

ARTS & VARIETY

A Tribute to Chadwick Boseman

BY DAVINA BELLINGER

ON AUGUST 28TH 2020, 43-year-old actor Chadwick Boseman died from a four-year battle of colon cancer peacefully in his home with his family by his side. He was first diagnosed with colon cancer in 2016. Everyone knows him as the Black Panther in the Marvel universe and for one of his first major breakthrough movies, *42*, as Jackie Robinson. Many famous figures such as co-stars Chris Evans and Mark Ruffalo and politicians like Kamala Harris have paid tribute to Chadwick for being an outstanding individual who made an impact on change through social media.

Evans tweeted, "I'm absolutely devastated. This is beyond heartbreaking. Chadwick was special. A true original. He was a deeply committed and constantly curious artist. He had so much amazing work still left to create. I'm endlessly grateful for our friendship. Rest in power, King." Many others ended their social media tribute to Boseman with this same last sentence.

Boseman was born on November 29th, 1977 in South Carolina to Carolyn and Leroy Boseman. Boseman's father worked in the textile industry and his mother worked as a nurse. Chadwick graduated from Harvard University in 2000 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in directing. He then attended the British American Drama Academy in Oxford, United Kingdom. What most people didn't know about Chadwick is that he was secretly married to his long term girlfriend named Taylor Simone Ledward just before he died.

Another co-star that paid tribute to Chadwick on social media was Brie Larson, known for her role in the Marvel universe as Captain Marvel. Larson said on Instagram, "Chadwick was someone who radiated power and peace. Who took the time to really see how you were doing and gave words of encouragement when you felt unsure. I'm honored to have the memories I have. The conversations, the laughter. My heart is with you and your family. You will be missed and never forgotten. Rest in power and peace my friend." Many fans and friends have reposted and shared their tributes to Boseman and how he laid a remarkable legacy.

Chadwick was laid to rest on September 3rd at Welfare Baptist Church Cemetery in Belton, South Carolina. On the day of his burial, his hometown gathered to honor him by screening *Black Panther* outside with proper social distancing and the children of his hometown wearing Black Panther costumes.

George Floyd: Riots and Art

BY RENE ELIAS

MINNEAPOLIS POLICE OFFICERS responded to a call at the local supermarket, Cup Foods. The call was made to report a man allegedly using a counterfeit bill. Officers confronted the man who is now identified as George Floyd. Officers removed Floyd out of his car and placed him in handcuffs. Three of the four officers who arrived on the scene decided to place Floyd next to the car face down. The other officer kept the crowd back while the crowd was pleading with officers to leave Floyd alone. Officer Dereck Chauvin placed his knee on Floyd's neck for eight minutes and forty-six seconds. Floyd was unresponsive and later pronounced dead. A witness in the crowd captured a video and it became viral on the Internet sparking outrage around the world.

Many different emotions were felt after witnessing this crude act in killing Floyd live on social media. Protests and riots were ignited across the country and cities around the world, they were outraged for the brutal death of Floyd and wanted an end to police brutality. In some areas activists and citizens of Minnesota peacefully protested together and demanded that the officers be arrested for killing Floyd. While most of the protests were peaceful and impactful to the community some did not end for the best.

I attended one of the peaceful protests where protesters marched from the U.S. Bank Stadium to the 35W bridge. Being a part of this protest was something special. It was like an out-of-body experience where I felt one with everyone who was there. It was peaceful and I can say it was one of the most impactful days of my life so far. A select few protests did end in riots, however. All along Lake Street from Uptown to the Mississippi was hit the hardest. Many small businesses, restaurants, liquor stores, and other buildings were targeted, looted and set on fire. This all happened with the world watching. Prime time national news was covering this and the most shocking place that was targeted was the 3rd precinct of the Minneapolis Police Department. Angry protesters ignored tear gas and rubber bullets and stormed the 3rd precinct to overtake it. Smoke blazed and spread through the precinct; in the distance you could see the crowds, thousands in numbers, cheering, happy to see the precinct burning down.

This was the last straw for government and law enforcement officials in Minnesota. The Minnesota National Guard was called and deployed into parts of Minneapolis and Saint Paul to protect businesses and the community. After the National Guard was deployed, riots dwindled and protests in Minnesota decreased. This didn't stop the rest of the country from watching and joining in in different protests that have resulted in the arrest of all four officers, and former Officer Chauvin arrested for second-degree murder.

What the community really can take out of this tragic and historic moment in history is that our community in Minnesota rallied together despite different ethnicities, backgrounds, and political opinions to mourn and demand change. A tragic moment brought a time of beautiful murals popping up around the city. I had the chance to attend a rally at the corner of Chicago and 38th St. where George Floyd lost his life. Different community activists and artists came together and created a



Honorary gravestones of those victim to police violence Photo Credit: Rene Elias

masterpiece that was so beautifully illustrated to make light of George Floyd's tragic death into something beautiful the community could lean on in such a horrific time. The mural is on the Cup Foods store wall painted in beautiful blue and yellow colors. In the center is George Floyd's face along with names of other men and women that have died at the hands of police brutality. This mural is not just for George Floyd, but also for all the lives that have been lost and to shed light on this great problem our country is facing due to police brutality. I highly recommend visiting the murals. It's a



Photo Credit: Rene Elias

strange but beautiful thing to see your community bond over something so tragic, but something that brings us together in ways words cannot describe.