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# **The Mailroom Hollywood History From The Bottom Up**

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book by David Rensin that accounts what it is like to work in the mailroom in Hollywood's most prestigious talent agencies. Rensin interviews over 200 graduates of mailrooms such as William Morris Agency and Creative Artists Agency in a never before told story of struggle, surprise, tears, glamour, and most importantly the real life behind the glitz.

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The Mailroom: Hollywood History from the Bottom Up: Author: David Rensin: Publisher: Random House Publishing Group, 2007: ISBN: 0307417220, 9780307417220: Length: 464 pages: Subjects

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It's like something out of a Hollywood potboiler: Start out in the mailroom, end up a mogul. Only for dozens of Hollywood's brightest, it happens to be true. Some of the biggest names in entertainment — including David Geffen, Barry Diller, and Mike Ovitz — began as trainees in musty talent agency mailrooms. Now, in this fascinating new book, veteran Hollywood writer David Rensin travels behind the scenes and through 65 years of show business history to tell the real stories of the ...

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## The Mailroom: Hollywood History from the Bottom Up: Rensin

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The Mailroom Reading this juicy oral history is a lot like going

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to work in the mailroom of William Morris, CAA, or any of the other talent agencies whose veterans speak here with exceeding ...

## The Mailroom - Variety

The Mailroom: Hollywood History from the Bottom Up: Author: David Rensin: Publisher: Ballantine Books, 2003: ISBN: 0345442342, 9780345442345: Length: 439 pages: Subjects

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A journey inside a talent agency mailroom traces sixty-five years of Hollywood history to recount how careers have been made or destroyed, offering anecdotes about Barry Diller, David Geffen, and other Hollywood insiders. "It's like a plot from a Hollywood potboiler: start out in the mailroom, end up a mogul. But for many, it happens to be true.

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The Mailroom: Hollywood History from the Bottom Up. ISBN 978-0345442345. Rose, Frank (1995). The Agency: William Morris and the Hidden History of Show Business. ISBN 978-0887307492. External links. Official website

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It's like a plot from a Hollywood potboiler: start out in the mailroom, end up a mogul. But for many, it happens to be true. Some of the biggest names in entertainment—including David Geffen, Barry Diller, and Michael Ovitz— started their dazzling careers in the lowly mailroom. Based on more than two hundred interviews, David Rensin unfolds the never-before-told history of an American institution—in the voices of the people who lived it. Through nearly seven decades of glamour and humiliation, lousy pay and incredible perks, killer egos and a kill-or-be-killed ethos, you'll go where the trainees go, learn what they must do to get ahead, and hear the best insider stories from the Hollywood everyone knows about but

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no one really knows. A vibrant tapestry of dreams, desire, and exploitation, *The Mailroom* is not only an engrossing read but a crash course, taught by the experts, on how to succeed in Hollywood.

A tell-all journey inside a talent agency mailroom traces sixty-five years of Hollywood history to recount the real stories behind how careers have been made--or destroyed--offering entertaining anecdotes and behind-the-scenes gossip about Barry Diller, David Geffen, Mike Ovitz, and other Hollywood insiders. Reprint.

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If you're going to read one book about Hollywood, this is the one. As the co-founder of Creative Artists Agency, Michael Ovitz earned a reputation for ruthless negotiation, brilliant strategy, and fierce loyalty to his clients. He reinvented the role of the agent and helped shape the careers of hundreds of A-list entertainers, directors, and writers, including Steven Spielberg, Martin Scorsese, Meryl Streep, Sean Connery, Bill Murray, Robin Williams, and David Letterman. But this personal history is much more than a fascinating account of celebrity friendships and bare-knuckled dealmaking. It's also an underdog's story: How did a middle-class kid from Encino work his way into the William Morris mailroom, and eventually become the most powerful person in Hollywood? How did an agent (even a superagent) also become a power in

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producing, advertising, mergers & acquisitions, and modern art? And what were the personal consequences of all those deals? After decades of near-silence in the face of controversy, Ovitz is finally telling his whole story, with remarkable candor and insight.

