chopper mark brandon read

Chopper Mark Brandon Read is a name that evokes a sense of notoriety and infamy in Australia and beyond. Known primarily for his life as a criminal, a figure in the underworld, and an unlikely celebrity, Mark Brandon Read, or "Chopper," has become a cultural icon. His life story is one of violence, crime, and later, fame, as he transitioned from a notorious figure in the criminal world to a celebrated author, actor, and media personality. This article delves into the life and legacy of Chopper Read, exploring his early years, criminal exploits, time in prison, and eventual rise to fame.

Early Life

Mark Brandon Read was born on November 17, 1954, in the Melbourne suburb of Fitzroy, Australia. He was the son of a World War II veteran and a mother who had a significant influence on his upbringing. Chopper was raised in a working-class family, and his childhood was marred by violence and conflict.

Childhood and Family Background

- Parents: Chopper's father, a veteran, was often abusive, which shaped his perception of masculinity and violence.
- Education: Read struggled academically and was often in trouble at school, eventually dropping out.
- Influences: The tough environment of his upbringing contributed to his later criminal behavior.

Chopper's formative years were characterized by feelings of alienation and rebellion, which would later manifest in his criminal activities.

Criminal Career

Chopper Read's criminal career began in earnest during the 1970s, as he became involved in the underworld of Melbourne. His reputation grew as he engaged in various criminal enterprises, including armed robbery, extortion, and drug trafficking.

Initial Criminal Activities

- Robberies: Chopper initially made a name for himself through armed robberies. He was known for his violent methods and willingness to use force.
- Drug Trade: His involvement in drug trafficking further entrenched him in the criminal underworld.

Violence and Infamy

Chopper's reputation as a violent criminal solidified through numerous violent encounters and confrontations with rival gangs. He became infamous for his ruthlessness, which included:

1. Assaults: He was involved in several brutal assaults, which contributed to his fearsome reputation.
2. Murder: Although he claimed to have killed numerous individuals, the actual number remains disputed and is part of his mythos.
3. Prison Sentences: Chopper spent a considerable amount of time in prison, where his violent behavior continued to escalate.

Time in Prison

Chopper Read's time in prison was marked by his infamous reputation. He was incarcerated multiple times throughout his criminal career, with significant stints in the 1980s and 1990s. His prison life was a mixture of violence, survival, and, surprisingly, creativity.

Experiences Behind Bars

- Violence: Chopper's prison life was rife with violence, as he often found himself in conflicts with other inmates.
- Writings: During his time in prison, he began to write, documenting his thoughts and experiences, which would later form the basis of his books.

Rise to Fame

Chopper Read's transition from a notorious criminal to a media personality is a fascinating aspect of his life story. Following his release from prison, he capitalized on his criminal past, becoming a well-known figure in Australian culture.

Literary Career

Chopper penned several books that gained significant popularity. His writing is characterized by a raw, unfiltered look at his life and the criminal world.

- Notable Works: Some of his most well-known books include:
- "Chopper: The True Story of the Criminal Mind of Mark Brandon Read"
- "From the Inside: The Story of the Criminal Underworld"
- "Chopper's War"

His books often blend autobiography, crime reportage, and dark humor, appealing to a wide audience.

Media Appearances

In addition to his literary success, Chopper became a sought-after personality on television and in film. He appeared in various documentaries, interviews, and even had a role in the 2000 film "Chopper," based on his life, where he was portrayed by actor Eric Bana.

- Television: Chopper made numerous appearances on Australian television, often discussing his criminal past and offering commentary on crime and society.
- Film: The film "Chopper" brought international attention to his story, solidifying his status as a cultural icon.

Legacy and Cultural Impact

Chopper Read's life has left an indelible mark on Australian culture. His persona has become a subject of fascination, representing the complexities of crime, punishment, and redemption.

Controversial Figure

While some view him as a figure of interest, others see him as a dangerous criminal who glamorizes violence. This duality is part of what makes Chopper a compelling figure:

- Glamorization of Crime: Many critics argue that Chopper's story glamorizes a violent lifestyle.
- Cautionary Tale: Others see him as a cautionary tale of the consequences of a life of crime.

Public Perception

Chopper's public persona has evolved significantly over the years. Initially feared and reviled, he became a figure of curiosity and even admiration for some. His ability to articulate his experiences and his unique perspective on life has resonated with many.

Conclusion

Chopper Mark Brandon Read is a complex figure whose life story intertwines crime, violence, and an unexpected rise to fame. His transition from a feared criminal to a beloved author and media personality embodies the contradictions of human nature and

the multifaceted aspects of identity. While his criminal past cannot be overlooked, his contributions to literature and popular culture have made him a significant part of Australian history. Chopper's life serves as a reminder of the thin line between infamy and celebrity, a line he has navigated with a unique blend of charisma and controversy.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Mark Brandon 'Chopper' Read?

Mark Brandon 'Chopper' Read was an Australian criminal, author, and media personality known for his violent past and flamboyant personality. He gained infamy as a member of the Melbourne underworld and later became a popular figure through his books and appearances on television.

What crimes was Chopper Read convicted of?

Chopper Read was convicted of numerous crimes, including armed robbery, assault, and murder. He was known for his violent lifestyle and was sentenced to prison several times throughout his life.

Did Chopper Read write any books?

Yes, Chopper Read authored several books, including his autobiography 'Chopper: The True Story of an Australian Criminal.' His writing often mixed humor with tales of his criminal activities, gaining a cult following.

How did Chopper Read become a media personality?

Chopper Read transitioned to a media personality through his books, interviews, and television appearances. His larger-than-life persona and unique storytelling made him a controversial yet captivating figure in Australian pop culture.

What is the legacy of Mark Brandon Read?

Mark Brandon Read's legacy is complex; he is remembered as a notorious criminal and a controversial cultural figure. He has been both celebrated and vilified in Australian society, reflecting the fascination with outlaw figures.

How did Chopper Read die?

Chopper Read died on October 9, 2016, after a long battle with cancer. His death marked the end of a controversial life that had a significant impact on Australian culture.

Are there any films or documentaries about Chopper

Read?

Yes, there are several films and documentaries about Chopper Read, the most notable being the 2000 film 'Chopper,' which starred Eric Bana in the titular role. The film received critical acclaim and helped further popularize Read's story.

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