

Actress Inna Churikova Dies at 79

Churikova was one of Russia's most beloved actresses.

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Inna Churikova at premiere of "Ivan Denisovich" 2021 **Alexander Avilov/Moskva New Agency**

Inna Churikova, one of the most celebrated and prolific actresses of the Soviet Union and Russia, died on Saturday at the age of 79. The cause of death was [reported](#) to be heart failure, although she had been in poor health for several months.

Churikova was born in 1943 in what is now Bashkortostan, where she and her mother were evacuated during the war. Later they moved to Moscow where Churikova began to pursue a career on the stage at while still in grade school. By age 15 she was already performing in the youth studio of the Stanislavsky Theater. She was accepted at the prestigious Shchepkin Theater Institute on her third try, and upon graduation worked at the Young People's Theater and then Lenkom, where under director Mark Zakharov she became one of the theater's and country's most popular performers.

In addition to her work in the theater, she performed in more than 80 films, including "That Very Munchausen" (1979) written by Grigory Gorin and directed by Mark Zakharov;

“Wartime Romance” (1983) directed by Pyotr Todorovsky; and “The Chicken Ryaba” (1994) directed by Andrei Konchalovsky.

Her television roles included “Moscow Saga” based on the trilogy by Vasily Aksyonov and directed by Dmitry Barshchevsky, and “The Idiot,” based on the work by Fyodor Dostoyevsky and directed by Vladimir Bortko.

Churikova received many awards both in Russia and abroad for her work, including the Silver Bear for Best Actress at the 34th Berlin International Film Festival for “Wartime Romance” and the Russia Nika award in 1991 for “Adam’s Rib” directed by Vyacheslav Krishtofovich. She was also awarded the Russian Order “For Merit to the Fatherland.”

Churikova was married to film director and screenwriter Gleb Panfilov, with whom she had a son, Ivan, who is a producer.

She will be buried in Troyekurovsky Cemetery and a memorial service at Lenkom Theater on Tuesday.

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