“Magisterial. ... A must read for anyone who wants to work in Hollywood or just know how Hollywood works.” — The Hollywood Reporter A New York Times bestseller, now updated with an afterword and exclusive new material From the #1 bestselling author behind acclaimed oral histories of Saturday Night Live and ESPN comes "the most hotly anticipated book [in decades]" (Variety): James Andrew Miller's irresistible insider chronicle of the modern

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entertainment industry, told through the epic story of Creative Artists Agency (CAA)—the ultimate power player that has represented the world's biggest stars and shaped the landscape of film, television, comedy, music, and sports. Started in 1975, when five bright and brash upstarts left creaky William Morris to form their own innovative talent agency, CAA would come to revolutionize Hollywood, representing everyone from Tom Cruise, Meryl Streep, Robert De Niro, and Steven Spielberg to Jennifer Lawrence, J.J. Abrams, Will Smith, and Brad Pitt. Over the next decades its tentacles would spread aggressively into sports, advertising, and digital media. Powerhouse is the fascinating, no-holds-barred saga of that ascent. Drawing on unprecedented and exclusive access to the men and women



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who built and battled with CAA—including co-founders Michael Ovitz and Ron Meyer and rivals like Ari Emanuel of William Morris Endeavor—as well as the stars themselves, Miller spins a unique and unforgettable tale of brilliance, ambition, betrayal, and outrageous success.

Beginning in the William Morris mail room in 1955, Bernie Brillstein wanted only three things: “to walk into a restaurant and have people know who I am...to be the guy who gets the phone calls and doesn’t have to make them...to represent the one performer people must have.” Throughout his long career at the top of the entertainment industry—as TV and movie producer, agent and brilliant personal manager—Brillstein has accomplished it all. Where Did I Go

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Right? is Brillstein's street-smart, funny, and thoroughly human story of a life in show business. With his trademark wit and candor, he speaks out for the first time about his feud with Mike Ovitz, and how it felt to pass the leadership of his company to his partner, Brad Grey, and "no longer be the king." He describes his close relationship with John Belushi and what it was like being alone with Belushi's body as it lay "stretched out across two cramped seats in a tiny jet, wrapped up in a body bag" on the way to his funeral. He shares stories about Jim Hensen and Gilda Radner, about Lorne Michaels and the early days of Saturday Night Live. He takes us behind the scenes at such hits as The Blues Brothers, Ghostbusters, and The Muppet Show. Brillstein also reveals his secrets about how to survive and prosper in

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Hollywood, the real meaning of “the art of the deal,” the difference between “hot” and “good,” and why instinct is so crucial to the future of the entertainment industry. “Becoming successful is the most fun of all. I’m not talking about being successful or staying successful. I mean the getting there, the instant you arrive, and for the first time you think, ‘Where did I go right?’” After eight years, Phoenix Books is re-releasing this bestseller, with an updated epilogue from Bernie Brillstein entitled, “Still going right.”

Hollywood Drive: What it Takes to Break in, Hang in & Make it in the Entertainment Industry is the essential guide to starting and succeeding at a career in film and TV. Written by a Hollywood insider, Honthaner's invaluable experience and

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advice will give those attempting to enter and become successful in the entertainment industry the edge they need to stand out among the intense competition. Because while film school prepares students to write a script, direct a scene and operate a camera, few newcomers enter the job market understanding how this business truly works and how to land a first job much less succeed in the industry. Hollywood Drive is not merely a book about what it takes to get your foot in the door. It goes beyond that by offering you the tools, attitude, philosophy and road map you'll need to give yourself a good fighting chance at success -- whether you're looking for your very first job or for a strategy to move your career to the next level. This book will allow you to proceed with your eyes wide open, knowing exactly what to expect. Hollywood Drive

