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Francine Carroll, 83, writer

Created TV series 'Amy Prentiss'

By [VARIETY STAFF](#)

Francine Carroll, creator of the television series "Amy Prentiss," which won an Emmy for its star Jessica Walter, died of natural causes Nov. 9 in Tarzana, Calif. She was 83.

Born Francine Epstein in New York, she took the name Francine Carroll when she was writing detective fiction for Black Mask and other magazines.

She was nominated for a Writer's Guild award, a Movieguide award and a Humanitas prize for her work on the Showtime series "Rescuers: Stories of Courage." Her writing credits include multiple episodes of "The Virginian" and "Ironside."

After having attended the U. of Arizona as a young woman, she graduated from UCLA theater arts program at age 48 and subsequently taught Film as Literature at Cal State Northridge.

A longtime member of the Writers Guild of America West, her writing career spanned 50 years.

She is survived by her husband of 52 years, producer Cy Chermak; three daughters; five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

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From the Los Angeles Times

PASSINGS

Judy Arnold, 68; theatrical producer in L.A., N.Y., London

November 15, 2007

Judy Arnold, 68, a theatrical producer who got her start in Los Angeles and moved on to Broadway and London's West End, died Saturday of a heart attack at her Encino home, her son Evan said.

Among her many productions in Los Angeles were several at the Tiffany Theatre, including "Give 'Em Hell, Harry" with Jason Alexander; "We Interrupt This Program" with Jennifer Aniston, Lisa Kudrow, Garry Marshall, Laraine Newman and Julia Sweeney; and "The Disputation." Arnold also produced "I Remember You" with Tony Danza at the Falcon Theatre and "Equinox" at the Odyssey Theatre.

She took the comedy "Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks" from the Geffen Playhouse to Broadway in 2003 and then on to London. Her AD Productions was also credited for the musical "Bombay Dreams," which ran for 10 months on Broadway in 2004.

Arnold was born in Baltimore in 1939 and moved with her family to California as a child. She attended UCLA, where she majored in music with a special interest in opera. After earning her bachelor's degree, she worked with the university's Los Angeles Junior Programs, selecting and producing children's theater.

She married Newt Arnold, a prominent first assistant director for Francis Ford Coppola, Sam Peckinpah, Steven Spielberg and others. The couple had two sons: Jonathan, who is a lawyer, and Evan, an actor. Newt Arnold died in 2002.

Bob Holbert, 84; early Porsche dealer raced the cars on pro circuits

Bob Holbert, 84, who opened one of the first Porsche dealerships in the United States and raced the German sports cars on professional circuits in the 1950s and '60s, died Monday in Warrington, Pa.

Holbert drove for the Porsche factory team at Le Mans in 1961 and finished fifth, along with co-driver Masten Gregory, in the 24-hour endurance race in the French countryside. He won the 1963 U.S. Road Racing championship, racked up a record six class victories at Sebring International Raceway in Florida and won several times at the now-defunct Riverside International Raceway. He gave up racing in 1964.

His son, Al, also a racing driver, was killed in a plane crash in 1988. The two were 2004 inductees into Sebring's Hall of Fame in a group that included Mario Andretti and Carroll Shelby.

Born in 1923 in Warrington in Bucks County near Philadelphia, Holbert grew up working in his family's hardware store.

During World War II he served in the Navy, helping to maintain the V12 engines that powered PT boats in the Pacific.

Holbert's Porsche, Volkswagen and Audi dealership began in a garage where he started selling parts for sports cars in 1951.

Francine Carroll, 83; ran TV production firm with husband

Francine Carroll, 83, who ran a television production company with her husband and created the 1970s series "Amy Prentiss," died Friday of natural causes at Encino-Tarzana Regional Medical Center, said Bonnie J. Chermak, one of her three daughters.

In 1999, Carroll shared a Humanitas Prize nomination for the teleplay "Rescuers: Stories of Courage" with her husband, Cy Chermak, who survives her, and Paul Monash. The Showtime production told the true stories of two couples who risked their lives to save Jews from the Holocaust.

She also wrote for the TV series "The Virginian" and "Ironside," an NBC drama produced by the couple's Francy Productions. Among the company's other shows were "ChiPS" and "Kolchak: The Night Stalker."

Carroll was "progressive," her daughter said, but audiences for "Amy Prentiss" were less so. Jessica Walter won an Emmy playing San Francisco's first female chief of detectives, but viewers did not readily take to the idea of a woman as a police boss, according to "The Complete Directory to Prime Time Network and Cable TV Shows." The show was canceled in 1975 after a short run.

Francine Epstein was born in 1924 in New York City and started using the last name of Carroll while writing detective fiction for magazines.

As a young woman, she attended the University of Arizona. She earned a bachelor's degree in theater arts from UCLA when she was 48. A Woodland Hills resident, Carroll taught theater arts at Cal State Northridge.

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