



Donahue's marriage to co-star Suzanne Pleshette (left) lasted just eight months. Below, the beloved hunk with Sandra Dee in the classic movie *A Summer Place*, which caused a sensation because of its daring theme

pal. "But they realize that Troy fought like a lion to stay alive."

Donahue shot to fame in 1959 in *A Summer Place*, with Sandra Dee, who was then Hollywood's top teen star. The movie was a sensation because of its daring theme. The stars were unmarried teenage lovers with a baby on the way.

He went on to appear in a series of movies, but also starred in 1960s TV shows, *Surfside Six* and *Hawaiian Eye*. He married his co-star Suzanne Pleshette after making the film *Rome Adventure*, but it lasted just eight months. In all, he was married and divorced four times.

After his career nose-dived, he hit rock bottom, abusing booze and drugs - at one time living in New York's Central Park, sometimes sleeping in a cardboard box.

One of his old girlfriends, Kathy Torrence, told GLOBE that the star had a terrible drinking



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problem. "When he started ordering martinis for breakfast, I saw that his drinking was more important than his relationship," she says.

But he beat his demons and had been sober for nearly 20 years, clinging to the hope that he might get another shot at stardom.

It was not to be - but famed "starmaker", manager Jay Bernstein told GLOBE, "Troy was the biggest star of the '60s. He represented young love at its ideal. He was a nice man, a sweet soul and a wonderful friend."

- ROBIN MIZRAHI, FELICIA LEVINE and DAVID THOMPSON