

HUDSON'S BEEFCAKE LOVER WAS HIS ROCK TO THE END

Gay actor George Nader dies at age 80

BEEFCAKE actor George Nader fell for Rock Hudson the moment they met in the '50s, and he went to his grave still loving the screen legend.

Nader, 80, star of the campy sci-fi flick *Robot Monster* and a slew of other films, died of undisclosed causes at the Motion Picture Country Home near L.A. Feb. 4. Although Hudson died of AIDS 17 years ago, Nader's feelings for him never wavered.

"Rock and George became gay lovers almost as soon as they met," reveals a Hollywood insider.

"But they were too much alike for it to amount to more than a couple of trysts."

The two actors went on to forge a powerful friendship, and with George's longtime partner Mark Miller, who was also Hudson's secretary, created their own "family."

"They looked after each other and loved each other very much," reveals a source.

They were so close that when Rock died in 1985, he left the bulk of his estimated \$27 million fortune to Nader and Miller.

Over the years, both Hudson and Nader

were careful to conceal their true sexuality, because being gay in Hollywood in those days would probably have doomed their careers as leading men.

"The studios would just drop you cold if you went public," explains the insider.

"Rock and George had to act macho in public to keep their women fans."

That wasn't hard for Nader, who appeared in 44 films, including

Away All Boats in 1956, and in the 1959 TV series *The Man and the Challenge*.

He had served in World War II and his brawny 6-foot-1 frame rippled with muscles.

But the studios also helped the

gay actors cover their homosexuality, arranging a marriage for Hudson with his agent's secretary, Phyllis Gates, and sending Nader on dating sprees with beauties like Mitzi Gaynor.

"But behind closed doors, both were very gay, witty and often outrageously camp," says a source.

When Nader's career began to fizzle in the late '50s, he moved to Europe, where he starred in a series of German detective movies.

Tony Curtis, who

worked with Nader in the 1955 crime drama *Six Bridges to Cross*, described him as "one of the kindest and most generous men I've ever known."

- ROBIN MIZRAHI

Love mates:
Rock Hudson
(far right)
and George
Nader



Nader (left) and Hudson flank Rock's "cover" - wife Phyllis and Dani Crayne

'They had to act macho in public to keep their women fans'

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