

Obituaries

Norman Lloyd

Veteran Hollywood actor rescued by Alfred Hitchcock during the McCarthy witch-hunt

ONE OF the last links to the Golden Age of Hollywood still working in the film industry, Norman Lloyd, who has died aged 106, had a staying power that made him one of Hollywood's oldest working actors.

His career spanned the history of cinema over the 20th century and involved working with such stars as Charlie Chaplin, with whom he played tennis, Alfred Hitchcock or "Hitch," as his close friends knew him, and Orson Welles when he was just a young novice. His own friends included Bertolt Brecht, Arnold Schoenberg and Hanns Eisler. He also collaborated with more modern Jewish directors like Judd Apatow and Joel and Ethan Coen.

Norman Nathan Perlmutter was born in Jersey City, New Jersey, the son of Max Perlmutter, an accountant who later became a proprietor of a furniture store. His mother Sadie Horowitz Perlmutter was a bookkeeper and homemaker but also a frustrated singer. He had two sisters, Ruth and Janice.

Because Sadie had a good voice and a lifelong interest in the theatre, she took her young son to singing, pronunciation and dancing lessons. He became a child performer, appearing at vaudeville benefits and women's clubs. They adored the Broadway musicals of the 1920s and 1930s, idolising such performers as Al Jolson and Eddie Cantor, as well as the composers George Gershwin,

Jerome Kern, Irving Berlin and Harold Arlen.

Lloyd attended the Boy's High School in Brooklyn, alma mater of many others who rose to fame, such as the science fiction writer Isaac Asimov, composer Aaron Copland, screenwriter I. A. L. Diamond, artist Man Ray and novelist Norman Mailer.

On graduating, Lloyd attended New York University but left after two years. Then aged 17, he already knew he wanted to act full time. He spent the first decade of his career in the theatre, with an emphasis on social theatre collectives including the Theater of Action and the Federal Theater Project. He appeared in several *Living Newspapers* productions, dramatising current events.

It was while working in the theatre that he first met Orson Welles. In 1935, he appeared on Broadway as Japhet in André Obey's biblical play *Noah*. Producer John Houseman had spotted him and recommended him to Welles, which led to his casting as Cinna the Poet in his 1937-1938 adaptation of William Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*, with his critically acclaimed Mercury Theater in New York City.

Welles invited Lloyd to take part in his adaptation of Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, but it never materialised. Lloyd then returned to Broadway, thus missing being cast in *Citizen Kane*. Instead, Lloyd's big Hollywood break came when Houseman recommended him to Alfred Hitchcock, who was seeking an unknown actor to play the title role in his 1942 spy thriller *Saboteur*. Hitchcock cast

him as the Nazi spy who falls from the Statue of Liberty.

He stayed in Los Angeles and took a role in a second Hitchcock film, *Spellbound*, in 1945. Charlie Chaplin cast Lloyd in *Limelight* in 1952 as well as *Spellbound*. He also appeared in Lewis Milestone's *A Walk in the Sun* and *Arch of Triumph*.

But due to his close associations with certain victims of the McCarthy witch-hunts, including Charlie Chaplin, Lloyd was blacklisted and no longer hired by Hollywood executives. However, it was Hitchcock who rescued him by making him associate producer and a director on his TV series, *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* in the 1950s and 1960s, in which he worked both in front of the camera and behind it, directing and producing several episodes.

It was while directing for TV during the 1950s that he gave a job to a young and then largely unknown director, Stanley Kubrick, on a five-part TV series about President Abraham Lincoln, called *Mr Lincoln*. When he became aware that Kubrick was telling the press that he was, in effect, the director of the show, Lloyd effectively dismissed him from the production, sending him back to New York once the second unit directing was completed.

His career in performing and directing continued for the next two decades but his next high-profile role didn't come until 1982, when he agreed to do a short stint on the award-winning medical TV drama *St.*

Elsewhere. His part was intended to last for just four episodes, but when the show's creators discovered how much they enjoyed writing for and working with him, they invited him to stick around. His Dr Daniel Auschlander became a popular featured character, staying with the show for its entire six-season run.

