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Director John Frankenheimer dies

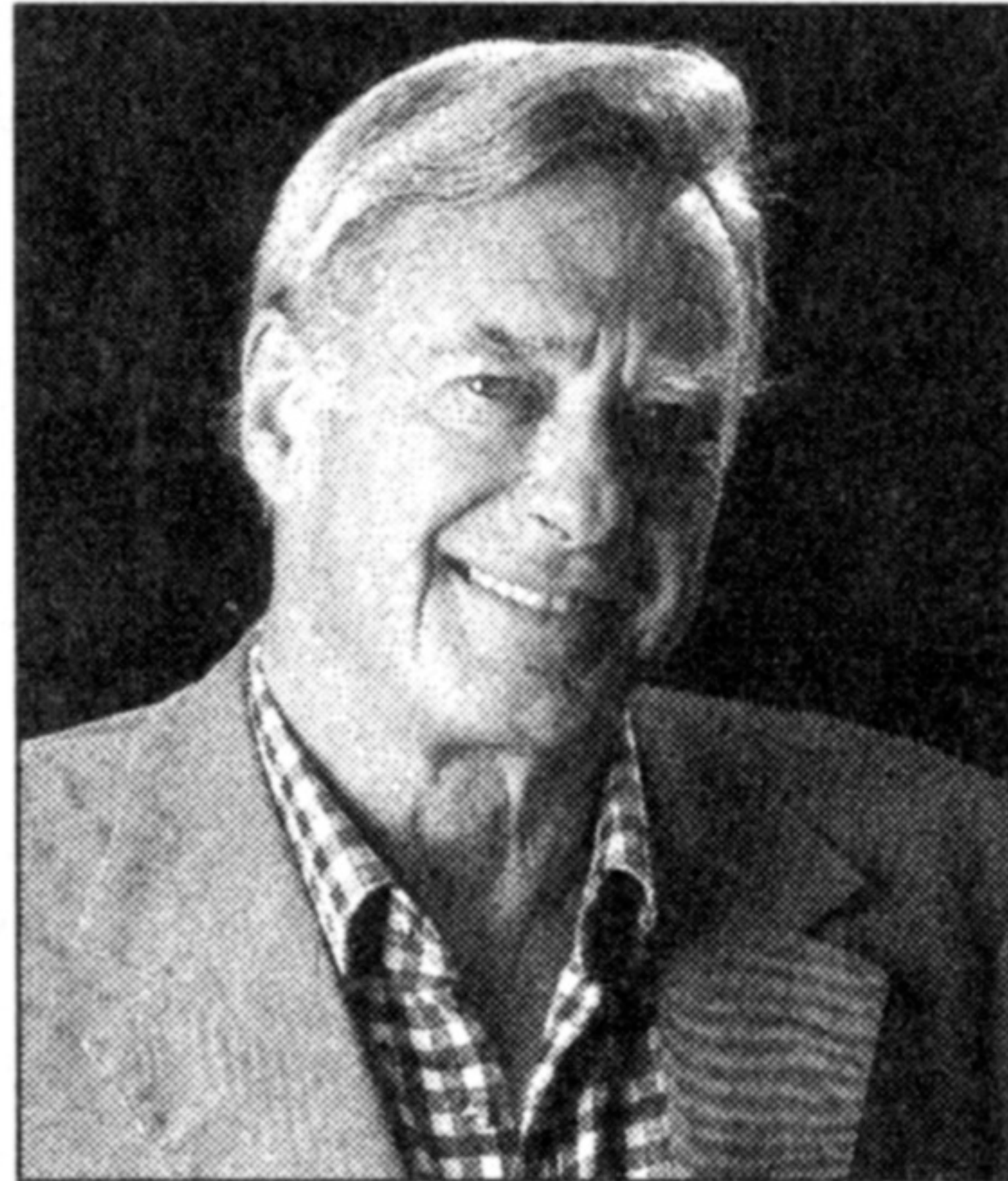
By Bernard Weinraub
NEW YORK TIMES

LOS ANGELES — John Frankenheimer, one of the foremost directors of the 1960s with classic films like "The Manchurian Candidate," "Seven Days in May," "Birdman of Alcatraz" and "The Train," died of a massive stroke Saturday from complications after spinal surgery. He was 72.

Frankenheimer, whose career stumbled badly in the late 1970s and 1980s because of personal problems and alcoholism, came back in the 1990s with significant television work that was flourishing at the time of his death. "It's a town with a short memory: It grinds people up and throws them away," Frankenheimer told a reporter in 1998, shortly before the release of an action film, "Ronin," with Robert De Niro.

More recently, Frankenheimer won four consecutive Emmys for best director for the television movies "Against the Wall," "The Burning Season," "Andersonville" and "George Wallace." His last film, "Path to War," an ambitious HBO drama about the Johnson administration's decisions to escalate the war in Vietnam, was shown in May to strong reviews.

On the set of the film, veteran actors like



John Frankenheimer

Donald Sutherland, who played Clark Clifford, and Michael Gambon, who played President Lyndon B. Johnson, said that Frankenheimer's enthusiasm and energy amazed them. "He has more energy than someone half his age," Gambon remarked.

The director Frank Pierson, president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and a longtime friend of Frankenheimer, said: "John revolutionized everybody's way of looking at films. He had

such a highly charged visual style, so full of energy; he brought us close up to things. Movies began to look different after John came along."

The actor Gary Sinise, who played the title role in "Wallace" and worked with Frankenheimer on two other films, called him "a giant."

"He had directing in his blood," Sinise said. "He loved filmmaking. It gave him a great source of energy and passion. I met him later in his career, but never did I feel that I was working with someone whose best years were over. He just had this great passion and great vision and great love for making movies."

Frankenheimer films

Some of the film and television projects directed by John Frankenheimer:

- "The Young Savages," 1961.
- "The Birdman of Alcatraz," 1962.
- "All Fall Down," 1962.
- "The Manchurian Candidate," 1962.
- "Seven Days in May," 1964.
- "The Train," 1965.
- "Seconds," 1966.
- "Grand Prix," 1966.
- "The Fixer," 1968.
- "The Extraordinary Seaman," 1969.
- "The Gypsy Moths," 1969.
- "I Walk the Line," 1970.
- "The Horsemen," 1971.
- "The Impossible Object," 1973.
- "French Connection II," 1975.
- "Black Sunday," 1977.
- "The Holcroft Covenant," 1985.
- "52 Pick-Up," 1986.
- "Dead Bang," 1989.
- "The Fourth War," 1990.
- "Year of the Gun," 1991.
- "Against The Wall" (HBO), 1994.
- "The Burning Season" (HBO), 1994.
- "Andersonville" (TNT), 1995.
- "The Island of Dr. Moreau," 1996.
- "George Wallace" (TNT), 1997.
- "Ronin," 1998.
- "Reindeer Games," 2000.
- "Path to War" (HBO), 2002.

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