

entertainment culture" started to sneak in and true respect for anything or anyone slowly started to disappear.

Kerwin's career writing celebrity profiles began, as he describes it, by "fluke." While watching a PBS show called "Book Beat" hosted by Roger Cromie, Kerwin was inspired to send some of his writing samples to the host in hopes of creating interest in them. Though he eventually declined his submissions, Cromie saw enough promise in the work to forward them over to friends at the [Chicago Tribune](#), who offered some assignments to Kerwin.

Kerwin's first idea was to get a behind-the-scenes story on the real [Willie Mays](#). After getting access to the San Francisco Giant centerfielder, Kerwin's experience with Mays turned out to be a disappointment: Mays was unresponsive, virtually ignoring Kerwin. Stomping out of the clubhouse, Kerwin was convinced that the meeting had been a disaster, but typed the story up and sent it to the Times, fully expecting rejection. Instead, they ran the piece as written, loving the way it captured the catatonic Mays, and the irreverent tone that Kerwin had used.

A career was born.

The Chicago Tribune then wanted Kerwin to do a profile of [Gene Autry](#), which went much better, as Autry turned out to be a very rich old wrangler who was also a genuine down-to-earth good guy.

Delivering on those interviews launched a career documenting a wide range of entertainers over several decades, and, as it moves from anecdote to anecdote, Kerwin's book gives us plenty of insider information and behind the scenes looks at people like [Dean Martin](#) (who never really liked interviews), [Diane Keaton](#), [Glen Campbell](#), [The Everly Brothers](#), [Raquel Welch](#) (beauty and brains), [Charles \(Chuck\) Heston](#), [John Wayne](#), the flatulent [William Holden](#), [Lucille Ball](#) and [Katherine Hepburn](#), for publications like [TV Guide](#) and [Modern Screen](#). In short, he covered anyone and everyone on entertainment's A-list, fully enjoying his role and the inside access. It was a heady lifestyle, Kerwin dressed in designer Italian suits and dining at all the Hollywood hotspots, running interference for Anthony Quinn at Trader Vic's, and also suffering the wrath of Shirley Temple Black by surreptitiously gaining access to her home.

His most impressive interview? That would probably be [Luciano Pavarotti](#), who loomed larger than life in Kerwin's imagination but received him warmly and then arranged to sing "Ave Maria" for the Pope's visit to Chicago in 2008 with Kerwin present. "That was pretty impressive," he remembers.

"Hollywood Hack" is a great read, covering many of the personalities of a bona fide Hollywood golden era, told with a lot of personal commentary and insight, and also a lot of soul searching. In the end [Robert Kerwin](#) had to get out of the business to gain self-respect, getting tired of the superficiality and sometimes complete nonsense, tired of being, as he puts it, "Hollywooded" and being treated as service personnel, someone basically on the level of a gardener, such as the current culture tends to treat everyone in show business who is not a "celebrity."

The book is a fascinating read as he also looks back on it fondly, moments spent with some of the world's biggest stars brought back while watching one of their films. And there were many genuinely good people that he came to like during his Hollywood career: [Carol Burnett](#), [Shirley Jones](#), [Debbie Reynolds](#), [Clint Eastwood](#), [Lee Marvin](#), [Bill Cosby](#), [Jackie Gleason](#), [Tony Randall](#), [Henry Mancini](#), and [Candace Bergen](#) among a fairly large list that Kerwin mentions. These were stars who talked to him as if they didn't believe they were superior beings, around whom the whole universe revolved. In my personal observation the real successful, intelligent stars became who they are precisely because of their humble approach toward the industry and gratitude for the work they are offered. Although arrogance is not uncommon, but sadly expected in this business, those who stayed true to their upbringing and own values are very pleasant and a great fun to be around. They do not have the need to intimidate, which almost is a job all by itself for a celebrity these days outside the studio. As if intimidating everyone around them came with the job...somehow it gets overlooked that appreciation, gratitude, ambition, determination and honesty are still the key to success and a fulfilling life. Simplicity, trustworthy friends, shopping trips without the paparazzi running them over, a walk on the beach, and experiencing the good, the bad and the ugly in life is still what's real for all of us whether movie stars or not. Every star has moments of doubts, fear, and a whole spectrum of human feelings, but somehow the media can much better sell sensationalized misinterpretations or digging dirty as deep as possible.

"I'm glad I met the stars I liked," Kerwin says. "And as I watch them perform I wish them the best of everything, not just for their sakes, but for my sake as well. Most important I wish them success for the sake of them having liked me in return."

"Hollywood Hack" is one of those books that opens a door into the inner working of Hollywood, shining a light on some of its most famous stars. If you have any interest in Hollywood and its star-making machinery, then this book is your ticket to one very intriguing ride through Hollywood history.

About the Author of This Article: [Lady Adrienne Papp](#) is a recognized journalist, economist and feature writer who has written for many publications including [Savoir](#), [Beverly Hills 90210](#), [Malibu Beach](#), [Santa Monica Sun](#), [The Beverly Hills Times](#), [Brentwood News](#), [Bel-Air View](#), [Celebrity Society](#), [Celeb Staff](#), [It Magazine](#), [Chic Today](#), [LA2DAY](#), [West Side Today](#) among many others. She is the President and CEO of Los Angeles / New York-based publicity company, [Atlantic Publicity](#) and publishing house, [Atlantic Publisher](#). Adrienne writes about world trends, [Quantum Physics](#), entertainment and interviews celebrities, world leaders, inventors, philanthropists and entrepreneurs. She also owns [Atlantic United Films](#) that produces and finances true stories made for theatrical release or the silver screen. [Spotlight News Magazine](#) is owned by [Atlantic United, Inc.](#) Dame Adrienne Papp is a member of the [International Press Academy](#).

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