



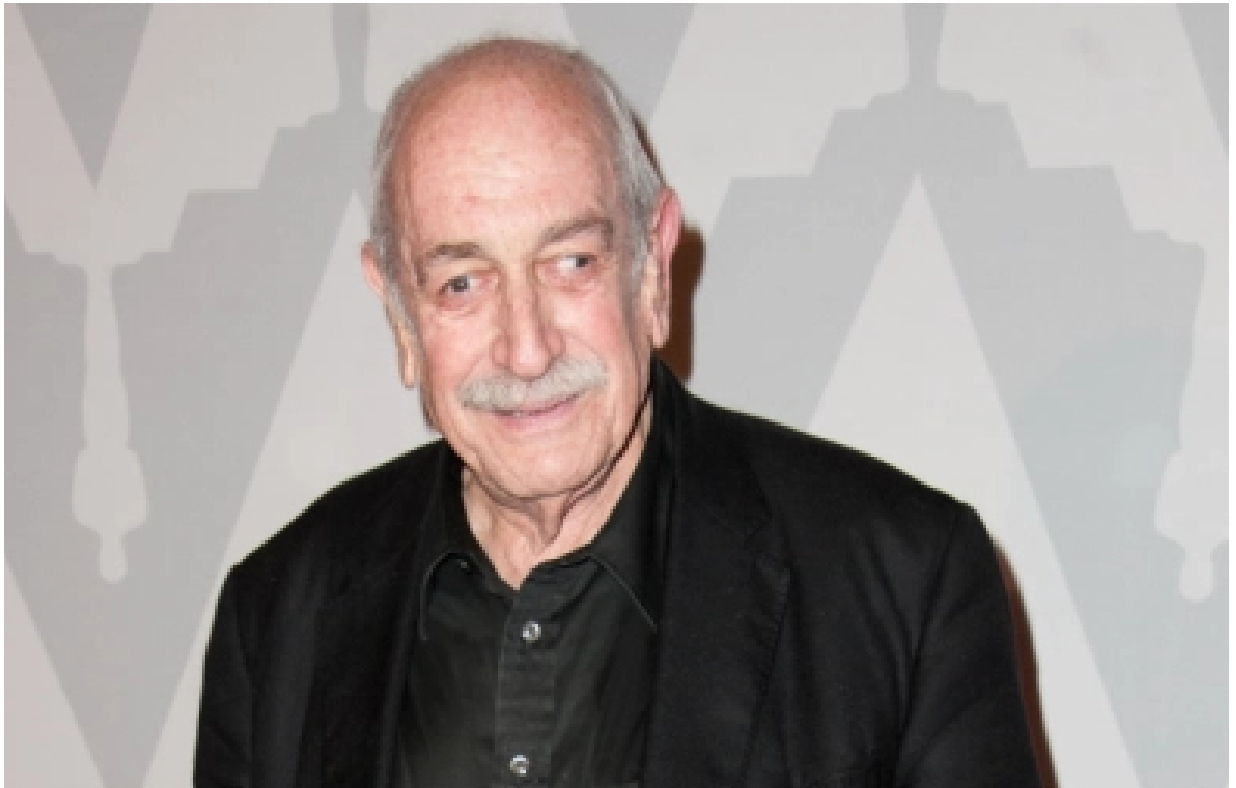
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Aug 2, 2020 6:06pm PT

# Block, Former Universal Pictures Chairman, Dies at 77

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the former chairman of [Universal Pictures](#) and the American Film Institute, died Saturday of natural causes at Cedars-Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles. He was 77.

“I was deeply saddened by the loss of Tom Pollock,” said NBCUniversal vice chairman Ron Meyer in a statement. “Tom played a critical role in securing our studio’s legacy, and was an extraordinary executive, influential attorney, and mentor to so many of us. We will forever feel his impact on our company and within our industry. On behalf of NBCUniversal, we send our deepest condolences to his family and honor his extraordinary accomplishments.”

Pollock, a Los Angeles native, received a law degree from Columbia University and began his career in the entertainment business by working for George Stevens, founding director of the AFI, in 1968. He became manager of operations for AFI’s new film school, the Center for Advanced Film Studies.

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Pollock started the entertainment law firm Pollock, Rigrod, and Bloom, where “Star Wars” creator George Lucas was his first clients. Pollock gained recognition by negotiating the deal that secured Lucas the merchandising rights to “Star Wars.” He was also involved in the negotiations for the “Indiana Jones” and “Superman” franchises with the firm, which had become Pollock, Bloom and Dekom.

Pollock joined MCA Inc. in 1986 and became executive vice president of MCA Inc. and chairman of its Motion Picture Group, Universal Pictures. He oversaw “Jurassic Park,” the “Back to the Future” trilogy, “Do the Right Thing,” “Fried Green Tomatoes,” “Cape Fear,” “Parenthood,” “Kindergarten Cop,” Oscar best picture winner “Schindler’s List,” “Field of Dreams,” “Born on the Fourth of July,” “Apollo 13” and “Babe.”

