

Jerry Weintraub Quotes

Read, apply and grow...

Compiled by Andy Owen



Jerry Weintraub was a top, top man and a giant in the entertainment business. Brought up in the Bronx, he started out in Hollywood in the William Morris mailroom, before finding work as a concert promoter.

Weintraub worked with Frank Sinatra, Led Zeppelin, Bob Dylan, John Denver and Elvis Presley. Then, in 1973, he moved into films and worked with everyone from George Burns to Al Pacino - and produced a few of the great American film franchises, including Karate Kid and the Ocean trilogy with Clooney, Pitt and Damon.

He was the last great showman. He died in 2015 of heart failure. He was 77.

Nothing is more important than a relationship. It trumps politics, party, club. People are what matter.

Every minute doing one thing, is a minute not doing something else. Every choice is another choice not made, another path grown over, lost.

Life is strange. You travel so far, do so much, but the people who you look for at the end, are often the same people you looked for at the beginning.

Persist, push, hang on, keep going, never give up. When the man says no, pretend you can't hear him. Look confused, stammer, say "Huh?" Persistence – it's a cliché, but it happens to work.

The person who makes it, is the person who keeps going after everyone else has quit. This is more important than intelligence, pedigree, even connections. Be dogged. Keep hitting that door until you bust it down.

He began to acquire knowledge. Which is how an ordinary man becomes a titan.

If you want to learn, find a person who knows – and study him or her.

Life is too short to be spent in the company of morons.

As my life went on and I met Frank Sinatra and people like that, and I watched live performers on stage, I learned how to tell a story. Because if you listen to Sinatra, all of his songs are stories; there's a beginning, middle, and end. So that's where it comes from.

He died like most men die. Little by little, then all at once.

People will pay you to make their lives easier.

Always take time to make the pitch.

Personal service is the name of the game

Never get paid once for doing something twice.

As soon as you feel comfortable, that's when it's time to start over.

Ask yourself - who really needs what I'm making?

Do not get attached to the world as it is, because the world is changing. Something new is coming. Every ten years, a big hand comes down and sweeps the dishes off the table.

When the game changes, you have to change with it. The more you change, the more you risk, in order to survive. And it gets harder and scarier as you get older.

When I told my ideas to people my age, they would wave me away and call me nutty. But when I brought these same ideas to people who had been around, such as Colonel Tom Parker or Frank Sinatra, they got it straight away.

Have you ever stood in an empty Baseball Stadium? It's unbelievable, all those seats, each representing a person who has to be reached, marketed to, convinced, sold.

It was an interregnum – a moment between eras.

It's nearly impossible to succeed in the world and also succeed in the house. Which means, at some level, even if you don't realize it, you make a choice.

He was a great performer. Everyone stood when he came in. For the actors, reading with him, was like taking batting practice with Babe Ruth.

It was like trying to sell jazz to a person who has never heard of Coltrane.

If you want to be seen as a major, look like a major. As a great man said, perception is reality.

Operate on confidence in the belief that something will happen, that the trick will work, that the backup will arrive with the heavy guns. It's how America has operated from the beginning.

I just don't believe that you can't make anything happen. I think if something's good and you believe in it and you care about it and you give it love and nurture it, it's going to happen.

It's been the structure of my life: you scheme and plan and try and fail and try again and accumulate and lose and win back - and then you tell.

Liberace was Elton John and Lady Gaga before they even dreamt of it.

I know everybody. I make friends easily. I'm a gregarious guy. I'm open, I'm easy to get to know - I don't lock myself in an ivory tower. So I like people; I enjoy people.

George Clooney says that I'm "the last of your kind." That's a nice quote. I kind of like that quote. I'm a guy who shakes your hand and will never let you down. I have a code of honour and I don't lie. I have a code of honour about life and that's what he meant. And you don't need a contract with me.