



George Martin Dolis

March 26, 1933 - January 5, 2026

George Martin Dolis was born on March 26, 1933 in St. Louis, MO., to George and Florence (Vance) Dolis. He attended high school seminaries in Iowa and Missouri, where he enjoyed the rigors of a semi-classical education, including Latin and German. He loved the rituals, but left when he discovered he lacked faith. After graduating high school, he initially enrolled in the engineering program at the University of Miami, but had to return home when his father's illness left the family destitute and depending on his support.

George entered military service in 1953; he was assigned to the Army Security Agency and stationed in Germany for several years. In 1957 he enrolled in Columbia University, graduating with a Bachelor in Science in German Languages and Literature in 1962. During the summers, he earned his living as a seaman in the Merchant Marine, traveling to Europe, Cuba and Panama. In 1963 he enrolled in the Germanic Languages and Literature graduate program at Columbia, spending two summers at the University of Uppsala in Sweden before transferring to the University of Chicago where he received his M.A in 1966. After one year of exploring the life of a merchant marine full time, he returned to Uppsala to begin working on his dissertation, though actually spent more time at the Swedish Film Institute where he met Ingmar Bergman, Max von Sydow and other directors and actors. Those early years were the foundation for his life-long love of travel and the ocean as well as his passion for independent films.

He returned to the US after the death of his mother in 1969 and accepted a one-semester position at Washington University in St. Louis, teaching Scandinavian Languages and Literature. The one semester turned into nine years in which he greatly expanded the offerings of both the Germanic and the Comparative Literature department, teaching film history in addition to his language classes. His courses attracted students from other disciplines, whether art, philosophy, architecture or even the medical school; he was known to accept poems, sculptures and drawings as term papers for his class and, together with his students, ran multiple film series on campus, ranging from early German Cinema to French New Wave and films by Luis Bunuel and Akira Kurosawa. He became very interested in the New German Cinema, especially after meeting Werner Herzog at a conference in the mid-70s. This eventually led to the translation of one of Herzog's scripts, *Kaspar Hauser*, in collaboration with a German exchange student, Ingrid Weigand, who had attended his classes.

In 1979, George and Ingrid moved to Austin, TX where they immersed themselves in the happily-starving artists community: film, theater, music, and later video. In 1981, they travelled to the Amazon to the set of Herzog's film *Fitzcarraldo*, which led to several published articles. In 1984, George left his wedding celebration to complete his first Public Access video class; after that, he and Ingrid began documenting the performances of friends they had made in the music community, from Blaze Foley to Townes van Zandt to Guy Clark. They also started producing videos for non-profit organizations and created short documentaries on the homeless in Austin, the Kerrville Music Festival and the Texas screenwriter Horton Foote.

George joined the local stage union and worked shows for many years; in addition, he created lighting designs for Austin Music Network productions from 1994 to 98. He continued to travel, using Ingrid's bi-annual trips to

Germany as a starting point to explore other European countries and finally reconnecting with the Paris, France, branch of his family.

George loved telling stories, the shaggier, the better; he was irreverent, bursting with ideas and allergic to restraints of any kind. Finishing projects or being on time were not among his strong points, but he made people laugh and affected them with his enthusiasm.

He spent the last weeks of his life as he had wished - sitting in the sun on his porch, visiting with friends, sneaking food to his dogs and watching his birds and squirrels.

He is survived by Ingrid Weigand, his wife of 42 years.

Ingrid wishes to express her deep gratitude to Hospice Austin.

Tribute Wall

SG

“ *Best couple EVER !!*

I met George and Ingrid through our mutual friend Katherine Leban in the early 80's. George instantly made you feel like a longtime friend. He was warm, whip smart, funny as all get out, authentic, community-minded, and always with something interesting to share.

I haven't seen you all in ions, but both you and George are two of the most memorable, kind and positive people I have ever met. I feel like a better person for having known you two.

Ingrid, George was very blessed to have you as such an inseparable part of his life. I know that you will miss him dearly.

My warmest condolences, ma'dear.

*Sheri Goodman
Northern New Mexico*

Sheri Goodman - April 03 at 10:38 PM

SG

I have to add that you can't think of George without seeing his glorious smile!

Sheri Goodman - April 03 at 10:41 PM

JC

“ Dear Ingrid,
I am very sorry to hear the sad news about George. I remember him fondly for his warmth, his kindness, and the way he could always make people feel at ease. He will be deeply missed, but the memories of him will stay with all of us.

With heartfelt sympathy, Jose Cuervo

Jose Cuervo - January 28 at 03:11 PM

NW

“ Ah, George, when you first met him you knew this was a lively, kind and fascinating person with a large lived history behind him! During one of his visits to San Francisco - I'm guessing around 2004 - he attended a seafaring program on the historic ship *Balclutha*, docked at Aquatic Park. I was there too, and a picnic on the lawn concluded the event. We chatted and met later to attend a film in an actual movie house (now sadly shuttered).

George chose "The Story of the Weeping Camel," a lovely, simple and moving film that was nominated for an Oscar as Best Documentary. I never forgot the images, and now you can watch it for free. George had good taste.

