

Beat: Entertainment

## JANE BIRKIN FRANCO-BRITISH ICONIC SINGER, ACTRESS & FILM DIRECTOR DIES AT 76

### MIN. OF CULTURE PAYS HER A TRIBUTE

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**USPA NEWS** - Jane Birkin, the French-British singer, comedian and film writer, died in Paris in her apartment at the age of 76. Tributes are flooding throughout the day, to honor this artist who has become iconic in France, especially since she married in 1969 (erotic year) Serge Gainsbourg, another great singer, songwriter, legendary. It was this year 1969, a few months after their meeting, that Jane Birkin and Serge Gainsbourg recorded together the famous title *Je t'aime et moi non plus*, which the latter had written and composed a few years earlier for Brigitte Bardot. The explicit lyrics shock some of the audience. The sensual piece will even be banned from broadcasting in Spain, Great Britain and Italy.

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President Macron immediately published a tribute on his twitter account to Jane Birkin "the icon": "Because she embodied freedom, she sang the most beautiful words of our language, Jane Birkin was a French icon.

A complete artist, her voice was as sweet as her engagements were fiery. She bequeaths us tunes and images that will not leave us.", he greets.

Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne hailed an "unforgettable icon" with a "voice" and a "unique charm". "Through her music and her talent, she will have transcended the generations", she assures, paying homage to a "heritage that will live forever".

Universal Music France has published on facebook, a statement of death of Jane Birkin and a homage.

"Jane Birkin left us this morning. The entire Universal Music France team joins in the pain of his daughters Charlotte and Lou, his loved ones and the Evening Visitors team. A great artist is leaving. A free woman who had found a country of adoption in France. We loved him for his simplicity, his humor, his great humanity and his talent of course.

Her iconic career, her constant commitment to a fairer, more human world, make her one of the greatest artists of our time. His songs will accompany us for a long time. His smile, his true speech. And his concerts that moved us so much. Our sadness is great." She had marked the cultural world with her many songs, written by her husband Gainsbourg, her films, as an actress and then as a film director. She also had a daughter Charlotte Gainsbourg with Serge, and Lou Doillon with the filmmaker Doillon.

### IN 1984 JANE BIRKIN CREATED HER OWN HERMES BAG WHICH BEARS HER NAME, BY CHANCE

In 1984, Jane Birkin gave birth, almost by accident, to a legendary accessory from the Hermès brand. You are never better served than by yourself. In 1984, Jane Birkin traveled aboard a Paris-London. As a young mother, she complains to her neighbor that she cannot find a bag suitable for her daily life. The man in question is Jean-Louis Dumas, the boss of Hermès... who suggests that she create it herself!

At the end of the flight, the actress has already made a first draft of the accessory that bears her name. A tote that stands out with its

flared shape, its two pieces of leather stitched together, its flap and its two rigid handles. In smooth leather, suede, velvet, ostrich or crocodile, there are ten colors. This is how the "Jane Birkin" Hermes Bag was born, in a very uncanny way, and has become a must-have Vintage, called the "Birkin". Source: Tf1 TV

During her recent appearances in public, Jane Birkin had been noticed during the Cesars 2023 ceremony, showing a diminished mine and an unrecognizable face, linked to an illness.

Jane Birkin was very famous and loved in France and little known in England, her country of origin, but left a big whole in the French Pop culture.

#### FRENCH MINISTER OF CULTURE RIMA ABDUL MALAK PAYS A TRIBUTE TO JANE BIRKIN

« Jane B, blue eyes, brown hair, disappeared this morning – perhaps as her father David Birkin had suggested, it was Monkey her stuffed monkey, to whom she wrote for 40 years of her joys, her sorrows and her hopes, who welcomed her with open arms.

Today, we are losing a total icon whose accent could whisper to us the hymns of an era as well as defend his commitments on the international scene: solidarity, the reception of migrants, the fight against the extreme right, freedom.

At barely 18, it was in the seventh art that Jane Birkin took her first steps as an artist alongside Richard Lester, then in the legendary Blow-Up, palme d'or at the 1967 Cannes festival where she fascinated as much as it causes scandal. Crossing the Channel, the child of "Swinging London" quickly became a Parisian muse and soon met Serge Gainsbourg with whom she shared the poster in Slogan and his life for ten years.

A year later, the mythical duo recorded one of the greatest successes of the late 1960s: Je t'aime, moi non plus, which delighted the press and the public as much as it disturbed. Muse of the cabbage-headed man, she enjoyed immense success singing her texts from Rocking Chair to Chic Dessous with impertinence, in a breathy, murmuring, apocalyptic voice. A voice that carries no less, when she defends the causes that are close to her heart: the fight for the abolition of the death penalty and the legalization of abortion.

Entering the legend, Jane Birkin returns to the screen two years after the birth of her daughter, Charlotte, under the camera of Roger Vadim and in the arms of Brigitte Bardot for a radically modern Don Juan 73. Later, the actress will also be able to touch the hearts of the French with her humor, thanks to popular comedies such as La Course à l'échalote and La Moutarde me monte au nez by Claude Zidi, facetious roles in which she slips with the same grace only on the boards, where she plays Marivaux for Chéreau or L'Aide-Mémoire de Carrière in a staging by Bernard Murat.

Icon of the scene but also of fashion, Jane Birkin has more than one string to her bow. From the 1980s, her career also took the direction of auteur cinema: with Michel Deville, Jacques Doillon with whom she shared her life for more than ten years, Alain Resnais or Bertrand Tavernier. When she gave herself up to Agnès Varda in 1988 in the film-portrait Jane B., all the facets of Jane, elusive, both serious and whimsical, committed, were happily rediscovered. It is also the director who encourages her to trust her writing talent, which we will discover in Kung Fu Master, for which she wrote the screenplay, or later in her feature film Boxes, in 2007.

Total artist, music victory in 1992, Jane Birkin has never stopped singing. From his tributes to Serge Gainsbourg, like so many musical and poetic arabesques, to his own creations, such as the album Oh! Pardon tu slept... which she co-signed in 2020 with Etienne Daho, she accompanied fifty years of music history by making all of us Ex-fans of the sixties. Sick for several years, she continued to appear on stage and donated the profits from her shows to the Maison de Kate, a drug addiction center that her daughter had founded and which she had taken over, or more recently for the benefit of Ukraine. Because Jane Birkin, throughout her life, has also never stopped fighting to make her contribution to the building of a fairer world, by getting involved with numerous non-governmental organizations for the defense of human rights, human resources and humanitarian aid and continuing the commitment of her daughter Kate.

I address to his daughters, Charlotte and Lou, to his grandchildren, to his relatives and to all his friends, my most sincere condolences." thus publishes the Minister of culture." Source : French Ministry of Culture

**Article online:**

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