



## Pyrrha Malouf

Pyrrha left this Earth on August 12, 2020. Her physical presence will be profoundly missed, though her radiance is still in evidence.

Scene stealer, mirth maker, femme fatale  
Hellraiser, mover and shaker, satin doll  
Shoulder to cry on, carpet to fly on, couch to lie on  
Heartwarmer, wry charmer, a stage to shine on.  
Dignitary, very, very elegant  
Risk taker, barrier breaker, irreverent  
Toastmistress, hippie princess in candlelight  
World citizen, jazz denizen, Queen of the Night  
Soothsayer, poker player, drinking shots  
Esoteric, non-generic midnight talks  
Fringe dweller, storyteller, avant garde  
Crazy dame, keeper of the flame, our North Star  
You made the shift, a thousand gifts left in your wake  
With soul unbound in a muslin gown you laid in state  
Holding hands, your ardent fans took one last gaze  
To celebrate, commemorate the trail you blazed.

We love you, Pyrrha

## Pyrrha Malouf (1929-2020)

Pyrrha was born in 1929 to Lebanese immigrants who settled in a small West Texas town. They opened a dry goods store and began to prosper. Pyrrha was accepted at Julliard at the age of 15 and moved to NYC to begin her new life as a classical pianist and vocalist. She soon became captivated by jazz, though she was not allowed to study it. Her interest in Julliard waned and she moved to California at age 17 where she met and married Bud Shank, who was touring with the Stan Kenton Orchestra. Life on the road was just the adventure she was looking for. June Christy was Kenton's singer and she and Pyrrha hit it off. The whole orchestra enjoyed sitting down together to restaurant dinners when they toured the South. When the black musicians were refused service, the whole ensemble would simply get up and leave.

Pyrrha never tolerated exclusivity of any kind. She also refused to adhere to the status quo. She found many like-minded individuals in Hollywood. Pyrrha divorced Bud and began acting and modelling in the fifties. She stood out due to her exotic beauty and wicked sense of humor. Soon she was accepting roles in major films like *The Ten Commandments* and *The King and I*. She recounted that the conditions were so unbearable on the set of *The Ten Commandments*, that the actors would walk around saying, "Who do you have to f\*\*\* to get *off* this film?"

She eventually married again, this time to a handsome James Dean type. The marriage did not last and she was left with a baby boy to raise. Hollywood still felt like a good fit. She did not want to return to her parents' home in Texas with her son. A friend set her up with an aspiring actor of Iraqi descent. They had a lot in common and soon fell deeply in love. Another son and a daughter soon joined the family. With her career officially on hold, family life became more of a challenge than a joy.

When Pyrrha's third marriage ended, she took a job as Ravi Shankar's personal assistant. She thrived in this milieu, immersed in music, and sharing good times with artists of all types, including George Harrison. Eventually, she felt the need to leave the U.S. She had always wanted to explore Middle Eastern culture, so she decided to move her family to Tangier, Morocco at a time when it was a Bohemian enclave. From there, she moved to London and then ultimately back to Texas to take care of her aging parents. Although she found it disheartening to be distanced from traveling and the arts, she found ways to stay involved on a local level and was able to formalize her skin care technique to make it accessible on a larger scale.

Pyrrha's gregariousness and range of experience magnetized people wherever she went. And yet, she continued to feel like a fish out of water until she eventually made her way to Santa Fe, New Mexico where eclectic was the norm. She lived there until her passing, surrounded by friends and family.

The originator of Pyrrha's Metafacial Massage™