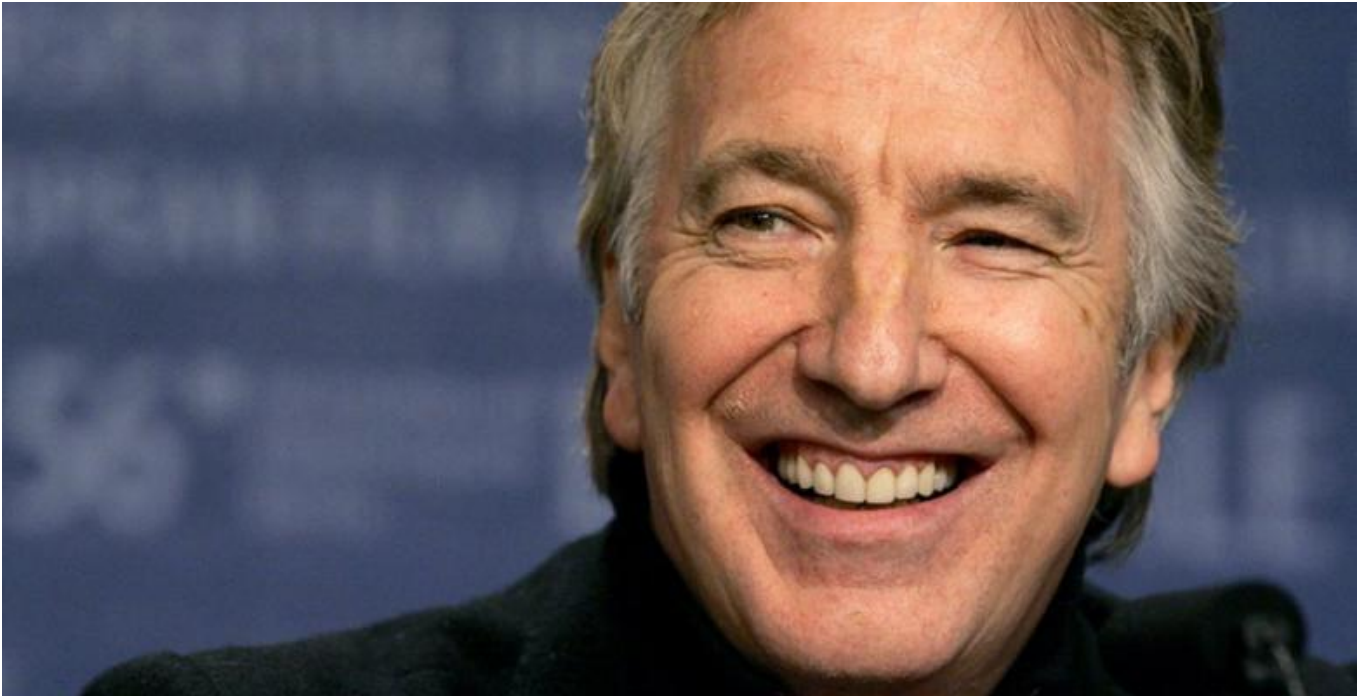


Harry Potter and Die-Hard star Alan Rickman dies age 69

14/01/2016



The London-born thespian first came to international prominence in 1988 when he stole the show from Bruce Willis in the original *Die Hard* film, hamming it up as iconic villain Hans Gruber, a role he won two days after arriving in Los Angeles at the not so youthful age of 41.

[@jk_rowling](#) There are no words to express how shocked and devastated I am to hear of Alan Rickman's death. He was a magnificent actor & a wonderful man.

He became famous for his malicious roles including the Sheriff of Nottingham in 1991's *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves* and Professor Snape in the *Harry Potter* series, a role which won him a new generation of fans.

[@jennifercarolyn](#) Alan Rickman's work enraptured generations. We raise our wands for you, sir.
pic.twitter.com/OsBieLaMVf

Despite Hollywood success, Rickman never lost touch with the stage, where his first big break came in 1986 in *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, earning him a Tony nomination.

Alan Rickman played John Gabriel Borkman on the Abbey stage in 2010. Our deepest sympathies to his family.



In 1996, he appeared on television as the legendary Grigori Rasputin, a peasant who rose to a position of influence in the Russian court. He also lent his distinctive voice to animated shows including *King of the Hill*.

I'm very sad to hear about Alan today. I feel so lucky to have worked and spent time with such a special man and actor. I'll really miss our conversations. RIP Alan. We love you

Posted by [Emma Watson](#) on [Thursday, January 14, 2016](#)

Unreleased films by Rickman include *Alice Through the Looking Glass* to be released in May, in which he voices a caterpillar, and *Eye in the Sky* to be released in April, where he plays a lieutenant entangled in a tense drone stand off.