo.

Tributes have flooded in for the popular actress on social media this evening.

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One fan wrote: "The theatre just got less talented, less ballsy, and less fun.

"Rest in Peace, dear Phyllis Somerville. A great actor, brilliant always, and a LabTheaterNYC member."

Another tweeted: "Rip Marlene, Phyllis Somerville. Wonderful actress."

"RIP to the always wonderful and reliable Phyllis Somerville. Always a welcome presence on stage and screen," a third wrote.

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