

The GRIDLEY WAVE

CONTACTING THE WORLDS OF EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS

BRENDA JOYCE DIES AT 92

TRIBUTE TO
Beauty



Brenda Joyce
starring in
"Whispering Ghosts"
By 20th Century-Fox

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Brenda Joyce was a true Hollywood beauty who played in four Tarzan movies from 1945 to 1949. She replaced Maureen O'Sullivan who was scheduled to appear as "Jane" in *Tarzan and the Amazons* (1945), but Maureen had to take maternity leave to give birth to her daughter Mia Farrow, so RKO hired Brenda Joyce to replace her.

Brenda made her film debut in a 20th Century Fox film of 1939 entitled *The Rains Came*, starring Tyrone Power and Myrna Loy. One of her fellow cast members was Maria Ouspenskaya, a tiny, wizened, character actress celebrated in horror films such as *The Wolf Man*, starring Lon Chaney, Jr. She delivered one of my favorite lines in all of cinematic history when she cradled the wolf man's head in her lap, caressed his brow, and murmured in her thick Russian accent: "The way you walk



is thorny." Ouspenskaya also appeared as the Amazon Queen in *Tarzan and the Amazons* which was the first Tarzan film to star Brenda Joyce. The two actresses had been friends for at least six years, and one suspects they were very close. When Brenda left films in 1949 with *Tarzan's Magic Fountain* starring Lex Barker, she spent many years working for poor immigrants, finding them jobs and places to live.

Brenda's real name was Betty Leabo, and she made two dozen movies under her stage name before retirement. She died on July 4, 2009, of pneumonia at the age of 92, and *The New York Times* reports, without giving particulars, that she is survived by a son, two daughters, and three grandchildren. Tarzan film buffs will remember her portrayals of "Jane" in three Weissmuller films: *Tarzan and the Amazons* (1945), *Tarzan and the Leopard Woman* (1946), and *Tarzan and the Mermaids* (1948) as well as with Lex Barker in *Tarzan's Magic Fountain* (1949). Even though her life continued for sixty years after bowing out of films, her fans will remember her as she looked during her film career, young, blond, and beautiful. May she rest in peace. ... "Ye Editor"

Brenda Joyce appeared in this ad promoting her appearance in *Whispering Ghosts*, 1942.

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