

## Dick Powell Biography

Dick Powell (November 14, 1904 - January 2, 1963) was a singer, actor, producer, and director.

Born in Mountain View, Arkansas, Powell started his entertainment career as a singer. He was signed by Warner Bros. in 1932 and made his film debut as a singing bandleader in *Blessed Event*. He went on to star as a boyish crooner in movies such as *42nd Street*, *Footlight Parade*, *Gold Diggers of 1933*, *Flirtation Walk*, and *On the Avenue*, often appearing opposite Ruby Keeler.

In 1944 he abruptly switched to noir detective roles, first starring as Philip Marlowe in *Murder, My Sweet*. He became a popular tough-guy lead, appearing in movies such as *Cornered*, *Johnny O'Clock*, and *The Tall Target*. Even when he appeared in lighter fare such as *The Reformer and the Redhead* and *Mrs. Mike*, he never sang in his later roles.

*Rogue's Gallery* came to the Mutual radio network on September 27, 1945 with Dick Powell portraying Richard Rogue, a private detective who invariably ended up getting knocked out each week and spending his dream time in acerbic conversation with his subconscious self Eugor.

From 1949 until 1953 Powell played the lead role in the NBC radio theater production *Richard Diamond, Private Detective*. His character in the 30 minute weekly was a likeable private detective with a quick wit.

In the 1950s Powell produced and directed several B-movies and was one of the founders of Four Star Television, appearing in and supervising several shows for that company.

Powell died on January 2, 1963 of stomach cancer, one of many of the cast and crew of the 1956 movie *The Conqueror*, who died of the disease. *The Conqueror* had been filmed in Utah near an atomic test site. He is buried at Forest Lawn Memorial Park Cemetery.

Powell's first wife, from 1925 until 1927, was Mildred Maund. His second wife, from September 19, 1936 until 1944, was Joan Blondell, with whom he had two children, Ellen and Norman. His third wife, from August 19, 1945 until his death, was June Allyson, with whom he had two children, Pamela (adopted) and Richard, Jr.

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