

STRANGE HOLLYWOOD

## Save a Princess, Get a Monkey

Carrie Fisher's sudden superstardom from playing Princess Leia led to some heavy drug use (she barely remembered making the *Star Wars Holiday Special* in 1978). Two years later, her small role in *The Blues Brothers* was almost her last...if not for the film's star, Dan Aykroyd. As Fisher later (barely) recalled: "[Dan] was forcing me to eat because I was very thin in those days... and I inhaled a Brussels sprout, and I started choking. He thought I was laughing, and then he saw that I was dying, and he did the Heimlich maneuver, and then like 10 minutes later he asked me to marry him, and I thought, 'I better marry him. What if that happens again?'"

Their love affair never did lead to marriage (Fisher went back to ex-boyfriend Paul Simon), but as Aykroyd wrote in a tribute to Fisher after she died in 2016, he did get something in return, for better or for worse: "Contemplating marriage, I gave Carrie a sapphire ring and subsequently...she gave me a Donald Roller Wilson oil painting of a monkey in a blue dress next to a tiny floating pencil, which I kept for years until it began to frighten my children."