



From our Showbiz correspondent Tommy Garrett

TOM CRUISE UNAUTHORISED

EXCLUSIVE

■ Andrew Morton's unauthorised biography of superstar Tom Cruise is not the first Morton book that I've read, but it is one of the most fascinating.

I met Mr. Morton many years ago when he chronicled the life of then-Princess Diana. Diana had been going through a very dark period in her life and didn't quite know how she'd ever come out of it.

But she obviously felt comfortable enough with Morton to offer him secret tapes and her private support for the book he was penning about her life and marriage to perhaps the most popular royal family in modern history and then her divorce from not only Prince Charles but the entire family of royals, who turned on her.

But after hearing Morton tout blockbuster tales of Tom Cruise, I thought it would be best to read the book, let it come out and then after a safe amount of time to give a review on it without the hysterics and drama surrounding its release.

One thing you've got to offer Morton: he did an exhaustive job in this tome and found people from the actor's past life and early career who were willing to give details on the man many call a megalomaniac.

Though I disagree with that assessment, which is surely the man Morton paints in his tale from poverty to stardom in great detail.

What I think this and most authors and critics of the superstar's fail to realize is, Cruise has had to work for everything he has.

He's never been handed anything, he's actually never been endowed with an abundance of talent.

But what he lacks in talent he makes up for in hard work and dedication as well as control.

He has no choice but to be difficult and controlling. He helms an empire now and a much struggling studio, United Artists, he has to fight for any credibility or privacy that he's afforded and do so while still promoting his work and his films. That's a difficult thing to do.

Books like Morton's tell-all seem to lose sight of what it takes to be a star today in this medium of internet bloggers who write malicious jealous rants about people they have never met, while making rash statements and judgments.

As in the Cruise story, it's filled with a lot of jealous words from people whom he may have gone to high school with or people he used to work with.

I'm all for a juicy story, but let's give some fairness and objectivity when telling the life story of one of Hollywood's biggest stars.

Morton deserves credit for attempting to get at the truth, but in my opinion, the book fails any startling revelations.

Innuendos and rumors about someone's sexuality and the possible paternity of their children falls under the category of uninteresting.



● Tom Cruise

This is a book I would buy on sale for the tabloid aspect of it, but don't expect anything in it to change your opinion one way or the other about Hollywood's biggest star.

'NO CANCELLATIONS'

■ This year's Night of 100 Stars is the hottest ticket in town. With so many parties being canceled, Norby Walters, known as one of the most extraordinary and generous men in Hollywood, will not be cancelling his annual party.

Walters's publicist Edward Lozzi, of Lozzi P.R., tells the Melbourne Observer, "We are not cancelling anything."

"It's amazing to us to be hearing how many parties are going to be cancelled this year when January was the biggest Box Office month in Hollywood's history.

"So for those who are claiming they are cancelling due to the economy or the possible actors strike,

they are being very disingenuous. Norby will be continuing his great evening plans as he has over the years."

That's good news for Hollywood insiders, actors and movie moguls. Mr Walters has turned The Night of 100 Stars into an extravaganza.

He's a master party-giver and a man who treats his guests like royalty. The site of his annual party is the Beverly Hills Hotel on Sunset Boulevard.

It's one of the most elegant settings in this town. From previous Oscar winners to some of this year's biggest nominees, his is the ticket in town to have.

This year will be the 19th year for the extravaganza and it's not being scaled back. Mr Walters is a man who makes everyone feel like they are the guest of honour at his events.

Edward Lozzi added, "Each year the event gets bigger. We are running out of space. But it's a great thing to

say. Tickets are really running short, we're receiving calls from everyone in town."

Hollywood insiders say it's an evening that will rival the recent Inauguration of the 44th president. At least on the West Coast it is.

Stars from the late Anna Nicole Smith to Shirley Jones have said Mr Walters is Hollywood's last gem.

Mr Walters has worked very hard to get more media figures and corporations on board, and they generally line up to speak with the star maker and star himself.

