EDUCATION

Cast Of Guiding Light Where Are They Now

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The Enduring Legacy of Springfield: Catching Up with the Cast of Guiding Light

For over seven decades, from its radio debut in 1937 to its final television broadcast in 2009, **Guiding Light** was more than just a soap opera; it was a shared cultural touchstone for millions of viewers. The residents of the fictional town of Springfield became part of our daily lives, their joys, sorrows, and dramatic entanglements a constant companion. It is only natural that, years after the final fade-out, fans still wonder: what happened to the beloved actors who brought these characters to life? Exploring the **Cast Of Guiding Light Where Are They Now**reveals a fascinating tapestry of retirement, continued stage and screen success, and new ventures far from the soap opera world. This article takes an in-depth look at some of the show's most memorable stars and their journeys since leaving the longest-running drama in broadcast history.

The Core Families: Spaulding, Lewis, and Cooper

The heart of *Guiding Light*was always its core families. The scheming Spauldings, the adventurous Lewises, and the working-class Coopers provided the engine for decades of storytelling. Here is where some of the key players from these dynasties have landed.

Kim Zimmer (Reva Shayne)

Perhaps no other actor is as synonymous with *Guiding Light* as Kim Zimmer. Her portrayal of the passionate, flawed, and unforgettable Reva Shayne earned her four Daytime Emmy Awards and a permanent place in soap opera history. After the show ended, Zimmer remained a star in the soap community. She wrote a candid memoir, **I'm Just Sayin'!**, and became a travel blogger. She has made guest appearances on other soaps like *The Bay* and *Days of Our Lives*, and continues to be a popular figure at fan conventions, delighting audiences with stories of the show's glory days. Her post-GL career has been a masterclass in leveraging a legendary role into a multifaceted personal brand.

Robert Newman (Josh Lewis)

As Josh Lewis, Reva's great love and a central heartthrob, Robert Newman was a staple for decades. Following the show's cancellation, Newman didn't stray far from the soap world. He joined the cast of *The Young and the Restless* in a recurring role as Ashland Locke's associate and later appeared on *General Hospital*. He has also remained active in theater and independent films. Known for his calm, steady demeanor, Newman has balanced his acting career with interests in music and woodworking, proving that life after a long-running role can be creatively fulfilling.

Beth Ehlers (Harley Cooper)

Beth Ehlers brought a unique blend of grit and vulnerability to the role of Harley Cooper, a character who evolved from a troubled teen into a complex adult. After Guiding Light, Ehlers pursued other creative passions. She traded the soap opera set for the writer's room, becoming a successful television writer and producer. This transition is a remarkable testament to her versatility and intelligence, showing that the skills learned in the demanding world of daytime television can translate into powerful behind-the-scenes careers. The answer to "Cast Of Guiding Light Where Are They Now" for Ehlers is a resounding success in a new field.

Grant Aleksander (Phillip Spaulding)

Grant Aleksander played the scion of the Spaulding family, Phillip, with a magnetic blend of charm and darkness. He was a central figure in some of the show's most iconic storylines. Since the show ended, Aleksander has chosen a more private life, though he has remained connected to the arts. He is also a gifted visual artist and a published author of young adult novels, including **The Overnight** and **The Double**. His creative energy has found a powerful outlet in writing, demonstrating that the talent that made him a soap star can flourish in the literary world.

Frank Dicopoulos (Frank Cooper, Jr.)

Frank Dicopoulos was the steady, heroic police officer Frank Cooper for over two decades. After the show's finale, Dicopoulos has remained a working actor, taking on guest roles in primetime procedurals like *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit* and *Blue Bloods*. He also became a successful real estate agent in the New York area. His ability to navigate both entertainment and a traditional business career is a smart and admirable path that many of his former co-stars have also followed.

Notable Faces of Springfield

Beyond the core families, Springfield was populated with a rich array of characters that made the town feel real. Here is a look at some other fan favorites.

