

1966-2019

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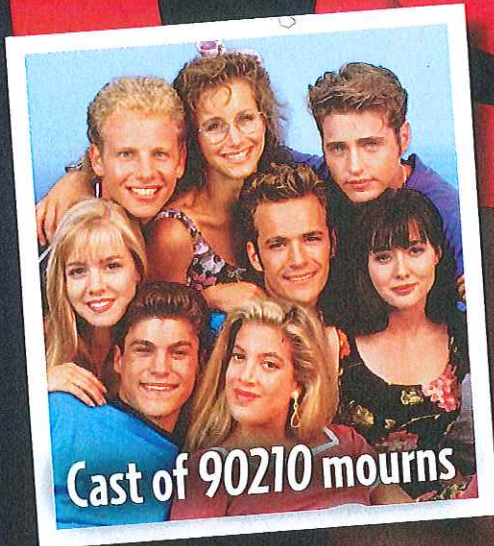
WEEKLY



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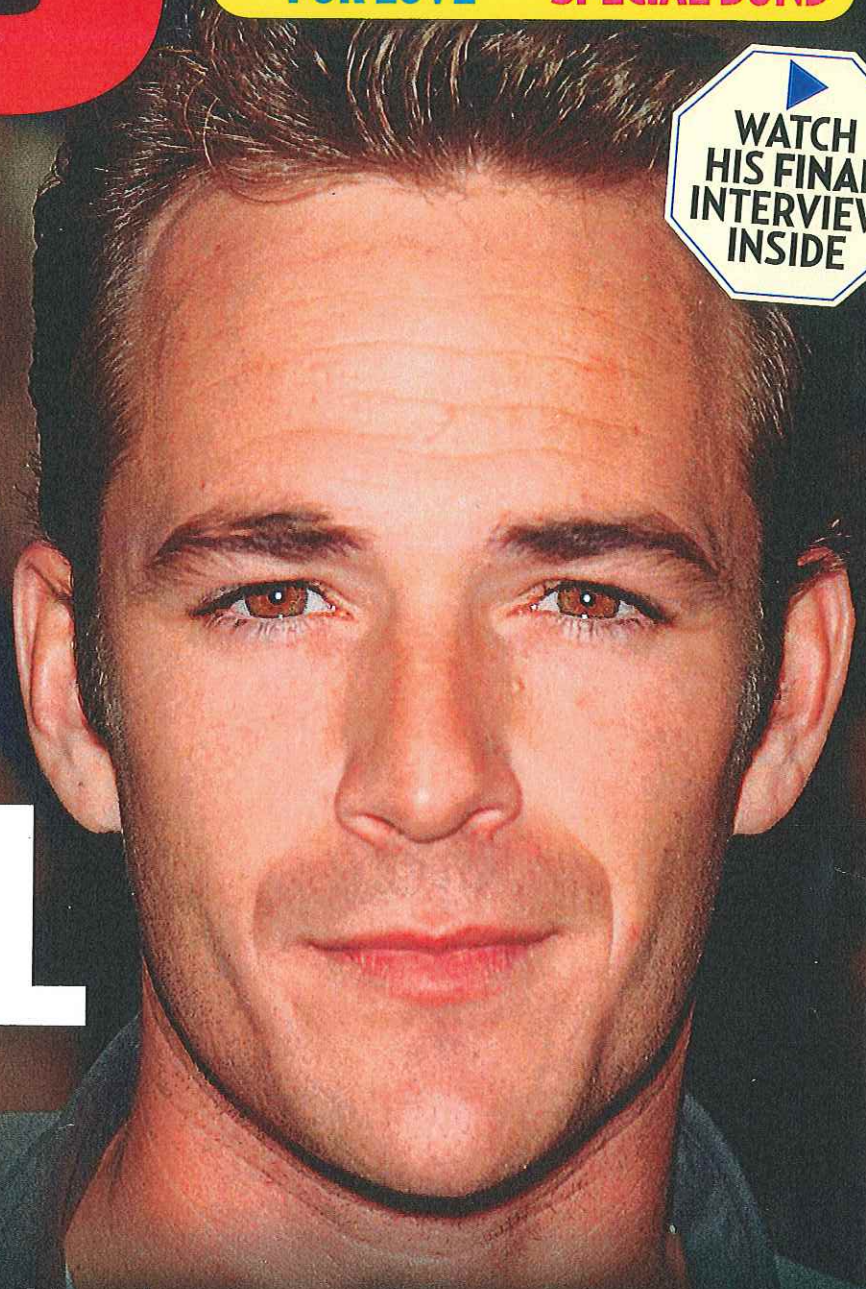


