

# Desi Arnaz Obituary - (He died Dec. 2, 1986)

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2 7 1 Comedian-Producer Desi Arnaz Dead  
 2 at 69  
 3 By RICHARD BENKE  
 4 Associated Press Writer  
 1 5 HOLLYWOOD (AP) -- Desi Arnaz,  
 6 the Cuban-born singer-bandleader be-  
 7 loved by generations of TV viewers as  
 8 Lucille Ball's harassed husband Ricky  
 9 Ricardo on the "I Love Lucy" show,  
 10 died of lung cancer Tuesday. He was  
 11 69.  
 12 Arnaz, who was married to Miss Ball  
 13 for 20 years before their divorce in 1960  
 14 and became one of television's most  
 15 successful producers, died at his Del  
 16 Mar home in San Diego County just  
 17 after midnight. Daughter Lucie Arnaz  
 18 Luckinbill was at his side, reading  
 19 prayers, publicist Charlie Pomerantz  
 20 said.  
 21 "He was the father of my children  
 22 and we were always friends, always  
 23 very friendly and close," Miss Ball  
 24 said. "I was down there last week.  
 25 We've talked all the time, through the  
 26 years. Lucy, our daughter, was with  
 27 him. He died in her arms last night."  
 28 "(We are) very elated that he's out of  
 29 his misery. He suffered a lot. We have  
 30 prayed for his -- being free of pain."  
 31 Dr. Charles Campbell of San Diego,  
 32 Arnaz' physician, said his patient had  
 33 been ill for about a year.  
 34 "He died of lung cancer. It was from  
 35 smoking those Cuban cigars; that's the  
 36 truth," Campbell said.  
 37 "I Love Lucy," which Arnaz  
 38 produced and which also starred Wil-  
 39 liam Frawley and Vivian Vance as the  
 40 Ricardos' neighbors, Fred and Ethel  
 41 Mertz, was one of television's most  
 42 successful and longest running shows.  
 43 When Miss Ball became pregnant  
 44 with the couple's son, Desi Arnaz Jr.,  
 45 the entire nation followed her progress,  
 46 and "Little Ricky" was born in an  
 47 episode televised the same day that  
 48 Miss Ball actually gave birth.  
 49 Original episodes of the show ap-  
 50 peared from 1951 and 1961 and it's been  
 51 seen in reruns around the world ever  
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