

KURATES Book Review + Film List:

Who Knew, Barry Diller

If there is one story that encapsulates the colloquial phrase:

“That’s Showbiz Baby!”

It’s the story of Barry Diller.

Who Knew gives us all a gift by Barry sharing the glitz and gloom of show business. He also shares the magic of life of a serendipitous chance, aka: **Who Knew**

The book is divided in three acts.

These are six of my favorite quotes:

Act One

“I exploded in every direction with ferocious energy” (Diller, 2025, p. 48).

“In that negotiation, I found out something about myself that has surprised me ever since” (Diller, 2025, p. 55).

Act Two

“I’ve never cared much about competition ... No one has to lose for me to be successful” (Diller, 2025, p. 130).

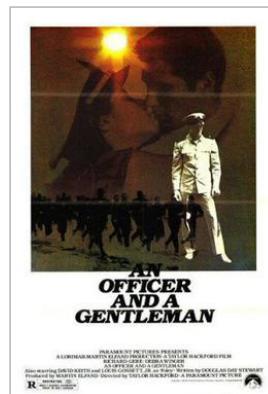
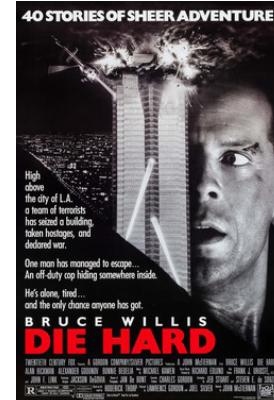
“Some celestial force seemed to be driving things” (Diller, 2025, p. 228).

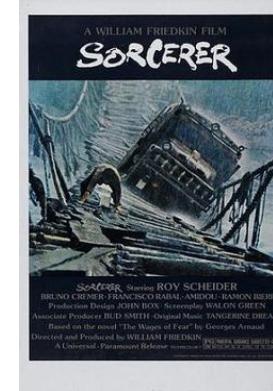
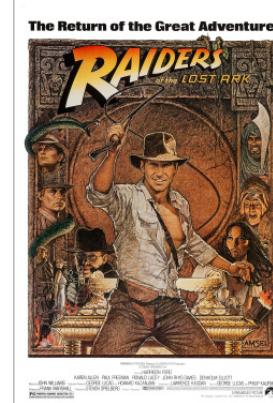
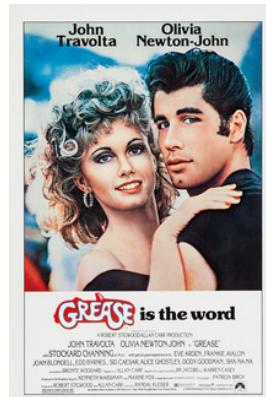
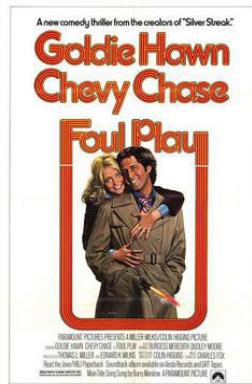
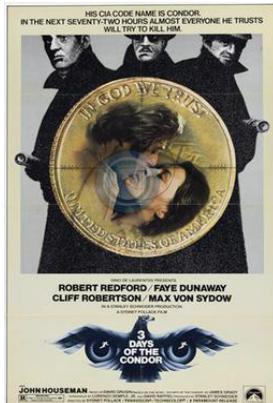
Act Three

“They Won. We lost. Next.” (Diller, 2025, p. 283).

“This leaves me time to get in trouble elsewhere.” (Diller, 2025, p. 311).

The following pages is a spread of film posters from the motion pictures mentioned in his book while as Chairman at Paramount and 20th Century Fox.





While I'm personally not a fan of determining if revenue is a deterrent of success. But with commercial films, I am. ¹ The following is a list of the twenty films mentioned in this review and if they were box office, hits!

¹ This deterrent is solely based on the traditional Hollywood exec. margin of a film, which was seen in the Box Office.

Movie Title	Year	Director	Distribution	Box Office, Hit	Budget	Box Office
<i>Airplane!</i>	1980	ZAZ Trio	Paramount	Yes	3,000,000	171,000,000
<i>Aliens</i>	1987	James Cameron	20th Century Fox	Yes	18,500,000	183,000,000
<i>An Officer and a Gentleman</i>	1982	Taylor Hackford	Paramount	Yes	7,000,000	190,000,000
<i>Days of Heaven</i>	1978	Terrence Malick	Paramount	No	3,000,000	3,400,000
<i>Die Hard</i>	1988	John McTiernan	20th Century Fox	Yes	3,500,000	141,500,000
<i>Escape from Alcatraz</i>	1979	Don Siegel	Paramount	Yes	8,000,000	43,000,000
<i>Foul Play</i>	1978	Colin Higgins	Paramount	Yes	5,000,000	45,000,000
<i>Grease</i>	1978	Randal Kleiser	Paramount	Yes	6,000,000	396,000,000
<i>Heaven Can Wait</i>	1978	Warren Beatty	Paramount	Yes	6,000,000	97,000,000
<i>Looking for Mr. Goldbar</i>	1977	Richard Brooks	Paramount	Yes	22,500,000	2,300,000
<i>Mommie Dearest</i>	1981	Frank Perry	Paramount	No	10,000,000	25,000,000
<i>Raiders of the Lost Ark</i>	1981	Steven Spielberg	Paramount	Yes	20,000,000	389,900,000
<i>Reds</i>	1981	Warren Beatty	Paramount	No	32,000,000	40,400,000
<i>Sorcerer</i>	1977	William Friedkin	Paramount	No	22,000,000	9,000,000
<i>Staying Alive</i>	1983	Sylvester Stallone	Paramount	Yes	22,000,000	127,000,000
<i>The Day of the Locust</i>	1975	John Schlesinger	Paramount	No	7,000,000	17,000,000
<i>The Fly</i>	1986	David Cronenberg	20th Century Fox	Yes	15,000,000	60,600,000
<i>The Warriors</i>	1979	Walter Hill	Paramount	Yes	4,000,000	22,500,000
<i>Three Days of the Condor</i>	1975	Sydney Pollack	Paramount	Yes	7,800,000	41,500,000
<i>Wall Street</i>	1987	Oliver Stone	20th Century Fox	Yes	16,500,000	43,800,000
TOTAL					\$ 238,800,000	\$ 2,048,900,000

Who Knew is not just a memoir but an actual True Hollywood Story of a Beverly Hills-New Yorker. What Barry shares is the vast curios force of his mind. If you love oppulence and films, you should read Who Knew. It is juicier than the hair in Grease.

- Kunsu Kim, 03 December 2025