Cast of 90210 mourns

**Luke Perry
GONE TOO SOON**

TRAGIC FINAL DAYS

**WATCH
HIS FINAL
INTERVIEW
INSIDE**



- Heartbreaking decision to turn off life support
- His secret battle after triumphing over cancer

PLUS SHANNEN DOHERTY TELLS Us: 'I LOVE HIM'

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Luke Perry: 1966–2019

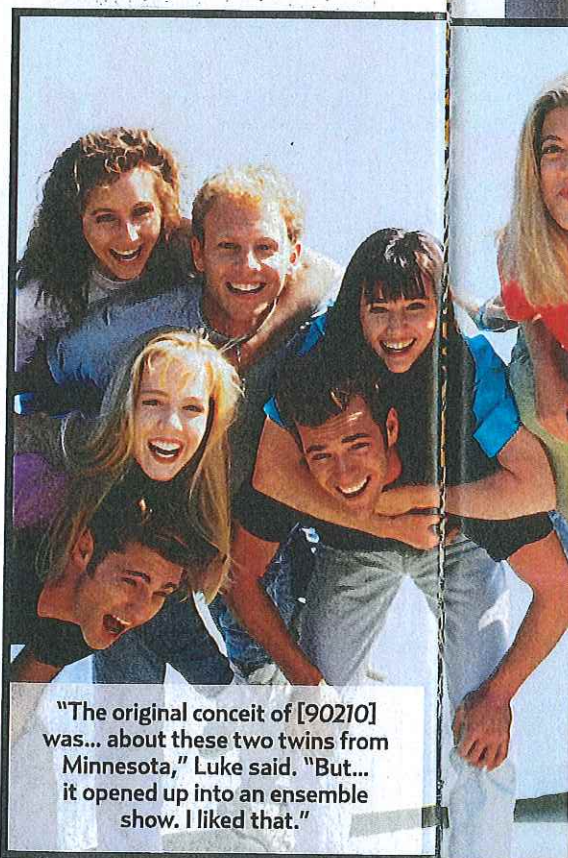
GONE TOO SOON

He won our hearts as Dylan McKay on *90210*, but those who knew him will remember Luke Perry for his kindness and humility

At first, it didn't seem serious. When paramedics arrived at Luke Perry's home in peaceful Sherman Oaks, Calif., on the morning of Feb. 27 after receiving a call that he'd experienced stroke-like symptoms, they found Luke to be alert and responsive. "He was talking," says a source close to the *Riverdale* star. But before long, the 52-year-old's condition began to deteriorate. "They immediately took him to [Burbank's] St. Joseph's, which was the closest hospital to his home," the source says. "When he got there and was examined, they saw he wasn't doing well." Luke had suffered a massive stroke. He was immediately placed under heavy sedation in order to give his brain the opportunity to heal. "Luke's loved ones were hoping they'd pull him out of it after 48 hours or so," the source says. "But he never recovered. It was devastating."

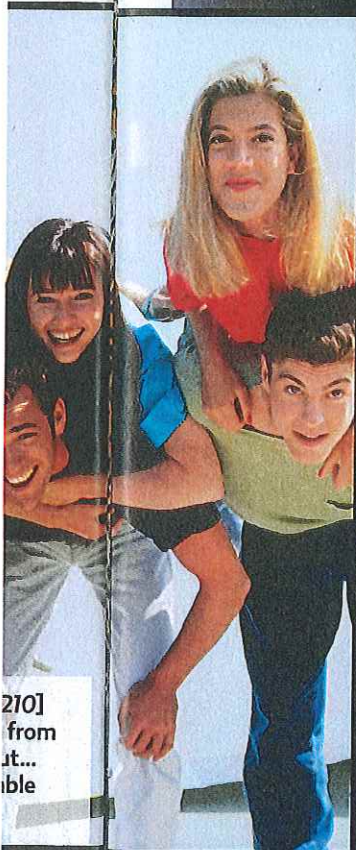
Five days later, on March 4, *Us* has exclusively learned, Luke's family — including his fiancé, Wendy Madison Bauer — made the difficult decision to take him off life support. "He was surrounded by Wendy; his children, Jack and Sophie; ex-wife Minnie Sharp; mother Ann Bennett; stepfather Steve Bennett; brother

Tom Perry; sister Amy Coder; and other close family and friends," Luke's loved ones said in a statement. "The family appreciates the outpouring of support and prayers that have been extended to Luke from around the world, and respectfully request privacy in this time of great mourning."



