

Soviet TV Hypnotist Anatoly Kashpirovsky Dies at 87

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Anatoly Kashpirovsky. **Anatoly Kashpirovsky / YouTube**

Anatoly Kashpirovsky, the Soviet-era hypnotist whose televised “healing sessions” drew enormous audiences in the late 1980s, died on Saturday in Moscow at the age of 87.

“Anatoly Mikhailovich passed away from advanced cancer that had spread to his lungs and brain,” Kashpirovsky’s nephew Yuri Mamayev [told](#) state media.

“There was multiple organ failure, meaning that the affected organs simply stopped functioning as a result of the cancer,” the TASS news agency quoted Mamayev as saying.

A representative [said](#) earlier that Kashpirovsky suffered “sudden” cardiac arrest following a sharp drop in blood pressure.

[Born](#) in Soviet Ukraine in 1939, Kashpirovsky graduated from the Vinnitsa Medical Institute in 1962 and spent 25 years working as a psychiatrist in a regional psychiatric hospital.

He became a household name in the 1980s as public interest in the occult [grew](#) across the

country during Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika reforms.

Soviet Central Television started airing his six-part program, "Health Sessions of Psychotherapist Anatoly Kashpirovsky," in October 1989. Its audience was [estimated](#) at more than 200 million people.

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Following the Soviet collapse, Kashpirovsky entered politics, winning a seat in Russia's first State Duma in 1993 on the nationalist Liberal Democratic Party (LDPR)'s ticket.

In June 1995, he took part in negotiations during the Budyonnovsk hospital [hostage crisis](#), convincing Chechen rebel warlord Shamil Basayev to release some of the 1,500 hostages but failing to persuade him to surrender.

Later in life, Kashpirovsky clashed with health regulators over allegations that he was practicing folk medicine illegally. While the Russian Academy of Sciences dismissed his methods as "absolute pseudoscience," Kashpirovsky defended his medical credentials and [won](#) multiple defamation lawsuits.

He maintained a loyal following, touring and hosting "healing sessions" on YouTube until March this year.

His funeral will be [held](#) on Thursday, Oct. 8, at Moscow's Troyekurovskoye Cemetery, on the anniversary of his six-part television program's premiere.

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