

## Requiem for a fallen star



By Gord Atkinson

Twenty-five years after the death of one of Hollywood's legendary film makers, a disturbing new book reflects on the woeful conditions of his wake and interment. Chris Welles Feder, Orson Welles oldest daughter, recalls the painful circumstances of his burial and final arrangements. His widow, Paolo Mori, who was his estranged third wife, was responsible for his shabby interment. The funeral, according to the author, took place in a tawdry, stark mortuary that was devoid of floral arrangements. Despite his wishes to the contrary he was cremated and his ashes were entombed in a plain pine box.

With John Houseman, Welles founded the renowned *Mercury Theatre*, and was on network radio with his own program when he was only 23. His company of players included Agnes Moorehead, Vincent Price, Joseph Cotten, Everett Sloane and Ray Collins. He broadcast the classics in a style and way that had never been presented before. His dramatizations revolutionized radio.

A larger-than-life character, he accomplished a tour-de-force of cinematic style, story-telling and drama in *Citizen Kane*. He will always be remembered as the newspaper tycoon and political candidate, who vowed to protect the underprivileged, underpaid and underfed. To paraphrase a line from *Citizen Kane*, "as it must to all men, death came to" Orson Welles, October 10th, 1985.

*I look forward to receiving your letters and e-mails with your own special memories ([gorda@rogers.com](mailto:gorda@rogers.com))*

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