"The original conceit of [90210] was... about these two twins from Minnesota," Luke said. "But... it opened up into an ensemble show. I liked that."

Luke shot to stardom at 24, when he debuted on 90210. "Once you're committed to being an actor, forget it," he said, "there's no other course in life. It's what you do."



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**PUT US WEEKLY
IN MOTION**
To watch Luke's last interview with *Us*, go to usmagazine.com, tap the pink arrow and hover over this photo.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHEL BOISSETES FOR USMAGAZINE.COM

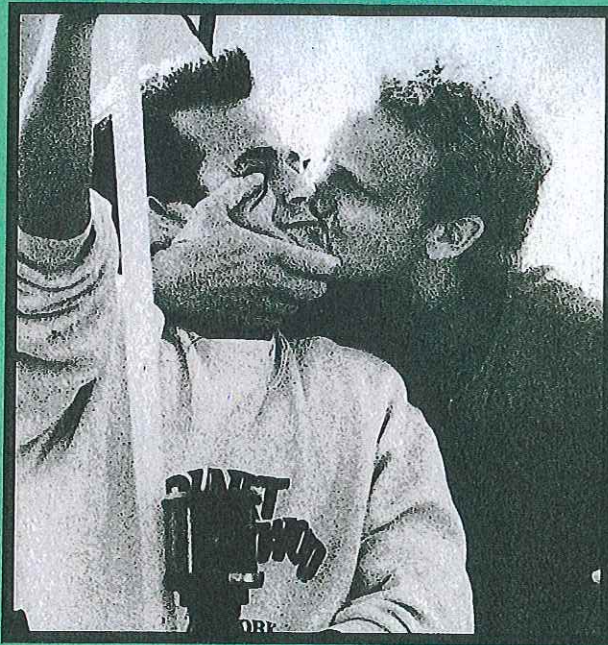
Hollywood Mourns an Icon

"Luke Perry was my 1st crush. Eh, more like obsession (I wore pins w his face on them to school). I used to dream of making it to LA just to meet him. I never got to, but I've always heard he was a really great person.

OLIVIA MUNN

"He was a very sensitive soul who was kind, generous and he fought for the underdog. He was a strong voice and an advocate who will be so missed by all who knew him. He has left his mark — never to be forgotten."

GABRIELLE CARTERIS



"God please give him a seat close to you, he deserves it."

IAN ZIERING

"My heart is broken. I will miss you so much Luke Perry. Sending all my love to your family."

MOLLY RINGWALD

"The first time I met Luke Perry we talked about what kind of movie we wanted *Buffy* to be. I asked if he'd ever seen *Near Dark* and he gave me a look of **HOW DARE YOU SIR** and I knew we'd get along. Funny, committed, and always gracious. He shouldn't be gone."

