

Hall of Fame

GEORGE BAKER



George Baker was born 1 April 1931 in Varna, Bulgaria where his English father was working as a diplomat.

When the Second World War broke out, his Irish mother a Red Cross Nurse took him to England, and after a brief spell at public school he became an actor in repertory while still in his teens.

In his youth he battled dyslexia but overcame this to go on and become an accomplished actor.

Although playing the character of Chief Inspector Wexford on TV was probably his most famous role, Baker's six-decade career covered a wide range of roles, including comedy, drama, soap operas and science fiction.

As well as acting, Baker was also a talented writer for radio and television and a cookery author. His award winning play, *The Fatal Spring*, was shown on BBC Two in 1980. A fan of good food and wine, he put together a book of recipes entitled "*A Cook For All Seasons*" (1992).

George's first theatre work was in repertory at Deal, Kent. His major stage credits include a season with the Old Vic Company 1959-61.

He formed his own theatre company in 1965 Candida Plays, based at the Theatre Royal, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk and toured the country, acting and directing plays.

George was married three times, his third wife Louie Ramsay who he met when they played on-screen husband and wife in the Wexford series predeceased him by seven months. George fathered five daughters, four by his first wife and one by his second wife.

In 2007 George was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for his charitable work in helping establish a youth club in his home village.

George died on 7 October 2011 at the age of 80 in West Lavington, Wiltshire. He died of pneumonia, shortly after a stroke.