

# David Gulpilil

David Gulpilil Ridjimirarli AM, known professionally as David Gulpilil and posthumously for cultural reasons as David Dalaithng for three days, was an Indigenous Australian actor, dancer, known for the films *Walkabout*, *Storm Boy*, *Crocodile Dundee*, *Rabbit Proof Fence* and *The Tracker*. Gulpilil was born on the 1st of July 1953.

Unlike many indigenous people of his generation, Gulpilil spent his childhood in the bush, outside the range of Anglo-Australian influences. There he received a traditional upbringing in the care of his family. When he came of age, Gulpilil was initiated into the Mandipingu tribal group (Yolngu Culture).

David Gulpilil received a traditional upbringing in the care of his family, until the death of his parents, after which he attended the school at Maningrida in North East Arnhem Land where he was assigned the name "David". As a young boy, Gulpilil was an accomplished hunter, tracker, and ceremonial dancer. Gulpilil spent his childhood in the bush, outside the range of non-Aboriginal influences<sup>[4]</sup> and did not set eyes on a white man until he was 8 years old.<sup>[5]</sup> When he came of age, Gulpilil was initiated into the Mandhalpuyngu tribal group. His skin group totemic animal was the kingfisher (the meaning of the name Gulpilil) and his homeland was Marwuyu.

In Gulpilil's adulthood he starred in the movie *Storm Boy* (1979). As an actor, he reached the pinnacle of success in the 1970s with principal roles in a string of award-winning films including *Walkabout* (1970), *Storm Boy* (1979) and *The Last Wave* (1977).

Gulpilil was appointed a member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 1987, and the Centenary Medal in 2001. He twice received the AACT/AFI award for best actor in a leading role for *The Tracker* in 2002 and *Charlie's Country* in 2014. He was also nominated for this award in *Storm Boy* in 1977.

Gulpilil was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer in 2017 and retired from acting in 2019. His illness prevented him from acting and attending the 2019 NAIDOC awards, where he was recognised with the lifetime achievement award. Gulpilil died at his home in Murray Bridge, South Australia, on the 29th of November 2021.

Thank you for listening to the life events of David Gulpilil, i hope your mind has been filled up with facts, knowledge and the highlights of David Gulpilil and maybe consider watching one of his movies or searching up some facts about David Gulpilil. Also read up on his legacy which Was improving representations of Indigenous peoples and cultures.