JOSS WHEDON

DEVASTATING LOSS

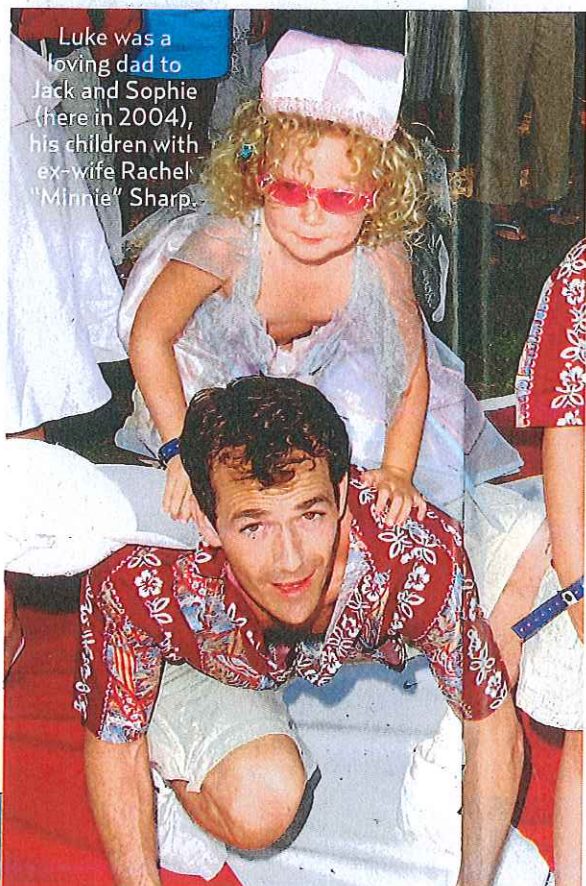
For fans all over the world — and especially those closest to the former *Beverly Hills, 90210* star — Luke's stroke came as an unfathomable shock. As soon as they were told of his grave condition, family members "scrambled to the hospital to be by his side," says an insider. Luke's daughter, Sophie, 18, abruptly ended a trip to Malawi, Kenya, where she'd spent the previous month. And his pro-wrestler son, Jack, 21, who goes by the stage name Jungle Boy Nate Coy, cleared his busy schedule to be by his father's side. "He's a wonderful man with a very close-knit family," says a friend of Luke's. "This is surely heartbreaking for them."

Once it was clear that Luke would not survive, his loved ones found themselves facing a grim reality that days earlier hadn't seemed even remotely possible. Wendy, 44, a

psychologist Luke had been quietly dating for more than two years, was now, suddenly, facing the fact they would never walk down the aisle. His children were fatherless. And *Riverdale*, which shut down filming on March 4 once the news broke, was without its patriarch.

Following the announcement of his death, Luke's costars and friends took to social media, expressing their grief and remembering the actor's kindness, good humor and warmth (see above). *Riverdale's* producers called him "a father figure and mentor to the show's young cast," and Erin Mackenzie, head of the show's makeup department head, remembered him as "the most truly authentic man I've had the pleasure to work with."

For the devastated *Riverdale* crew, Luke had been in their lives since the show's 2016 debut. The



Luke was a loving dad to Jack and Sophie (here in 2004), his children with ex-wife Rachel "Minnie" Sharp.



"I love him. It's Luke. He's my Dylan."

SHANNEN DOHERTY

"Luke Perry was humble and kind every time we crossed paths. I'm so sorry to hear of his passing."

SCOTT FOLEY

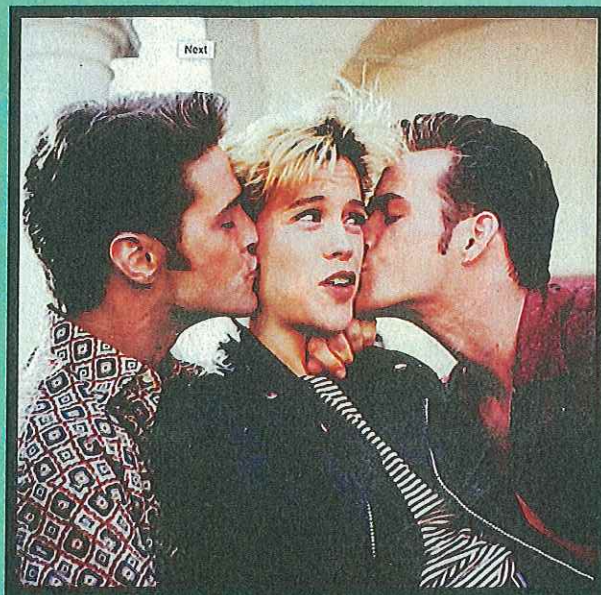
"Watching him on *90210* was one of the reasons why I wanted to move to L.A."

RYAN SEACREST

"When I was lucky enough to work with Luke Perry I told him about the pillow of his

face I used to sleep with and he yelled "You are such a weirdo!"

LESLIE GROSSMAN



"I am still in shock and I have no words beyond saying he was a truly kind gentleman. He will be mourned and missed by everyone who knew him and the millions who love him."

