

Lauren Richards

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Rachel Weisz

Rachel Weisz, a famous British actor, died of diabetic shock Thursday in Chapel Hill. Weisz intended to tour the University campus and negotiate a possible play performance at the University.

The hotel staff of the Windy Oaks Inn on 1164 Old Lystra Road found Weisz, 32, not breathing in her hotel room. The UNC Hospitals' emergency staff transported her to N.C. Memorial Hospital. She was declared dead upon arrival at 12:09 p.m.

Police Chief Gregg Jarvies said that investigators found a drug syringe in her room.

A written statement from the N.C. Memorial Hospital said that she died from a complication arising from diabetes.

Weisz met Ray Dooley, chairman of the department of dramatic art, at 7 a.m. for breakfast at the Windy Oaks Inn.

Dooley said that she cancelled an 8:15 a.m. appointment to tour the campus because she said she was not feeling well. She said that she would meet Dooley again at 11 a.m. to proceed with the rest of their plans for the day.

She was going to negotiate plans to perform with the University's Playmakers Repertory Company in spring of 2005.

Dooley went back to the inn at 11 a.m. and discovered that she was not waiting for him. The hotel staff broke into her room and found her.

Weisz is particularly noted for her starring roles in “Stealing Beauty” (1996), “The Mummy” (1999), “Enemy at the Gates” (2001), “About a Boy” (2002) and “Runaway Jury” (2003).

She broke into acting while studying English at the University of Cambridge and began acting in British films and theatres.

Weisz received the Critics’ Circle Best Newcomer Award of 1995 for her performance in the play “Design for Living.” She has been voted one of the world’s most beautiful actors by “Hello,” a British magazine.

She is survived by her Viennese-born mother, Edith, a psychotherapist, her Hungarian-born father, George, an inventor, and her younger sister, Minnie, a singer.

Funeral arrangements have yet to be made.