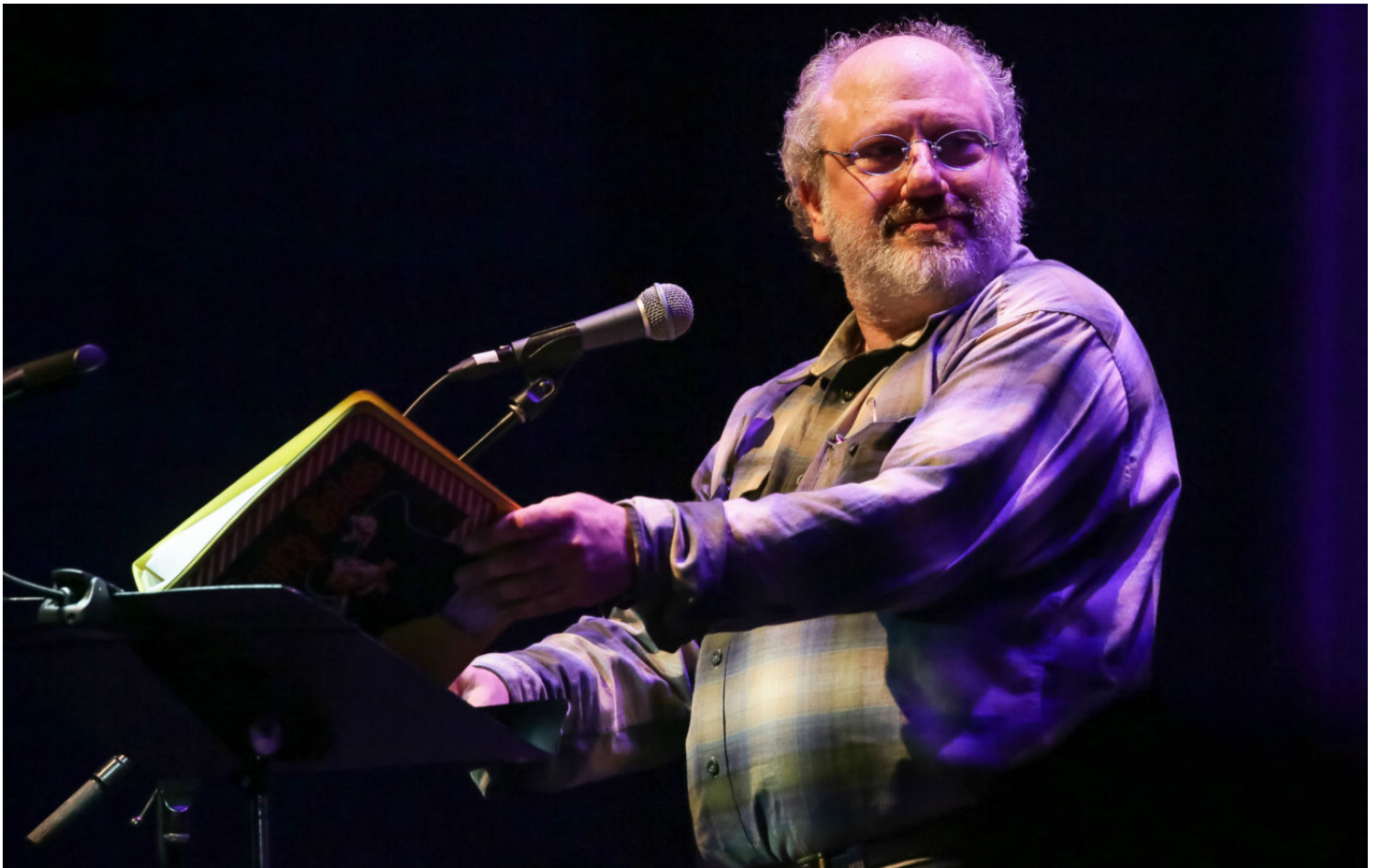


Courtney Love and Flea lead tributes to Lou Reed producer Hal Willner, who has died aged 64

He is reported to have been suffering from coronavirus

By **Tom Skinner** 8th April 2020



Hal Willner. CREDIT: Getty

Music and television producer Hal Willner has died at the age of 64.

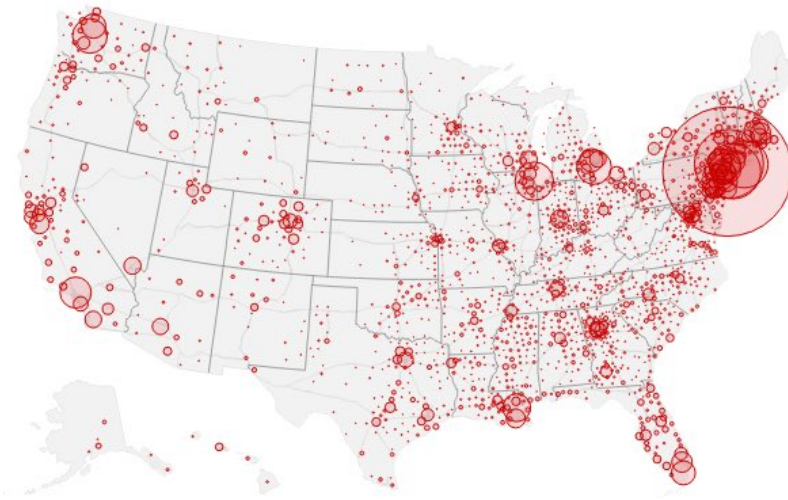
He is said to have passed away after suffering complications related to the **coronavirus**. An official cause of death has not been established at the time of writing.