CHRISTINE ELISE MCCARTHY



Luke's relationship with fiancé Wendy Madison Bauer (here in 2017) was so private, their engagement was known only to their closest friends.

news hit even harder for his *90210* family, a tight-knit group of actors who'd shot to stardom together when the primetime teen soap took the world by storm in 1990. Shannen Doherty worked especially closely with the actor — he was her onscreen boyfriend, bad boy with a

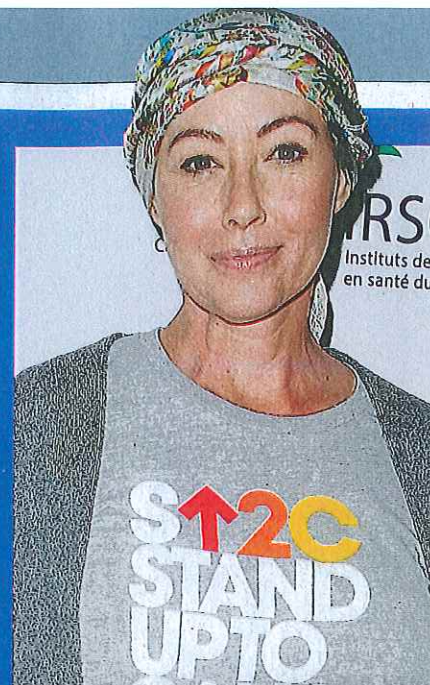
heart of gold Dylan McKay — and she's been particularly shaken. In fact, she hadn't planned to participate in the much-hyped *90210* reboot — which was coincidentally announced the day of Luke's hospitalization — but has been reconsidering in the wake of his passing. "Luke was Shannen's favorite in the cast," says an old friend of the actress. "She may participate now if they somehow pay homage to him. She just can't believe he's gone."

NO WARNING SIGNS

Neither can anyone else. While many early deaths come with warning signs, Luke's did not. "He seemed healthy, apart from a back problem, which he got fixed," a friend says. "He had a regular exercise routine and went to the gym down the street. He was not a smoker."

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The Cast's Been Through So Much



SHANNEN'S CANCER FIGHT

Shannen Doherty, 47, was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2015 and underwent a mastectomy, chemotherapy and radiation. "Sometimes it just feels like you aren't going to make it," she said in 2016. "That passes... Hope is possible." She's been in remission since 2017.

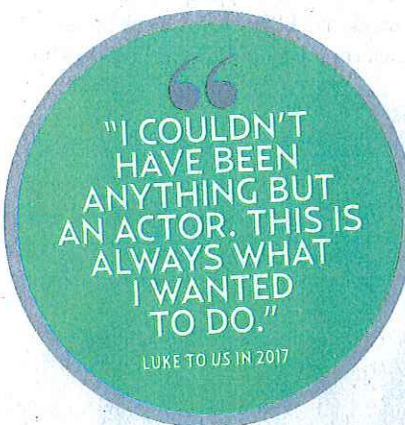
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While he did experience a cancer scare back in 2015 after precancerous growths were discovered during a colonoscopy, he had them promptly removed — and became an advocate for early screenings as a result. But sadly, strokes have nothing to do with other illnesses — and they can seemingly occur out of nowhere. "Stroke is not a single disease and can have many causes," says Dr. Larry B. Goldstein, a fellow of the American Neurological Association who did not treat Luke. "Many of these causes are not associated with other apparent health conditions."

MENTOR AND FRIEND

All of that is cold comfort to those facing a new life without Luke's support and words of wisdom. A hands-on dad who happily posed with his daughter on her prom night

and was often seen in the stands at his son's wrestling matches, taping the action on his phone, Luke also provided his young *Riverdale* castmates with fatherly advice. "The



thing I tell them — and I know this from my experience with *90210*: This show will come and go, but you have these people for the rest of your

life," he once told *Us*. "That's one of the great takeaways of this situation, you can have these friends for the rest of your life."

Simple, sound words from a man who came of age as a superstar but grew into maturity as someone for whom basic values were more important than fame. Though he loved acting — and once said he hoped to be on a sitcom at some point — Luke had been growing weary of all the traveling he had to do for work (*Riverdale* shoots in Vancouver, B.C.), and during his downtime, found himself happiest with his family at their farm in Tennessee. "I just like it there," he once told *Us*. "I like to fish with my kids. And we have animals there. I love the cows. And I love the quiet time in the woods. I'm a country boy at heart." To us, he'll always be our first crush — and, with his untimely passing, the guy who broke our heart.

US