P.R. Wiz Edward Lozzi promises to give a few names next week to the Melbourne Observer for those who will definitely be attending.

It's the party event of the Oscar season and has now been attended by A-listers for the past two decades.

It's the event that every young up-and-coming star wants to attend, to be seen and possibly get a new acting role for the new year.

Though the Oscar Awards are over after this evening, deal-makers at Norby Walters's parties are just beginning to make plans for the rest of the year.

Tickets are \$1,000 per seat.

- Tommy Garrett

★ Famed movie director and writer Henry Jaglom is busy finishing up three great films right now.

But he and uber talented Ron Vignone are busy putting together "Always, But Not Forever," which stars the sublime Tanna Frederick, the beautiful and energetic Kelly De Sarla and David O'Donnell.

With Jaglom and Vignone working on a project together, it will be a hit. Henry Jaglom is the most outstanding director and writer in Hollywood today.

Ron Vignone has learned a lot of his skills from the great man and is becoming one himself.

Vignone's "Say I Do" captured my attention over the holidays and I haven't been able to forget about the rich characters and great suspense he's becoming known for. Henry Jaglom can do it all.

Direct, write, instruct, create and envision what potential his stars have within themselves to make each scene the most rich and individual scene possible.

Orson Welles, William Wyler, Hitchcock, Jaglom. And certainly not in that order.

Each man had their own niche and vision. Jaglom? He has it all and some to spare. Can't wait to see "Always, But Not Forever."

★ After the season premiere of ABC's "Lost," which garnered over 20 million viewers in the U.S. seemed to be the hit for the new year, I was wondering if producers could keep up the momentum and keep the story lines fresh and keeping us viewers interested in what will transpire next.

So far the ratings are still soaring and the story lines are incredible and after episode three, I'm wondering more than ever, what Ben has in store for those he wants to return to the Island.

And will Sun kill Ben? Stay tuned!

- Tommy Garrett



● Norby Walters with John Corbett, Bo Derek and Chris McDonald.

★ This week in Hollywood the talk is still about Oscar night.

Not so much who is nominated or who will win. Heath Ledger is the one and only person who there seems to be little doubt or competition.

But the big talk is of famed Norby Walters and his 100 Stars annual party.

I'm happy to say that I've rated a ticket to this one of a kind extraordinary party, which is at The Beverly Hills Hotel each year and Walters very graciously didn't use the excuse of the failing economy in order to cancel his event. No way!

★ Last month was the biggest Box Office per dollars in Hollywood history.

In almost a century there has never been a bigger box office.

That proves a very reliable point mega movie studio chief Jack Warner once said: "When times are tough and the economy is bad, people want to feel better. They want to see entertainment and movies that entertain."

This certainly seems to be true of last month's box office take.

★ Big news, Robyn Lively will be the leading lady in an upcoming Lifetime Network series, "Alligator Point," which will be produced by Kelsey Grammer's production company.

Robyn, a beautiful actress, is one of the most prolific stars in Hollywood.

She's guest-starred on "30 Rock" with Tina Fey and her younger sister Blake on her series "Gossip Girl."

Robyn's handsome husband Bart Johnson may be best known for the "High School Musical" trilogy of films and being a huge Disney star, but Johnson is also an amazing movie maker, who has almost a dozen great projects in the works.

Johnson also recently did a radio show in Australia for 96.5 Inner FM and it'll be airing in early March.

We'll give you the airdate and website address to hear Bart Johnson in an upcoming column.

★ For the past five years Hollywood insiders have wondered what Jude Law could do to get himself back at the top of the A-List?

Guess what?

The actor in his upcoming role in "Rage" plays a transvestite. Sure, that's exciting, huh?

Well, don't put it down just yet. Law is getting rave reviews from costars and even his director.

Even the character's name, Minx seems hot.

The actor has long been accused of being more pretty than talented.

That I don't agree with. But the buzz on the set is that Law is transformed in this role in more ways than one and when movie audiences and critics see him, we'll all be amazed and want to see more of his work in the future. "Rage" is due out later this year.

Your friend,
Tommy