

BERNIE BRILLSTEIN Biography

Bernie Brillstein, a leader in the entertainment industry, is a top packager and producer, an exceptionally successful personal manager and a highly regarded consultant.

Functioning in all areas of the entertainment field, Brillstein is truly an entertainment pioneer in the "Old Hollywood" sense.

As the Founding Partner of Brillstein-Grey Entertainment, he heads one of the top multi-tiered, vertically integrated operations in the entertainment world.

Known for having a keen eye for comic talent, Brillstein was savvy enough to sign and develop such outstanding talents as John Belushi, Dan Aykroyd and Gilda Radner.

Along with Brillstein-Grey Entertainment's Chairman Brad Grey, Brillstein guides the careers of some of the most stellar names in motion pictures and television today, including, "Saturday Night Live" producer Lorne Michaels, Dennis Miller, Alan Zweibel, "Married With Children's" Ed O'Neill, Brad Pitt, Christian Slater, Rob Lowe, Nick Cage, Martin Short, Sylvester Stallone, Elizabeth Perkins and Jeanne Tripplehorn, to name a few.

Today, Brillstein-Grey Entertainment continues to represent many of "Saturday Night Live's" current and previous stars such as Dana Carvey, Kevin Nealon, Adam Sandler and David Spade.

A New Yorker, Brillstein first came into contact with show business through his uncle, Jack Pearl, a Ziegfeld Follies star. Following graduation from New York University, he landed his first industry job working in the William Morris mailroom.

Remaining with the agency for nine years, Brillstein left in 1964 to join Management III, where he continued to specialize in talent representation.

In 1967, Brillstein moved to Los Angeles to open a West Coast office of Management III. Realizing that he had no chance at the "big name" stars, he decided to sign writers, producers and directors as a means of survival. As these clients rose to television stardom, Brillstein became a packager and in 1969, The Brillstein Company was launched.

Brillstein's first big package was "Hee Haw." He has subsequently been instrumental in the generation of many products, including "The Muppet Show," "The Muppet Movie," "Saturday Night Live," "Not Necessarily the News" and "Fraggle Rock."

By capitalizing on multi-talented Muppeteer Jim Henson's genius and ability to diversify into all mediums, Brillstein has broken barriers in both television and in the movies.

Together with Henson, he launched "The Muppet Show" on network television at a time when it was unheard of for a network show to star "puppets."

Brillstein has Executive Produced the award-winning TV series' "Alf," "It's Garry Shandling's Show" and "The Days and Nights of Molly Dodd." He has also Executive Produced "The Boys" (Showtime), "Normal Life" starring Cindy Williams, Moon Unit and Dweezil Zappa, "The Dave Thomas Show" and "Good Sports" starring Farrah Fawcett and Ryan O'Neal.

In May of 1987, Brillstein was honored at a star-studded roast by the L.A. Free Clinic, which raised more than \$400,000 for that organization. The L.A. Free Clinic is one of Brillstein's many charitable involvements.

In feature films, Brillstein's past credits as Executive Producer include such box office phenomenon's as "Ghostbusters," "Ghostbusters II," "The Blues Brothers," "Dagnet," "Spies Like Us," "Hexed" and "The Cable Guy."

While CEO of Lorimar Film Entertainment, he produced "Action Jackson," a box office hit; "Running on Empty," which opened to overwhelming critical acclaim; and "Dangerous Liaisons," based on the award winning Broadway play which garnered seven Academy Award nominations and three Oscars, to name a few.

In 1991 Brillstein partnered with associate Brad Grey and formed Brillstein-Grey Entertainment. A division of Brillstein-Grey Entertainment is Brillstein-Grey Television (BGTV), a television production company which produces programming for network television, videocassettes, radio, pay-per-view and interactive television.

In 1999, BGTV entered into an exclusive television deal with Columbia Tristar Television (CTTV). Among Brillstein-Grey's series are "Just Shoot Me" on NBC, "The Steve Harvey Show" on WB, "Politically Incorrect with Bill Maher" on ABC and the critically acclaimed "The Sopranos" on HBO.

Some of the films BGE has released include "Cable Guy" starring Jim Carrey, "Bulletproof" starring Adam Sandler and "The Replacement Killers" starring Chow Yun Fat and Mira Sorvino. In 1999, BGE formed an exclusive motion picture deal with Miramax with several projects already in development.

In November 1999, Little Brown Inc. released "Where Did I Go Right?" Brillstein's candid memoir telling of his rise from the mailroom at William Morris to becoming head of Brillstein-Grey. It was on L.A.'s best-seller list for 10 weeks.

Brillstein serves on the Deans Council at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and is married with five children.