In Peter Weir's acclaimed 1989 film, *Dead Poets Society*, Lloyd

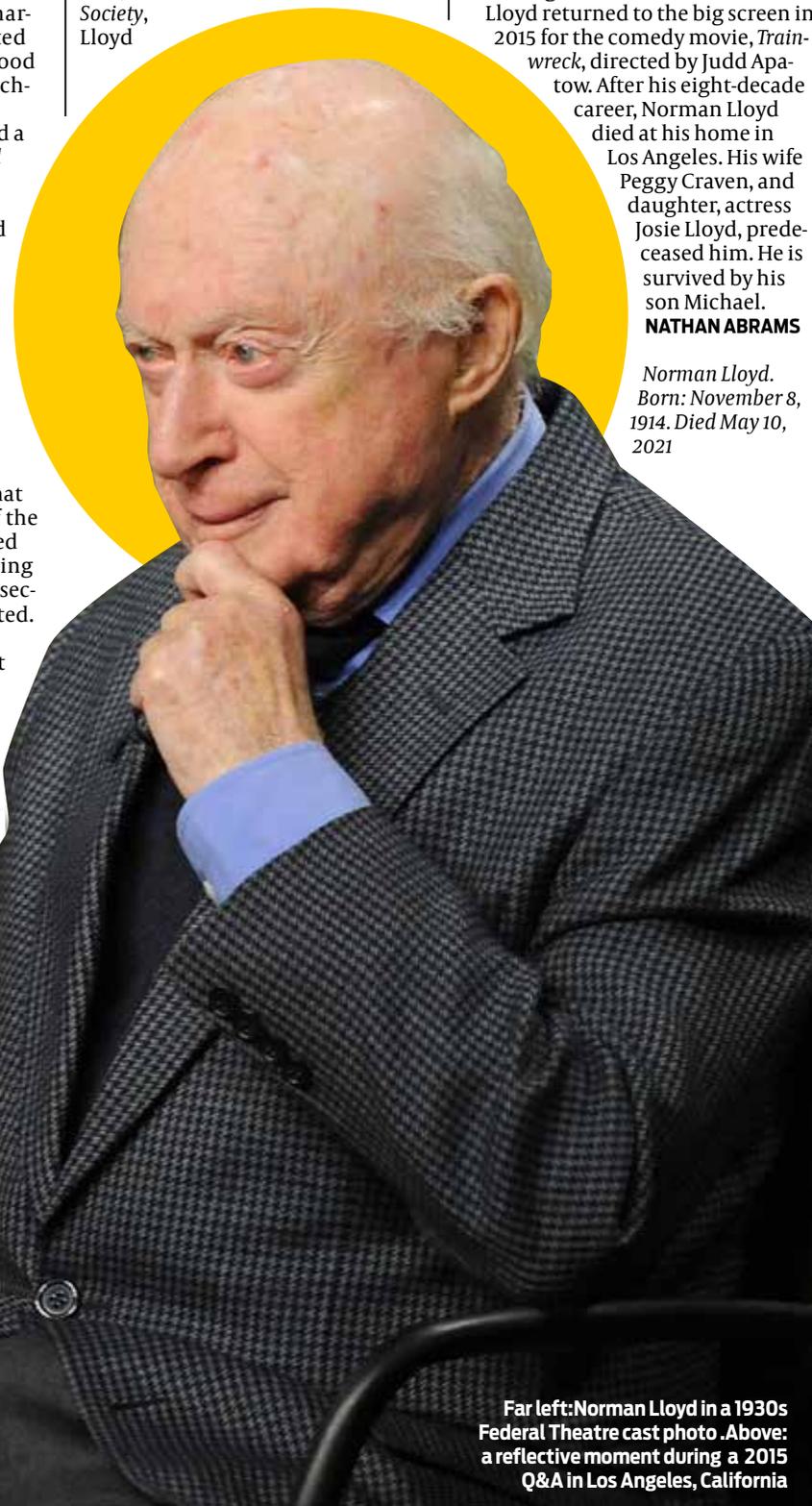
played alongside Robin Williams as Mr Nolan, the strict disciplinarian of the school. For the rest of the century, he continued to work on television, appearing as Captain Picard's former mentor, Professor Richard Galen, on a 1993 episode of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. He also made guest appearances on *Modern Family* and *Murder, She Wrote*, as well as a recurring role on *The Practice*.

Lloyd returned to the big screen in 2015 for the comedy movie, *Trainwreck*, directed by Judd Apatow. After his eight-decade career, Norman Lloyd died at his home in

Los Angeles. His wife Peggy Craven, and daughter, actress Josie Lloyd, predeceased him. He is survived by his son Michael.

NATHAN ABRAMS

Norman Lloyd.
Born: November 8, 1914. Died May 10, 2021



Far left: Norman Lloyd in a 1930s Federal Theatre cast photo. Above: a reflective moment during a 2015 Q&A in Los Angeles, California

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES, WIKIPEDIA

Editor
Stephen Pollard

Deputy editor
Jake Wallis Simons

Assistant editor
Orlando Radice

Associate editor (features)
Keren David

Associate editor (community & news features)
Barry Toberman

Local news and photos for Community should go to community@thejc.com

Foreign editor
Ben Felsenburg

Web editor
Josh Kaplan

Assistant editor (education)
Simon Rocker

Literary editor
Gerald Jacobs

Food editor
Victoria Prever

Obituaries editor
Gloria Tessler

Obituaries for publication should be sent to gessler@thejc.com

Supplements editor
Angela Kiverstein

Special correspondent
Anshel Pfeffer

Social affairs correspondent
Rosa Doherty

Travel editor
Cathy Winston

Reporters
Mathilde Frot
Felix Pope

Marketing manager
Carol Rashti

Media production manager
Ben Grossman

Production assistant
Ben Castiel

Creative director
Gus Condeixa

Senior designers
Lisiane Dressler
Sheree Fadil

Contributing photographers
Marc Morris 07973 139540
Lawrence Purcell 0161 795 1115
John Rifkin 020 89581370

Editorial
editorial@thejc.com

Letters for publication should be sent to letters@thejc.com

CEO
Katharine Pottinger

Marketing & Circulation
marketing@thejc.com

Finance director
Anna Nemchinova

Accounts
accounts@thejc.com

Commercial director
Debbie Rose

Advertising
advertising@thejc.com

Social & Personal and Classified
announcements@thejc.com

Ad Production
adproduction@thejc.com

Subscriptions
customerservices@thejc.com

Subscriptions
www.thejc.com/subscribe

Jewish Chronicle Privacy Policy
www.thejc.com/privacy-policy

Jewish Chronicle Media Limited (issn-0021-633x)
www.thejc.com
020 7415 1500
editorial@thejc.com