

Actor Jeffrey Hunter Dies of Injuries; Fall Believed Cause



Actor Jeffrey Hunter, who portrayed Christ in the remake of the motion picture classic "King of Kings," died Tuesday from injuries believed suffered in a fall at his Van Nuys home, police reported.

The 42-year-old Hunter, whose true name was Henry H. McKinnies

Jr., was found unconscious by an unidentified friend Monday at 4:45 p.m. at the actor's home, 13451 Erwin St.

Hunter had apparently fallen down a flight of stairs. The friend called the Fire Department and an ambulance.

Taken to Valley Receiving Hospital, Hunter underwent surgery Monday night and died Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.

An autopsy revealed he died of head injuries.

Detective Sgt. Jesse A. Tubbs began an investigation of the apparent accident.

He was unable to talk immediately to Hunter's third wife, Emily, who was reported under sedation.

The actor formerly was married to actresses Barbara Rush, by whom he had a son, and Joan (Dusty) Bartlett, by whom he had two sons.

One of Hunter's other important screen roles was that of the nephew of Mayor Skeffington, played by

Spencer Tracy, in "The Last Hurrah."

His other films included "Call Me Mister," "The Frogmen," "Red Skies of Montana," "Sailor of the King," "Seven Angry Men," "Proud Ones," "Kiss Before Dying," "Hell to Eternity," "Sergeant Rutledge" and "Brainstorm." During the early 1960s he starred in "Temple

Houston, a television series about a frontier lawyer.

Hunter was a native of New Orleans, a graduate of Northwestern University and a Navy veteran of World War II. He began his professional career in radio and summer stock and came to Hollywood in 1950 where he was signed to a long term contract by 20th Century-Fox.