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PHOTOGRAPHS OF AMERICA
FROM THE BERMAN COLLECTION
AT THE GETTY CENTER

BIOGRAPHY

BRUCE BERMAN

Bruce Berman has spent the past 30 years in the entertainment industry, overseeing production of more than 100 films – about half of those as executive producer.

He got his start in the movie business as an assistant to Jack Valenti at the Motion Picture Association of America in Washington, D.C., while working toward a law degree at Georgetown University Law School.

Berman moved to Los Angeles in 1978 after graduating from Georgetown and being admitted to the California state bar. He began to learn about film development and production as an assistant for Peter Guber at Casablanca Filmworks. A year later, he moved to Universal Pictures, where he worked for studio executives Sean Daniel and Joel Silver before quickly moving up the ranks. Within three years, he was promoted to vice president of production at the film studio, working under Ned Tanen, Robert Rehme and then Frank Price.

In 1984, Berman was recruited to Warner Bros. Pictures as a vice president of production and a few years later was promoted to senior vice president of production. He then rose rapidly through the executive ranks to be named president of theatrical production in 1989, and was responsible for such popular films as "The Lost Boys," "Lean on Me," "Presumed Innocent," "New Jack City," "Falling Down" and "The Client." Two years later, he was promoted again – this time to president of worldwide theatrical production.

Under his stewardship, Warner Bros. produced and distributed such notable titles as the Oscar-winning "Driving Miss Daisy," "GoodFellas," "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves," "Batman Forever," "Malcolm X," "The Bodyguard," "JFK," "The Fugitive," "Dave," "A Time to Kill" and "Twister."

Berman stepped down from his studio job in 1996 to form Plan B Entertainment, a Warner Bros. Pictures-based independent production company that was later acquired by Village Roadshow Pictures.

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Since 1998, Berman has held the post of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer at Village Roadshow Pictures, which produces an average of eight movies annually through a partnership with Warner Bros.

During his tenure at Village Roadshow, Berman has executive produced such hit films as the "Matrix" trilogy, "Three Kings," "Analyze This," "Ocean's Eleven," "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" and "Training Day," which earned Denzel Washington an Oscar and Ethan Hawke an Oscar nomination. Berman also executive produced the critically acclaimed and Oscar-nominated "Mystic River," directed by Clint Eastwood and starring Sean Penn and Tim Robbins, both of whom were awarded Oscars for their performances.

Educated at Bennington College and the California Institute of the Arts Film School, Berman graduated *Magna Cum Laude* from UCLA in 1975 with a major in history. Berman had a passion for photography while in high school and for the first two years of college. He spent many road trips documenting the types of scenes that he now purchases from other artists. His penchant for collecting was inspired by an Edward S. Curtis photo that he received as a gift in 1990.

Berman and his wife, Nancy, began acquiring fine-art photography shortly thereafter and have since amassed a collection of nearly 3,000 mainly contemporary, post-War American photographs by dozens of photographers. The Bermans are particularly drawn to photography that explores the extraordinary nature of ordinary American things, places, people and activities.

In 2004, ARTnews named the Bermans among the world's top 25 photography collectors for their activity as collectors and their commitment to the arts. Bruce Berman is also a founding member of the J. Paul Getty Museum's Photographs Council.

Over the past eight years, the Bermans have donated nearly 500 photos from their collection to the J. Paul Getty Museum. An additional 200 from their collection hang on nearly every wall of Berman's 17,000-square-foot office suite on the Warner Bros. lot in Burbank.