

TESSA LE BARS MANAGEMENT

We announce with great sadness that iconic scriptwriter Ray Galton OBE passed away last night, aged 88, after a long and heartbreaking battle with dementia.

He met his lifelong friend and writing partner Alan Simpson at Milford Sanatorium when both were diagnosed with tuberculosis as teenagers. Together they would make comedy history, creating ground-breaking sitcoms *Hancock's Half Hour*, *Steptoe and Son*, and *Sanford and Son* in the USA.

As well as acclaimed work with Tony Hancock and Steptoe actors Harry H Corbett and Wilfrid Brambell, they successfully wrote television, film and stage scripts for Frankie Howerd, Peter Sellers, Leonard Rossiter and Arthur Lowe, among many others. Their work continues to be enjoyed in English-speaking and foreign language versions worldwide.

Ray and Alan were also proud to be part of Associated London Scripts, incorporating the cream of British comedy writers.

Alongside his considerable talent, Ray's generosity, kindness and influence has been felt by so many.

The Galton Family: "Ray passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family. We respectfully request there are no attempts to contact the Galton family home at this time."

Tessa Le Bars: "I have had the great honour of working with Ray for over 50 years and for the last 40 as his manager and friend. With his lifelong co-writer, the late Alan Simpson, they were regarded as the fathers and creators of British sitcom. The end of an iconic era, but the legacy of Hancock's Half Hour, Steptoe and Son and over 600 scripts is huge. They will endure, inspire and bring laughter to the nation for evermore."

For further comment:

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