

## Hitchhiking to Fame

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### Renowned Publicist Rises to Stardom amidst Humble Beginnings



He may reside at a sprawling multi-million dollar estate in Montecito, California, among the rich and famous. And he may have represented giant stars, such as Gregory Peck, Chuck Norris, and Michael Landon. But, according to renowned publicist Milton Kahn, his beginnings were anything but glamorous.

“I thumbed a ride from Brooklyn to Hollywood with \$200 and not one contact,” shares Milton, president of Milton Kahn Associates ([www.miltonkahnpr.com](http://www.miltonkahnpr.com)).

Prior to venturing out to the West Coast, Milton earned a degree in Journalism at Ohio University and later worked in the mailroom at the William Morris Agency in New York City. He says, “Working there enabled me to get a tremendous understanding of the mechanics of the entertainment industry in seeing all of the various components ranging from packaging, casting, and of course, promotion, which is what I found most appealing.”

Milton never doubted his desire to work in the public relations field. “Early on in my life, I knew I had a flair for promotion,” he says. “By writing a letter to Edgewood, a private school in Greenwich, Connecticut, I was able to promote a full basketball scholarship, including room, board, and tuition for myself at age 16. Knowing that I was able to promote myself gave me the idea that I would do well at publicizing and promoting others.”

Once Milton reached California, he quickly began building up his credentials. Over the years, he created many successful PR campaigns for major Hollywood films, such as *Fried Green Tomatoes*, Ron Howard’s directorial debut *Grand Theft Auto*, and the Academy Award winning motion picture *Amarcord*.

In 1984, Milton and his family moved from Beverly Hills to Montecito, where he runs his public relations firm out of a separate cottage on his property. In addition to changing his headquarters, Milton switched his focus from promoting films to promoting books. His most recent projects include working with New York Times best selling authors such as Stanley Alpert, JA Jance and *The World Almanac Book of Records*.

Milton feels fortunate to be able to walk to his office each morning. He comments, “My operation is within ten yards of my home, which has allowed me to eliminate a great deal of freeway bumper-to-bumper driving.” HBM