The news was confirmed by **Variety** yesterday evening (April 7). Late last month (March 28) Willner posted a map depicting COVID-19 cases across the United States, with New York seen as the virus' epicentre.



@WillnerHal

I always wanted to have a number one - but not this . Pure Arch
Oboler with Serling added . In bed on upper west side . H



126 12:43 - 28 Mar 2020

[32 people are talking about this](#)

“I always wanted to have a number one – but not this,” he wrote”, adding that he was “in bed on the upper west side” of New York City at the time.

Last night, Willner’s friend Penny Arcade posted a message of tribute on Facebook. “Oh no! Not Hal..... Ladies and gentleman Hal Wilner has left the auditorium,” she wrote.

You can see that post below.

Willner, who was born in Philadelphia, helmed albums from the likes of Lou Reed and Marianne Faithfull during his career. He worked on the former's final major studio release 'Ecstasy', which came out in 2000.

He was also a long-time sketch music producer for *Saturday Night Live*, having first joined the hit variety show back in 1980.

Red Hot Chili Peppers' Flea wrote on Instagram: "Ahh man, damn. A sweetheart of a man, a music man. Hal Wilner R.I.P. The corona got him."

Cat Power wrote on Instagram: "Just got the news. Today is a very sad day. We love you Hal. Thank you for everything. Thank you for bringing us together. Thank you for always the good times and friendship. Thank you for your support and kindness."



Van Dyke Parks
@thevandykeparks

Nilsson's "Zip-a-dee-doo-dah" was produced by Hal Wilner, a brilliant and beloved social gadfly and determinant macher of Americana. He, a First Generation American—who so insightfully sharpened our national image. Hal died today of Co Vid-19, at age 64. youtu.be/8vhmfpZcipg

 YouTube @YouTube



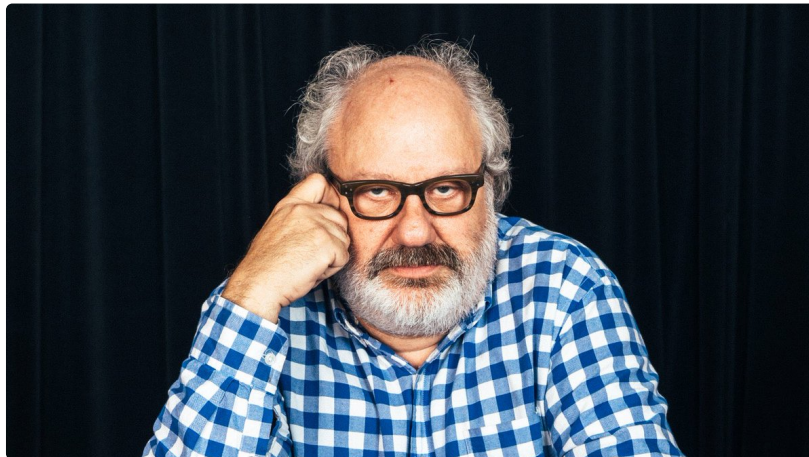
229 21:00 - 7 Apr 2020

[86 people are talking about this](#)



Chris Stein
@chrissteinplays

Damn. Hal Wilner. RIP man.



120 21:29 - 7 Apr 2020 · New York, USA

[19 people are talking about this](#)



Lee Ranaldo
@leeranaldo

So devastated to learn of the passing this morning of our dear friend Hal Wilner, from you-know-what. Truly one of the greats, a visionary bridge between so many worlds. Fuck. So sad. ❤️😞 [instagram.com/p/B-sVu7gnGDA/...](https://www.instagram.com/p/B-sVu7gnGDA/)

100 21:19 - 7 Apr 2020

[19 people are talking about this](#)



Thurston Moore
@nowjazznow

A prayer of music and humor in honor of our friend Hal Wilner, visionary producer & curator of dreams. His beat bop eyes & smile & wisdom touched so many of our lives. He actually got Sonic Youth on television in the 1980s!-when that was seemingly impossible - a hero a true star

185 02:24 - 8 Apr 2020

[22 people are talking about this](#)

Other tributes came from Anchorman's Adam McKay, who wrote: "Hal Wilner was a friend, a collaborator and one of the most original people I have ever known. I'm lucky to have had him in my life. The world was definitely a better place with him in it."



Adam McKay
@GhostPanther

Hal Wilner was a friend, a collaborator and one of the most original people I have ever known. I'm lucky to have had him in my life. The world was definitely a better place with him in it.

333 21:44 - 7 Apr 2020

[46 people are talking about this](#)

Willner began his career with a local record distributor when he was a teenager, which led to him honing his early production skills by assisting on Sun Ra's 'The Antique Blacks'.

As well as his production work, Willner was known for assembling an array of impressive talent for tributes – including 1988's 'Stay Awake: Various Interpretations of Music from Vintage Disney Films', which included Michael Stipe, Bonnie Raitt, the Replacements, Ringo Starr, Sinéad O'Connor, and more.

He also worked on film, producing scores for a number of high-profile releases including Martin Scorsese's *Gangs of New York*, and Adam McKay's *Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby*.

Most Apple Mac Owners Don't Know This (Do It Today)

Security Savers Online | Sponsored

