



Richard Berkowitz
President and Founder of the Sherman Theater
Executive Director of the Sherman Theater Foundation.

Richard Berkowitz has had extensive business experience as an effective leader and successful manager. After nearly nine years as a professional actor, he spent six years in the US Coast Guard, finishing as Director of Search and Rescue and as Operations Officer for the south shore of Long Island. He was responsible for a major renovation of the 100 year old facility as well as being charged with raising morale and several overhauls on the station's gear and vessels. For his outstanding achievements he received numerous awards and medals, including the distinguished Coast Guard Commendation Award for outstanding leadership and fiscal responsibility.

While building these businesses Richard went to school at night to earn a degree in Accounting with an emphasis in business management. He maintained a 4.0 average.

He then became the president and CEO of Bristol Yachts, a yacht service and storage company which he created. While building sales to nearly \$750,000, he and his wife started buying, renovating, and renting/selling real estate, including numerous residential and several large commercial projects such as the renovation of both the Harborside Resort Hotel and the Harborside Marina. The renovations included rebuilding, plumbing, landscaping, and the installation of all major facilities as well as their operation.

Having sold the marina and real estate holdings, he moved to the Pocono's, where he has invested in residential and commercial buildings. Richard has consulted for numerous businesses including local and regional car dealerships. As the Manager for one dealership he successfully established a new sales force, policies and procedures manuals and tripled their sales over the three years he was there. He was then recruited by another dealership where he was the General Sales Manager. His strong leadership and management skills stopped a five-year down-trend in a 45-year-old business, and he increased sales by 25%, setting several all time records for this business both in gross revenue and net profits.

For the past three years Richard has been the driving force behind the Historic Sherman Theater. HE is an Active member of Rotary Club of the Stroudsburg's, as well as the Chamber of Commerce. HE Currently sits on the board of directors for Pocono Arts Council, Pocono Lively Arts, RSVP and the Jacob Stroud Corporation. In addition he is President of the Fine Arts Discovery Series and The Sherman Theater Foundation. Richard is an active member of the community and participant, at Borough Council meetings, as well as serving on the Borough Parking Committee, Chamber of commerce Crime Task Force, Stroudsburg Coalition and is a founding member of Stroudfest and the Pocono Chapter of Fundraising Professionals.

Richard has been married to Catharine for more than 15 years and together they have two wonderful children. Kasie is a 9 year old girl who competes at the national level in Irish Dancing. Jordan is a five year old boy who loves to tinker and is quiet the engineer.

They make there home in East Stroudsburg and feel privileged to be a part of this community.

For the last ten years Mr. Berkowitz has been responsible for numerous business plans generating both private and bank funds in excess of \$10 million. He has worked in all phases of each business, from the most menial to executive. He has been a consistent and respected hands-on leader who has effectively led teams of two to 100+ employees. He has built and run businesses with revenues from \$10,000 to over \$30 million. He has nearly 14 years of successful renovation experience from job costing to job execution.

In the time since he purchased the Sherman Theater (In April of 2005), Rich has worked tirelessly to bring this historic landmark back to life. He has oversaw and participated in the complete renovation of the theater (including laying every square of carpet in the theater himself.) Rich now is involved in every aspect of the operation of the theater. He is the first to arrive and the last to leave every day, and prides himself on “never asking an employee to do something he wouldn’t be willing to do himself.” Rich’s motivation has inspired a loyal and dedicated staff to work tirelessly alongside him in the ongoing (and so far very successful) development and operation of the Sherman Theater.

Richard has been married to his wife Catharine for 15 years and has two beautiful children. Kasie who is 8 and a second grade student at Smithfield elementary and Jordan who is four and attending the Children’s Academic Learning Center.

On the rare chance that he is not working his hobbies including, swimming, camping, biking, basketball and spending time with family.