

A close-up portrait of actor Patrick Swayze. He has wavy, light brown hair and blue eyes, looking slightly off-camera with a soft expression. He is wearing a dark blue jacket over a white shirt with a dark collar.

# Today in History

*September 14, 2009*

▲ **Actor Patrick Swayze died from cancer at age 57. He leapt to fame in the hit 1987 film *Dirty Dancing* and scored another major success with the 1990 weepie, *Ghost***

**1959:** The Soviet Luna 2 crashed on to the moon, the first space probe to reach a celestial body

**1974:** Two giant pandas, Chia Chia and Ching Ching, arrived in London as a gift to Britain's Prime Minister

**1994:** Baseball team owners called off the entire U.S. season following a month-long strike by players

**2010:** A bill banning the wearing of the Islamic full face veil in public was approved in France