

W.R. Wilkerson III's Biography

Raised and educated in England, William R. Wilkerson III graduated from the University of Southern California in 1977, with a degree in music composition. As a writer, he has published articles in The Los Angeles Times, The Hollywood Reporter, USA Today, The Herald Examiner, and The LA Weekly. Wilkerson has lectured widely on Hollywood's history and folklore, delivering presentations to such groups as the LA County Museum and the Nevada State Museum.

He has discussed his father's remarkable story and, other aspects of Hollywood history, on such T.V. shows as, A&E's "Biography", E! Entertainment's "Mysteries & Scandals," and The Learning Channel's "The Secret History of Las Vegas."

As a composer, Willie studied under such film music luminaries as David Raksin, Paul Glass and Hugo Friedhoffer. Wilkerson's uncle, the legendary film star/dancer, Donald O'Connor, schooled him in every aspect of the entertainment business both in front and behind the cameras.

As an arranger, producer and studio musician, Wilkerson has worked extensively in Los Angeles and London. He recorded his first solo album in 1972 under his own record label. After a series of successful performances in Hollywood, Willie was signed to a major music publishing contract in England. He has written for such performers as Marvin Gaye, Mary Welles, Larry Graham, Sherrie Payne and Marilyn McCoo.

Wilkerson has also composed musical scores for both T.V. and industrial films, most notably, the musical score for AMC Theater's new logo.