



Bernie Mac

October 5, 1957 - August 9, 2008

Written by By F.N. D'Alessio, Associated Press Writer Bernie Mac, the Emmy and Golden Globe nominated actor and comedian who worked his way to Hollywood success from an impoverished upbringing on Chicago's South Side, died Saturday at age 50. The comedian suffered from sarcoidosis, an inflammatory lung disease that produces tiny lumps of cells in the body's organs, but had said the condition went into remission in 2005. He recently was hospitalized and treated for pneumonia, which his publicist said was not related to the disease. Mac started his comedy career at age 8, with a standup performance at a church dinner. In 1977, at age 20, he took that act to comedy clubs in Chicago. His film career started with a small role as a club doorman in the Damon Wayans movie "Mo' Money" in 1992. Mac went on to star in the "Ocean's Eleven" franchise with Brad Pitt and George Clooney and his turn with Ashton Kutcher in 2005's "Guess Who?" -- a remake of the Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn 1967 classic "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?" -- topped the box office. Mac also had starring roles in "Bad Santa," "Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle" and "Transformers." The comedian drew critical and popular acclaim with his Fox television series "The Bernie Mac Show," which aired more than 100 episodes from 2001 to 2006. The series about a man's adventures raising his sister's three children, won a Peabody Award in 2002. At the time, judges wrote they chose the sitcom for transcending "race and class while lifting viewers with laughter, compassion -- and cool." The show garnered Golden Globe and Emmy nominations for Mac.

He also was nominated for a Grammy award for best comedy album in 2001 along with his "The Original Kings of Comedy" co-stars, Steve Harvey, D.L. Hughley and Cedric The Entertainer. In 2007, Mac told David Letterman on CBS' "Late Show" that he planned to retire soon. "I'm going to still do my producing, my films, but I want to enjoy my life a little bit," Mac told Letterman. "I missed a lot of things, you know. I was a street performer for two years. I went into clubs in 1977." Mac was born Bernard Jeffrey McCullough on Oct. 5, 1957, in Chicago. He grew up on the city's South Side, living with his mother and grandparents. His grandfather was the deacon of a Baptist church. In his 2004 memoir, "Maybe You Never Cry Again," Mac wrote about having a poor childhood -- eating bologna for dinner -- and a strict, no-nonsense upbringing. Mac's mother died of cancer when he was 16. In his book, Mac said she was a support for him and told him he would surprise everyone when he grew up. "Woman believed in me," he wrote. "She believed in me long before I believed." Bernie Mac is survived by his loving wife Rhonda McCullough, their daughter, Je'Niece, a son-in-law and a granddaughter, Jasmine Public Service August 16, 2008 12:00 PM The House of Hope Church 115th Street exit of the Bishop Ford Expressway(I94) at 752 E. 114th Street, Chicago, IL 60628. Donations \$1-\$1999 should be sent to: www.berniemacfoundation.org Anything over \$2000 The Northern Trust Company 201 E Huron Street Chicago, IL 60611 Services Entrusted to Leak and Sons Funeral Chapels 7838 Cottage Grove Avenue South, Chicago Biography of Bernie Mac Wikipedia Videos on You Tube GJ-Sheryl Underwood on Bernie Mac's Passing Bernie Mac Tribute Bernie Mac Photos CNET TV.Com Internet Movie Database

Tribute Wall

VA

“ *He was a great entertainer.*

Valerie - June 10, 2009 at 10:17 PM

VK

“ *you will be missed god will tack it from her. bless his family*

Viola Kelley - September 16, 2008 at 06:14 PM

MB

“ *Bernie Mac will be greatly missed. He will live on in my heart , my prayers go out to his family.*

Markita Barron - August 19, 2008 at 08:06 AM