Pollock stepped down from this position in 1996 and taught in the film studies program at the University of California at Los Angeles. He became AFI’s chairman of the board in 1996 and remained involved for the rest of his life. AFI presented the Pollock Award during his tenure.

President and CEO of AFI, said, “Tom Pollock loved movies – powerfully and passionately. His legacy will devoted his unmatched legal mind to championing great stories, and lucky for all movie lovers, he those stories could both challenge and entertain. We have lost a fierce advocate for the art form, but at will live on.”

ck teamed with Ivan Reitman to form The Montecito Picture Company, which has gone on to produce “Disturbia,” “Up in the Air,” “I Love You, Man,” “Hitchcock,” “Draft Day,” and “Baywatch.”

l by his mother, Helene Pollock; his sister, Margo Sinclair (Pollock), and brother, Ken Pollock; his andra Gagerman (Pollock), Allegra Brandano (Pollock), and Luke Pollock; his four grandchildren, Haley, elia, and Owen. Funeral services will be private.

ers, the family has suggested donations to the AFI.

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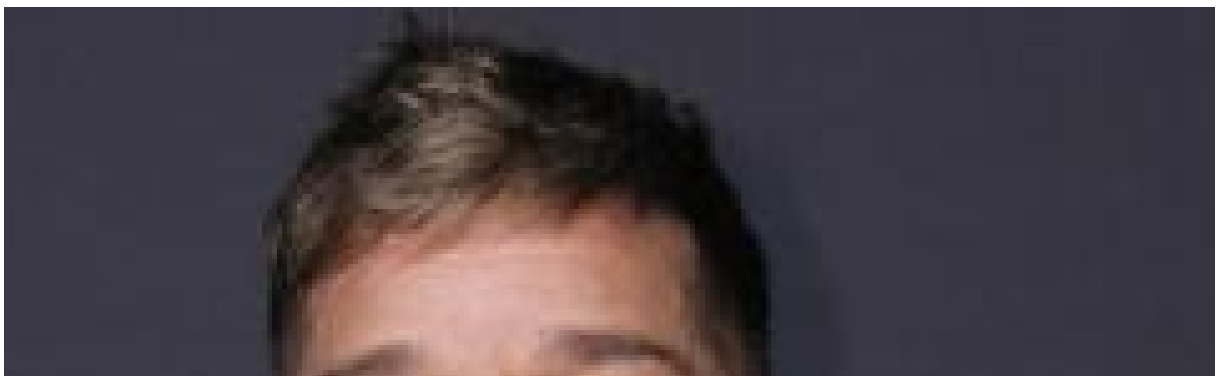
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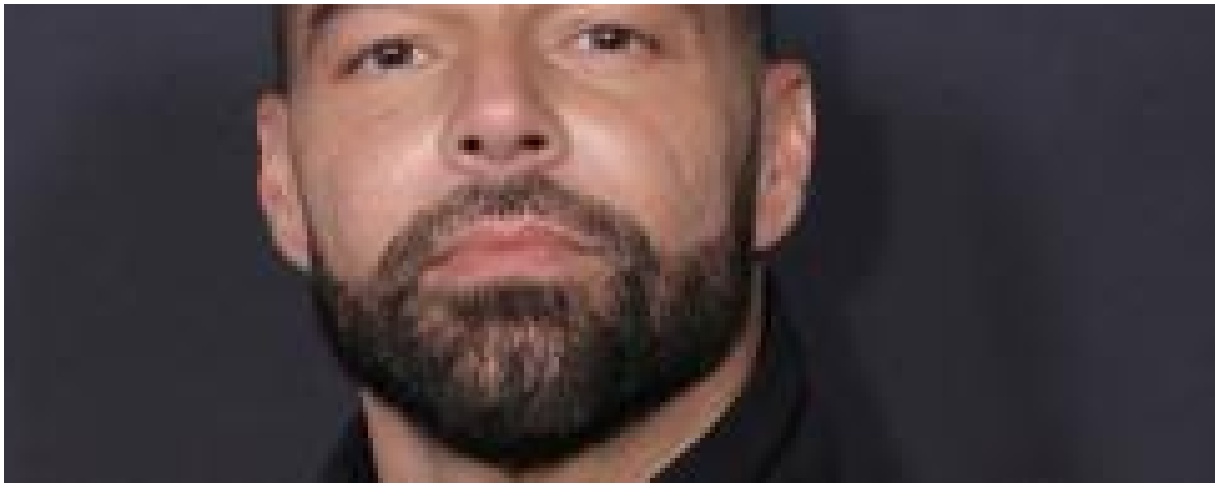
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