



My name is Marvin Himelfarb. Currently I live in New York City, one of the most exciting cities in the world. I'm one of those people who actively enjoys every New York treasures, from its Broadway shows to it's great restaurants, piano bars and cabarets. From working behind the scenes to sitting front row, I know, there is no business like show business.

MARVIN HIMELEFARB

'Behind it all'

By Marvin Himelfarb
Inspired by Aliza Davidovit

Photos by Max Flatow

I was born in Washington, DC, and have lived and worked in Hollywood. I am what is called by show business terminology a “hyphenit”—the industry lingo for a writer-slash-producer. Ever since the on-camera “hair-on-fire” episode, I have remained a writer slash producer vowing never to go in front of a camera again. It was a day like any other day. I ended up in a hot tub with a model demonstrating bath oils. The blonde beauty and I joked and laughed and frolicked for awhile until I leaned back too far and buried the top of my head in a burning candle. I soon became much “hotter” than her. The camera continued to roll as the host pushed me

under water to douse my fiery formerly blonde tresses and probably save my life. That night I made my one and only appearance on NBC's Dateline and ever since have been on every blooper show from New York to Tokyo. But I digress. To fully appreciate what a wonderful, diverse life I've had and hopefully will continue to hang on to, you should know what I have done:

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I spent fifteen successful years in advertising with my partner David Abramson in Washington, DC; ten years in Hollywood writing for TV shows Hart to Hart, Silver Spoons and Fantasy Island, to name a few; I wrote and produced for print, television, radio, advertising, and trailers for over 200 movies; I wrote the narration for a Mozart opera performed at Lincoln Center with F Murray Abraham and the mostly Mozart Orchestra conducted by my friend Gerard Schwartz.

Talking about conducting, I also conducted over 500 interviews while at Fox News with such noted men and women as astronaut Gene Cernan (the last man to land on the moon), Tommy La Sorta, Dr. Michael Ellis DeBakey, Katie Couric, Yo Yo Ma, Tony Snow, Florence Henderson, etc, etc, etc, I produced, The Real Reagan, an amazing TV show for Fox News. The entire production was performed live at the Reagan Auditorium in Washington. Tony Snow was the host to twelve of

President Reagan's closest friends and staff. It was a tribute worthy of any show on the presidents ever presented on national television and one of my proudest moments in a life filled with many of them.

That's the good news. Now in the interest of "Fair and Balanced" reporting here is some of the bad. Wait there is no bad. Sure, on one hand I've been married three and half times (the fourth was only six weeks so that really doesn't count as a whole union of man and woman). They were all less than successful, but on the other hand I have three incredible children (now adults) and two brilliant granddaughters. I am still very close with my offspring and we get



along (most of the time). My son Steven owns a great restaurant in New Orleans. My daughter Randy is talented filmmaker and Carrie is an expert marketer and married to Adam a terrific and smart man—I'd marry him myself.

More good news, I am also the recipient of much love and support of many close friends, men and women, whom I've known for years, but who still like me anyway. They are friends who have gotten

me through some tough times—yes despite the glamorous life I’ve lived, there have been rough times. David Landsberg is at the top of the friend list. David and I met when he was broke. I had my own advertising agency in Washington DC. David needed to pay his mortgage so without even auditioning him, I gave him a job doing a radio commercial. That commercial led to an incredible almost 40 year friendship. But as they say, what goes around comes around. In 1981, when I was going broke living in Hollywood, David brought me into his office on the Columbia Television lot and helped me get my first writing job—a script for Fantasy Island. Ever since it’s been a lot of work, a lot of laughs, and a lot of love. David has had an incredible career as an executive producer for Bill Cosby among numerous other hit television series and still today he is one of the most respected writers in show business. I’d be remiss without mentioning two other dear friends who have helped along the way: Carol Fineberg a brilliant marketer and David Asman my next door office neighbor at Fox and an inspiration for much of my work.



Now we come to the Fox News years, all 13, or as I like to think of 2009 as my bar mitzvah year—today I am a (news) man. Since August of 1996, I have been employed by the Fox News Corporation. It has been a satisfying and joyful time of my life. In addition to working with the industries greatest journalists, at Fox, I have been able to conduct all those interviews I spoke of at the onset of this article. Also thanks to Fox, I was able to put on the Real Regan show. I have produced a variety of Fox programs including a magazine weekly show featuring stories from all over America. I also produced a show that highlighted history through the lens of Twentieth Century Fox’s Movietone News. Following Movietone I wrote and produced a weekend program with the historic David Susskind interviews from the earliest days of television. I visited just about every state and filmed the places and people that makeup the heart and soul of the United States. Their stories are diverse and fascinating and are what make this country great. They are also generous in sharing their stories as the camera rolls. It seems my life took the cue the first time I ever heard a director say “action” and the excitement has never stopped since.

There is so much more to tell in a life filled with many laughs, much happiness, great friends and talented wonderful colleagues, and luckily very few setbacks. I’ve had the opportunity to meet some of the worlds most famous and influential people and as a news man experience history and breaking news from a front row seat. It has been a life filled with excitement and unique opportunities which exceeded my wildest expectations. However, maybe the best part of all is that I’m 71 years old and I’m still at it.  DAVIDOVIT