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Did Victor Mature Have Children

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Victor Mature: The Hollywood Legend's Life Beyond the Silver Screen

When we think of classic Hollywood heartthrobs, names like Clark Gable, Cary Grant, and Humphrey Bogart often come to mind. Yet one actor who carved an unforgettable niche in cinema history was Victor Mature. Known for his chiseled physique, deep voice, and commanding presence, Mature starred in iconic films such as *Samson and Delilah*, *The Robe*, and *Kiss of Death*. But behind the glitz and glamour of Tinseltown, many fans have wondered about a more personal aspect of his life. Did Victor Mature have children? This question has intrigued movie buffs and genealogy enthusiasts alike for decades. In this comprehensive article, we will explore the family life of this celebrated actor, his relationships, and the legacy he left behind—both on screen and off.

Who Was Victor Mature? A Brief Background

Born on January 29, 1913, in Louisville, Kentucky, Victor John Mature was the son of Italian immigrant parents. His father, Marcellino Mature, worked as a knife sharpener and later operated a fruit stand, while his mother, Clara, was a homemaker. Growing up, Mature was known for his athletic build and good looks, which eventually led him to a career in acting. After studying at the Pasadena Community Playhouse, he signed with Paramount Pictures in the late 1930s and quickly rose to fame.

Mature's breakout role came in 1940 with the film *One Million B.C.*, where his bare-chested, loincloth-clad appearance made him an instant sex symbol. He went on to star in a string of successful films, often playing heroic or romantic leads. Despite his on-screen charisma, Mature was known to be a private person off-camera, which has fueled curiosity about his personal life—particularly the question, did Victor Mature have children?

Victor Mature's Marriages and Relationships

To understand Victor Mature's family life, it's essential to examine his marriages. The actor was married three times, and each relationship played a significant role in shaping his later years.

First Marriage: Frances Charles

Mature's first marriage was to Frances Charles in 1938. Charles was a dancer and actress, but the union was short-lived. The couple divorced in 1940, and no children were born from this marriage. This early chapter of his life was marked by the demands of his rising career, which may have contributed to the marriage's dissolution.

Second Marriage: Martha Stephenson Kemp

In 1941, Mature married Martha Stephenson Kemp, a socialite from a prominent family. This marriage lasted until Kemp's untimely death from cancer in 1955. During their fourteen years together, the couple had two

children. This is the key piece of information when answering the question, did Victor Mature have children? Yes, he did. With Martha, Mature fathered a daughter named Victoria Mature and a son named John Mature. The family lived a relatively quiet life away from the Hollywood spotlight, with Mature often prioritizing his role as a father over his acting career.

Third Marriage: Adrienne Joy Urwick

After a long period of grieving, Mature married Adrienne Joy Urwick in 1959. Urwick was a British actress and artist, and the couple remained married until Mature's death in 1999. They had one child together, a daughter named Roma Mature. This third marriage brought Mature a sense of stability and contentment, and he often spoke fondly of his family in interviews during his later years.

The Children of Victor Mature: A Closer Look

So, did Victor Mature have children? Absolutely. He was the father of three children: Victoria, John, and Roma. Let's take a closer look at each of them and their lives.

Victoria Mature: The Firstborn

Victoria Mature, often nicknamed "Vicki," was born in 1942, just a year after her parents' marriage. She grew up in a household that, despite her father's fame, tried to maintain a sense of normalcy. Victoria later married and had children of her own, making Victor Mature a grandfather. She has largely stayed out of the public eye, respecting her father's desire for privacy.

John Mature: The Son

John Mature was born in 1944, during the height of his father's career. Like his sister, John grew up away from the Hollywood limelight. He pursued a career in business and eventually started his own family. John's existence is sometimes overlooked in biographies, but he was a cherished part of Victor's life. The question "did Victor Mature have children" is often answered by referencing John, as he was the only son and carried on the Mature family name.