Michael O'Leary (Dr. Rick Bauer)

As the kind and dedicated Dr. Rick Bauer, Michael O'Leary was a moral compass for the show for over 25 years. After the show, O'Leary has had one of the most interesting post-soap careers. He returned to his first love: music. He is the lead singer and guitarist for the band **The O'Learys**, performing rock and roll across the country. He also works as a professional photographer and actor. His journey is a powerful reminder that the arts are a broad church, and a soap opera actor can find joy and fulfillment in other forms of creative expression.

Crystal Chappell (Olivia Spencer)

Crystal Chappell's portrayal of the fierce and complicated Olivia Spencer was a late-in-the-show fan favorite. A true entrepreneur, Chappell didn't wait for new roles to come to her after the cancellation. She created her own web series, **Venice: The Series**, which was a critical darling and earned her an Emmy. She has also directed and acted in other digital media projects and continues to be a powerful advocate for independent storytelling. Her career is a masterclass in taking control of one's destiny in the entertainment industry.

Laura Wright (Cassie Layne)

Laura Wright joined the show as the sweet-natured Cassie Layne and quickly became a fan favorite. Her transition after the show's end was seamless. She was cast in the iconic role of **Carly Corinthos on General Hospital**, a part she plays to this day. Wright's success story is one of the most high-profile. She is a major star in the remaining soap opera landscape, proving that talent and a strong work ethic can allow an actor to move from one beloved show to another without missing a beat.

Paul Anthony Stewart (Danny Santos)

Paul Anthony Stewart played the conflicted anti-hero Danny Santos. After his time in Springfield, Stewart has enjoyed a varied career. He has been a popular presence on the stage, appearing in off-Broadway productions. He also had a memorable, multi-episode dependent films. He continues to be a working actor with a passion for the craft.

Where Are They Now: The Veteran Stars

Guiding Light was also known for its long-tenured veterans who provided a sense of history and gravitas.

Jerry ver Dorn (Ross Marler)

Jerry ver Dorn played the brilliant, sarcastic lawyer Ross Marler. He is a perfect example of a "cast of guiding light where are they now" story that involves staying in daytime. He moved directly from *Guiding Light* to *One Life to Live*, taking on the role of Clint Buchanan. He remained a fixture on that show until its finale. Since then, he has done voice work and guest appearances. He is a respected figure in the daytime community.

Jordan Clarke (Billy Lewis)

Jordan Clarke was a rock as Billy Lewis, a character who went through immense change over the decades. After the show ended, Clarke largely retired from acting. However, he made a memorable appearance on *The Young and the Restless* in 2017. He has since focused on his family and other interests, comfortable in the knowledge that he helped anchor one of the most important shows in television history.

Maeve Kinkead (Vanessa Lewis)

Maeve Kinkead was a class act as the refined and often scheming Vanessa Lewis. After the show's cancellation, she has continued to act, making appearances on shows like *Madam Secretary* and *Elementary*. She has also remained active in theater. Her career is a testament to the longevity that a strong foundation in classical soap acting can provide.

A Final Look at Some Other Memorable Cast Members

The sheer size of the *Guiding Light* cast makes a full list difficult, but a few more names stand out in any discussion of the **Cast Of Guiding Light Where Are They Now**.

- Kevin Mambo (Marcus Williams): Mambo, who won two Daytime Emmys for his role, has had a glittering career in music and acting. He is a talented jazz musician and has performed around the world. He also appeared in the film The Post.
- Peter Simon (Dr. Ed Bauer): Simon, a pivotal character from the show's earlier days, sadly passed away in 2022. His legacy as a beloved, kind-hearted doctor is remembered fondly by fans.
- Maureen Garrett (Holly Reade): Garrett continued to act after the show, making appearances in theater and guest roles on television. She is also a dedicated artist.
- Ron Raines (Alan Spaulding): Raines, a classically trained singer and actor, has had a robust career in musical theater, performing in Broadway and national tours. He is a true renaissance man of the performing arts.

Conclusion

The question of the **Cast Of Guiding Light Where Are They Now** reveals a community of actors who, like the characters they played, have had to adapt, grow, and find new paths. Some have soared to new heights on other

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