

george the animal steele biography

george the animal steele biography delves into the life and career of one of professional wrestling's most iconic figures. Born as Wayne Farris, George Steele became a household name in the wrestling world due to his unique persona and in-ring charisma. This article will explore his early life, wrestling career, and contributions to the entertainment industry, shedding light on how he evolved from a high school teacher to a wrestling legend. Further, we will examine his impact on popular culture and his transition into acting. This comprehensive biography will provide insights into the man behind the character, allowing fans to appreciate the legacy of George the Animal Steele.

- Early Life
- Wrestling Career
- Character Development
- Impact on Wrestling and Culture
- Transition to Acting
- Personal Life
- Legacy

Early Life

George the Animal Steele was born as Wayne Farris on April 16, 1937, in Detroit, Michigan. Growing up in a working-class family, Steele faced numerous challenges during his formative years. He developed a love for sports early on, participating in various athletic activities throughout his youth. This passion would later influence his career choices.

Steele attended Michigan State University, where he excelled in wrestling and football. He graduated with a degree in education and went on to become a high school teacher and wrestling coach. This educational background not only shaped his work ethic but also honed his leadership skills, which would prove invaluable in his future wrestling career.

Wrestling Career

George Steele made his professional wrestling debut in the early 1960s. Initially, he wrestled under his real name, Wayne Farris, but it was during this time that he began to develop his infamous

persona as George Steele. He quickly gained recognition for his unique look, characterized by his wild hair and animalistic behavior in the ring.

Steele worked for various wrestling promotions, including the World Wrestling Federation (WWF) and the National Wrestling Alliance (NWA). He became known for his entertaining style, often incorporating comedy into his matches, which set him apart from many of his contemporaries. His persona included a love for animals, particularly his infamous "pet" bear, which was often referenced in his storylines.

Major Matches and Rivalries

Throughout his career, Steele engaged in numerous high-profile matches and rivalries. He was especially known for his feuds with legendary wrestlers such as Bruno Sammartino and Randy Savage. These rivalries captivated audiences and helped elevate Steele's status in the wrestling community.

Some of his notable matches include:

- Bruno Sammartino vs. George Steele at Madison Square Garden in 1970
- George Steele vs. Randy Savage for the Intercontinental Championship
- Steele's participation in the first WrestleMania in 1985

Character Development

George Steele's character was a significant factor in his success. He was portrayed as a wild, uncontrollable beast, often eating the turnbuckle padding during matches. This distinctive trait not only entertained fans but also created a memorable image that would last for decades.

His look and gimmick were inspired by the classic horror films of the time, and his portrayal resonated with audiences. Steele became a beloved figure in professional wrestling, with fans appreciating both his comedic antics and his in-ring skills.

Impact on Wrestling and Culture

George Steele's influence on professional wrestling cannot be overstated. He was a pioneer in blending humor with athleticism, paving the way for future wrestlers to incorporate similar elements into their performances. His character appealed to a broad audience, including children, which helped expand wrestling's fanbase during the 1970s and 1980s.

Moreover, Steele's popularity contributed to the mainstream acceptance of wrestling as a form of entertainment. His memorable persona and matches helped bridge the gap between traditional sports and entertainment, allowing wrestling to flourish as a popular cultural phenomenon.

Transition to Acting

In addition to his wrestling career, George Steele ventured into acting. His larger-than-life persona translated well to the screen, leading to various roles in television and film. One of his most notable appearances was in the 1987 film "The Princess Bride," where he played the role of Fezzik, showcasing his unique blend of charm and physicality.

His success in acting allowed him to reach an even wider audience, further cementing his status as a cultural icon. Steele's charisma and comedic timing made him a favorite among fans of both wrestling and film.

Personal Life

Outside the ring, George Steele was a dedicated family man. He married his wife, Kathy, and the couple had children together. Steele balanced his professional career with his family life, often sharing stories about his experiences as a teacher and a wrestler.

Steele remained active in the wrestling community even after his retirement, often attending conventions and fan events. He was known for his approachable demeanor and willingness to engage with fans, further endearing him to those who admired his work.

Legacy

George Steele passed away on February 16, 2017, but his legacy endures in the world of professional wrestling. He is remembered as a trailblazer who brought a unique blend of humor and athleticism to the sport. His contributions have influenced countless wrestlers and entertainers who followed in his footsteps.

Steele's induction into the WWE Hall of Fame in 1995 solidified his status as a wrestling legend. His impact continues to be felt, with many fans and wrestlers alike celebrating his contributions to the industry. George the Animal Steele's biography serves as a testament to a life well-lived, filled with passion for wrestling and entertainment.

FAQ Section

Q: When was George the Animal Steele born?

A: George the Animal Steele was born on April 16, 1937.

Q: What was George Steele's real name?

A: George Steele's real name was Wayne Farris.

Q: What was George Steele known for in professional wrestling?

A: George Steele was known for his wild persona, comedic antics, and memorable rivalries in the wrestling ring.

Q: Which wrestlers did George Steele have notable rivalries with?

A: George Steele had notable rivalries with legends such as Bruno Sammartino and Randy Savage.

Q: Did George Steele have a career in acting?

A: Yes, George Steele transitioned into acting and appeared in various television shows and films, including the classic "The Princess Bride."

Q: What impact did George Steele have on professional wrestling?

A: George Steele blended humor with athleticism, helping to expand wrestling's appeal and influence in popular culture.

Q: When did George Steele pass away?

A: George Steele passed away on February 16, 2017.

Q: Was George Steele inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame?

A: Yes, George Steele was inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame in 1995.

Q: How did George Steele contribute to the growth of wrestling as entertainment?

A: By incorporating humor and unique character work, George Steele helped make professional

wrestling more appealing to a wider audience, bridging the gap between sports and entertainment.

Q: What was a signature move of George Steele in the ring?

A: One of George Steele's signature moves was his penchant for chewing on the turnbuckle padding during matches, which became a trademark of his character.

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