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explores the realities of the industry: various career options, effective job search strategies, how to write an effective cover letter and resume, what to expect on your first job, the significance of networking and building solid industry relationships, how a project is sold, and how a reel production office and set operate. You'll learn how to define your goals and make a plan to achieve them, how to survive the tough times, how to deal with big egos and bad tempers, and how to put your passion to work for you. \* Hollywood insider with 20+ years of experience provides realistic advice and tips on getting a first job and moving up in a tough industry \* Covers a variety of career choices and the basics of how a production is set up and run \* Includes must-have information on breaking into both Hollywood and smaller markets

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nationwide

“A lively memoir . . . a first-hand work of cinema history . . . the testament of a pivotal figure in American moviemaking.”  
—Martin Scorsese The list of films Irwin Winkler has produced in his more-than-fifty-year career is extraordinary: Rocky, Goodfellas, Raging Bull, De-Lovely, The Right Stuff, Creed, and The Irishman. His films have been nominated for fifty-two Academy Awards, including five movies for Best Picture, and have won twelve. In *A Life in Movies*, his charming and insightful memoir, Winkler tells the stories of his career through his many films as a producer and then as a writer and director, charting the changes in Hollywood over the past decades. Winkler started in the famous William Morris

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mailroom and made his first film—starring Elvis—in the last days of the old studio system. Beginning in the late 1960s, and then for decades to come, he produced a string of provocative and influential films, making him one of the most critically lauded, prolific, and commercially successful producers of his era. This is an engrossing and candid book, a beguiling exploration of what it means to be a producer, including purchasing rights, developing scripts, casting actors, managing directors, editing film, and winning awards. Filled with tales of legendary and beloved films, as well as some not-so-legendary and forgotten ones, *A Life in Movies* takes readers behind the scenes and into the history of Hollywood. “Charming and anecdote packed . . . popcorn for movie nerds.” —Newsweek “A deftly written recollection of an

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eventful and happy life in a precarious and, frankly, insane business; a remarkably clear-eyed look behind the scenes of moviemaking.” —Kevin Kline

“A crazy American epic” —Newsweek Complex, contentious, and blessed with the perfect-pitch ability to find the next big talent, David Geffen has shaped American popular culture and transformed the way Hollywood does business. His dazzling career has included the roles of power agent, record-industry mogul, Broadway producer, and billionaire Hollywood studio founder—but from the beginning his accomplishments have been shadowed by the ruthlessness with which he has pursued fame, money, and power. With *The Operator*, Tom King—who interviewed Geffen for the book and had



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unimpeded access to his circle of intimates—presents a mesmerizing chronicle of Geffen's meteoric rise from the mailroom at William Morris, as well as a captivating tour of thirty sizzling years of Hollywood history. Drawing on the recollections of celebrities such as Tom Cruise, Yoko Ono, Warren Beatty, Courtney Love, Paul Simon, and even Cher (whom Geffen nearly married), *The Operator* transports readers to a world that is as ruthless as it is dazzling, revealing a great American story about success and the bargains made for it. "A detailed portrait of Hollywood's premier manipulator...*The Operator* is as much a composite portrait of the 'New Hollywood' as it is of the fifty-seven-year-old partner in DreamWorks SKG." —San Francisco Chronicle  
"Illuminating...[*The Operator*] shows how raging ambition and

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chutzpah are as much valued as talent—or more so—in determining success.” –Philadelphia Inquirer

An Essential Guide to Landing -- and Keeping -- Your first Hollywood Job A position as an assistant to a producer, agent, director, studio executive, or star can be the path to a fabulous career -- or a one-way ticket to hell. How can the aspiring Hollywood assistant quickly learn the inside track to success while avoiding the land mines? *It's All Your Fault* is the answer. Written by two former Hollywood assistants who've been there and done that, *It's All Your Fault* is bursting with hard-earned advice, from figuring out who's who and who isn't to sex, drugs, and other work-related issues. Filled with outrageous anecdotes and countless celebrity

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stories, It's All Your Fault proves an indispensable addition to the nightstand of every wannabe Hollywood mover and shaker.

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