A line in the film is worth repeating here. The Buddhist priest says during a healing ceremony, "We, the Mongolian people, honor nature and its spirits. Nowadays, mankind plunders the earth more and more in search of her treasures. This drives the spirits away. We have to remember we are not the last generation on earth. Now we'll pray for forgiveness, so that the spirits may come back." You are definitely up there with them, George.

Nadya Williams - January 20 at 02:30 AM

BB

“ George was an essential early guide in my film studies career. I was in his film classes at Washington University in St. Louis where he introduced me to the films of Danièle Huillet and Jean-Marie Straub -- something that influenced me for the rest of my life. I was also his teaching assistant in a course on Ingmar Bergman, another profound experience. After St. Louis I lost track of him: he and Ingrid went south, I went east. So I was very glad to be able to convey my gratitude to him for his inspiration, even if only all too recently.

Barton Byg - January 13 at 04:27 PM

BR

“ How many other men have lived ten lives in the space that most of us live one? I know him from making Caipirinhas together for a Kelly/Norton birthday, slurping oysters at the restaurant at WF, dining al fresco, and laughing like mad over collards, gumbo, and mushroom toast at Winter Solstice parties. I know him from his later years, the god's know I could never have kept up with him if I weren't so much younger. He was a very fortunate man to have found Ingrid, and a wise one to have held onto her. They created so much loveliness and meaning together. Au revoir et bon voyage, belle lumière!



Bookie Read-Orr - January 12 at 09:09 PM

MC

“ I met George around 1988 as a fellow stagehand in Austin. George was my senior by about 20 years and I considered him a real member of the Beat generation. He was independent and didn't care too much about what people thought about him, but he was always willing to share a joint with someone. He was athletic but not competitive - making his exercises more of a ritual of experiencing nature around him. He was the star of the neighborhood and personified the creative spirit that runs through the veins of Austin. With George it was ok to be different and a little weird.



Matt Coldwell - January 11 at 06:17 PM

FS

“ John Wiley and George at Emilys opening. Thank you George and Ingrid for being part of our family for being there for all of our life's milestones.



Faith Schexnayder - January 10 at 11:02 AM

FS

“ George would come jump on our trampoline with all the dogs on his birthday. Emily and John Wiley loved jumping with him.



Faith Schexnayder - January 10 at 10:52 AM

SH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Sylvie H - January 09 at 01:09 PM

SH

George and Jean-Pierre, Paris, France, 2008

Around 2006, Jean-Pierre, then aged 86, met his cousin George in Paris for the first time in his life.

George and Jean-Pierre, two cousins from the Dolis family, embody the history of the relationship between Europe and the United States, right back to its origins.

George would not have wanted this story to be forgotten.

Sylvie H - January 09 at 01:10 PM

RW

Well written Sylvie.

I last saw George and Ingrid when Randy and I lived in Paris and Sylvie hosted at dinner gathering at a Parisian restaurant. George was full of conversation it was always interesting.

Prior to that gathering we were at a gathering in St. Louis hosted by Ann Schwier.

Ingrid we hope to stay in touch even if at long distance. I offer my sympathies to your loss.

*Regards,
Rosie Pokrefke Weiss*

Rosie Weiss - January 15 at 11:17 AM

HE

“ *George was a majical gentle soul. Ingrid and George did more videos of Townes Van Zandt then anyone ever. Townes would say they are beyond special.*

Harold Eggers - January 08 at 03:00 PM

NW

“ *George (and Ingrid) made Austin a better place. I'm glad I met him and happy to be one of his friends. May he rest in peace and love.*

Norm Wright - January 07 at 07:40 PM

RD

“ *I met George and Ingrid many dogs ago. That was always an energy in their house. I have had the pleasure of many odd and winding conversations with George. He was a spirit we all could be comfortable with. He will be remembered as we carry on that spirit. Today, I am sad.*

Rob Donald - January 07 at 02:47 PM

RM

“ George and Ingrid are two of my favorite people in the world. So much to be said. I met George when we both worked gigs at the Erwin Center. We later joined I.A.T.S.E. The stage union. He always had something going on. Working his magic to tell the world what needed to be done to right a wrong. Homelessness, Barton Springs, City Council. He was there with Ingrid to stand up. He showed in his films the Good and the Bad. Before social media I would depend on them to keep an eye out and let us know when to mobilize. Much of what we enjoy today in Austin is because of them. Fighting the good fight.

George was a mentor and friend. I will miss him. 🙌❤️☀️

Ron Mann - January 07 at 02:01 PM

JS

“ 3 files added to the album George Photos



John Schexnayder - January 07 at 10:47 AM

JS

“ *The first time I saw George was interesting. He was driving his old beater car with a metal plate welded, or riveted, where it had rusted through. He had a joint hanging out of his mouth. This is when we first moved across the street from him over 30 years ago. At that time I did not know he was a neighbor but I was sure he belonged to our funky south Austin community.*

Another memory of George was his annual trek to our home to bounce on the trampoline for his birthday. I enjoyed knowing George and will miss him.

John Schexnayder - January 07 at 10:41 AM