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Rita Hayworth, born Margarita Carmen Cansino, 1918-10-17 ~ 1987-05-14, was an American dancer and film actress who achieved fame during the 1940s as one of the era's top stars. Appearing first as Rita Cansino, she agreed to change her name to Rita Hayworth and her natural dark brown hair color to dark red to attract a greater range of roles. Her appeal led to her being featured on the cover of Life magazine five times, beginning in 1940.

Hayworth appeared in a total of 61 films over 37 years. She is one of six women who has the distinction of having danced on screen with both Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly. She is listed by the American Film Institute as one of the 100 Greatest Stars of All Time.

Rita Hayworth lapsed into a semicoma in February 1987. She died at age 68 from Alzheimer's disease a few months later on May 14, 1987. A funeral service was held on May 19, 1987, at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Beverly Hills. Pallbearers included actors Ricardo Montalban, Glenn Ford, Don Ameche, agent Budd Burton Moss, and the choreographer Hermes Pan. She was buried in Holy Cross Cemetery, Culver City. Her headstone includes the inscription: "To yesterday's companionship and tomorrow's reunion."

More info: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rita_Hayworth



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