

Getting Sentimental In My Youth – Yes It Comes With The Sheer Passage Of Time

For the magazine's MIFED 2000 edition editorial, I decided to take stock of the last 30 years I have been in the business and remind myself why – through all the ups and downs of the business – I have never wavered in my love, passion, and belief in independence of mind, spirit, and work. When I founded the magazine in 1980, I knew that this endeavor would keep me occupied for many years. I didn't think 20 years later I would still be up at 2:00 AM writing my editorial, but it goes with the territory. Like all independent spirits and minds know, when the going gets tough the tough get going and get it done... which brings me back to my original thought. We are very fortunate in our business to have a cache and potpourri of talented and dedicated individuals.

As I reflect upon the last 30 years, I profoundly realize that it's not just my love of publishing and writing on a subject I adore that has kept me fully nurtured all these years, but the many friends and colleagues (some of whom are extremely close to me) that have given me so much pleasure. Sentimental? Perhaps. (But isn't sentiment the very fiber of life?) All of us, all too often, get so caught up in our day-to-day work, in our families, and responsibilities, that we have little time to deeply appreciate how fulfilling it is to really like the majority of people with whom we work. In the last few weeks, in the process of putting the magazine together, I have spoken to Ellen Little, Adriana Chiesa and Rosella, the Strohs, Danny Dimbort, Daphne Lerner, the McAbians, Lisa Wilson, Lenora Blanco, to name a few. (Don't anyone stop me in the corridor and say I forgot to mention them... smile.)

Many are my great friends and they are some of the truly super individuals in this business. They know who they are, and it would take a book to name them all... well almost a book, perhaps a small one (just teasing) to list some of these great individuals in our business. Two such individuals are: the kind and genuine Lew Horwitz, who celebrates the 20th anniversary of his company, and the benevolent Adriana Chiesa who celebrates the 10th year anniversary of her company.

In our editorial pages we cover Miracle Entertainment in an interview with Tony Cataldo. It is truly a long time since I have interviewed an individual of Tony's caliber. I am certain he will make the company a success. And not just because he is an especially charming or beguiling individual, but because he possesses a rare quality – sincerity and conviction in his beliefs. These are the characteristics seen in certain individuals in this business that keep me personally nurtured and satisfied with a passion for my chosen path in life.

Often I have written about how difficult it is to work within the independent industry and it does not get any easier. If it's not the consolidation of the majors, the currency fluctuations, the threat of war, oil prices, the American elections, or companies going bankrupt, there is always something else. But, I am not complaining.

I am simply, once again, celebrating the strengths, the tenacity, skills, knowledge, and experience of all of us who work in this sector. Of course all these factors affect other industries, but in no other industry in the world is the creating of an entity (The Film) and "getting the project right" so elusive. For the past few months, the magazine has written extensively about the documentary film *Into the Arms of Strangers*, an uplifting film made with the determination, tenacity, and passion of an independent filmmaker. This is a film that is gaining success and popularity throughout the U.S., and hopefully when it's released worldwide, it will do the same.

There is not a magic formula to our craft, no exact science that keeps the majority of our industry population sane. It is just each of our own individual *raison d'être* as to why we gallop though the years and the countless markets – only to wake up one day to find out 30 incredible years have whizzed by. (You all now know mine... so what's yours?) Anyway, I will be delighted for anyone to stop me in the corridors and tell me "why."

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