

Johnny Weissmuller Jr.

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Johnny Weissmuller, Jr. ([September 23, 1940](#)—[July 27, 2006](#)) was an [American](#) actor and longshoreman. He also authored a book about his father, the five-time [Olympic Games](#) gold medalist [Johnny Weissmuller](#), who also achieved fame playing the title role in the [Tarzan](#) movies of the 1930s and 1940s.

Weissmuller's mother was Beryl Scott, the third of his father's five wives. He was born in [San Francisco](#), where his father was performing at the [Golden Gate International Exposition](#) in a water ballet show called *Billy Rose's Aquacade*.

The younger Weissmuller graduated from the [University of Southern California](#) in [Los Angeles](#), where he was on the swim team. He joined the [United States Navy](#), and used his swimming acumen to specialize in underwater demolition.

In 1958 Weissmuller got his first screen role in the [Mickey Rooney](#) film *Andy Hardy Comes Home*. Weissmuller's subsequent credits include parts in *THX 1138* and *American Graffiti*. His last movie role was as a bounty hunter in the 1988 release *Wildfire*. Weissmuller also appeared as a guest star in two episodes of *The Streets of San Francisco*.

Weissmuller returned to San Francisco in 1973. He worked as a longshoreman but also appeared in Bay Area stage productions. His longest-running stage role was as Chief Bromden in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* at the Little Fox Theater in San Francisco.

Weissmuller also belonged to yacht clubs in San Francisco, [Hawaii](#) and [Acapulco](#). He took part in several Transpac yacht races from California to Hawaii.

"He was really a swashbuckler; he filled the room," said his wife, Diane Weissmuller.

Weissmuller's memoir, *Tarzan, My Father*, was published in 2002 by ECW Press in Toronto. In 2005 he retired from the docks and began writing a book about working as a longshoreman.

Weissmuller died from liver cancer at the age of 65.

External links

- Selna, Robert. (2006, July 31). *Johnny Weissmuller Jr. — dockworker, actor, yacht racer*. The San Francisco Chronicle
- (2006, August 1). *Johnny Weissmuller Jr., 65; Son of 'Tarzan' Was an Athlete, Actor*. The Los Angeles Times
- Johnny Weissmuller Jr. at the Internet Movie Database

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