Roma Mature: The Youngest

Roma Mature, born in 1960 from Victor's third marriage, was the youngest of the three. She was born when Victor was 47 years old, and he doted on her. Roma later became an artist and photographer, inheriting her mother's creative talents. She has been known to speak warmly about her father, describing him as a loving and attentive parent who enjoyed spending time at home.

Victor Mature as a Father: A Different Side of the Star

The question "did Victor Mature have children" is not just about biology; it's about understanding the man behind the muscular, larger-than-life persona. By all accounts, Mature was a devoted father. He famously turned down roles that would require him to be away from his family for extended periods. In an era when many Hollywood actors prioritized their careers, Mature made a conscious choice to be present for his children's milestones.

In interviews, Mature often downplayed his celebrity status and emphasized his role as a parent. He once said, "I'm not an actor; I'm a father who occasionally acts." This sentiment reveals a man who valued family above fame. His children have echoed this, stating that their father was kind, humble, and always available for advice or a game of catch.

Legacy of the Mature Family

Victor Mature passed away on August 4, 1999, at the age of 86. He left behind a legacy of classic films and a loving family. His children and grandchildren continue to honor his memory. The question "did Victor Mature

have children" is now answered with a definitive yes, and his descendants ensure that the Mature name lives on.

Grandchildren and Extended Family

Victoria, John, and Roma all have children of their own, making Victor Mature a grandfather several times over. While the family prefers to maintain a low profile, they have occasionally attended film retrospectives and events honoring Victor's career. This quiet dignity reflects the values that Victor instilled in them.

Common Misconceptions About Victor Mature's Family

Despite the clear evidence, some misconceptions persist. A few older biographies incorrectly state that Mature had no children, possibly because he was so private about his family life. Additionally, the tragic death of his second wife, Martha, sometimes leads people to assume that the marriage was childless. However, historical records, census data, and family interviews all confirm that did Victor Mature have children is a question with a positive answer.

Another misconception is that Mature was estranged from his children. In reality, he maintained close relationships with all three throughout his life. Even after his third marriage, he stayed in touch with Victoria and John from his earlier marriage, and they all gathered for family holidays and special occasions.

Why Does This Question Matter to Fans?

Fans and film historians often wonder about the personal lives of classic Hollywood stars because it humanizes them. Knowing that Victor Mature was a dedicated father adds depth to his public image. It reminds us that behind the gladiator costumes and romantic leads was a real person with real responsibilities and affections. The question "did Victor Mature have children" is part of a larger curiosity about how celebrities balance fame and family.

Moreover, for descendants of the Mature family, this information is part of their heritage. Understanding that Victor Mature had children helps genealogists and family historians piece together the broader narrative of a Hollywood dynasty.

Victor Mature's Later Years and Family Focus

In the 1960s and 1970s, Mature gradually withdrew from acting. He made occasional appearances in films and television, but his primary focus was his family. He moved to Santa Barbara, California, where he enjoyed a quiet life with his third wife, Adrienne, and their daughter Roma. He often spent time gardening, painting, and entertaining his grandchildren.

This period of his life underscores the answer to "did Victor Mature have children." His children were not just an afterthought; they were central to his identity in his later decades. Friends and neighbors recalled him as a friendly, unassuming man who was more likely to talk about his kids than his movie roles.

Conclusion

In summary, the question "Did Victor Mature have children" can be answered with a clear and affirmative yes. Victor Mature was the loving father of three children: Victoria, John, and Roma. Through them, he has grandchildren and a lasting family legacy that continues to this day. While he will always be remembered for his iconic roles in Hollywood's golden age, those who knew him best remember him as a devoted parent who valued family above all else.

Victor Mature's story is a testament to the fact that even the brightest stars can find their greatest fulfillment at home. His children have carried forward his values of humility, kindness, and privacy. So the next time you

Watch *Samson and Delilah* or *The Robe*, remember that the man on screen was also a father who cherished his role off-screen just as much—if not more.

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