Supermodel Tatjana Patitz Dies of Breast Cancer at 56

One of the original supermodels of the ’80s and ’90s, Tatjana Patitz also starred in George Michael’s video for “Freedom! ’90.”

January 12, 2023 By Trent Straube

Perhaps the quietest of the supermodels who rose to global fame in the 1990s, Tatjana Patitz, who also starred in George Michael’s iconic “Freedom! ’90” video, died Wednesday, January 11, of metastatic breast cancer, reports Vogue.



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A post shared by British Vogue (@britishvogue)

Born in Hamburg and raised in Sweden, Patitz entered a modeling contest when she was 17 and moved to Paris, but her career didn’t take off until photographer Peter Lindbergh began shooting her. One of his images of her and four other supermodels—Christy Turlington, Cindy Crawford,

Naomi Campbell and Linda Evangelista—appeared as a British Vogue cover in 1990. The photo inspired George Michael to have the models lip synch to his song “Freedom! ’90” for the David Fincher–directed video (watch the video at the top of this article).



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A post shared by Cindy Crawford (@cindycrawford)

Patitz appeared on over 130 magazine covers, CNN notes, but she chose a quieter, private life than her famous peers, preferring to live close to nature in California. She is survived by her son, Jonah.

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A post shared by Anna Dello Russo (@annadellorusso)

As the Cancer Health Breast Cancer Basics notes, “Breast cancer is the second most prevalent cancer (after skin cancer) among women in the United States. About 266,100 women are newly diagnosed with invasive breast cancer and around 40,900 die from it annually, according to the American Cancer Society. Men can also develop breast cancer. About 2,500 men are diagnosed with invasive breast cancer and 490 die from the disease annually. Around a quarter of women with early breast cancer will go on to develop metastatic disease, meaning the cancer has spread to other parts of the body.”

Visit the Breast Cancer Basics to learn more, including information about symptoms, diagnoses and treatments. And click #Breast Cancer for a roundup of articles on the topic. You’ll find headlines such as:

- “Tennis Icon Martina Navratilova Diagnosed With Throat and Breast Cancer,”
- “What to Expect From a Screening Mammogram,”
- “#ThisIsMBC Asks People With Metastatic Breast Cancer to Imagine the Future,”
- “Enhertu Improves Survival for Women with HER2-Positive Breast Cancer,”
- “Diet and Physical Activity After Breast Cancer,”

- “Breast Cancer and Black Women” and

- “Breast Cancer Patients Who Stop Hormone Therapy to Get Pregnant Did Not Have Worse Outcomes.”

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