

THE WRAP

David Brenner, Oscar-Winning Film Editor for Zack Snyder and Oliver Stone, Dies at 59



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State College Centre Daily Times



Brian Welk

Fri, February 18, 2022, 10:58 AM



David Brenner, an Oscar-winning film editor who has worked extensively with Zack Snyder and Oliver Stone, among other filmmakers, has died. He was 59.

Brenner died suddenly in his home in West Hollywood on Thursday, his wife, actress Amber Brenner, first told [THR](#). The news was also confirmed in a [GoFundMe page](#) set up by "Avatar" producer Jon Landau, as well as in a [social media post by Snyder](#). Amber Brenner did not immediately respond to TheWrap's request for comment.

A cause of death has not been released.

Brenner won his Oscar in 1990 (shared with Joe Hutshing) for working on Stone's "Born on the Fourth

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Steel, 300: Rise of an Empire and, most recently, “Zack Snyder’s Justice League.” He was currently at work editing James Cameron’s “Avatar” sequels.

“For those of us lucky enough to know David, it was not his editorial skills that were most impressive (and they were extraordinary), it was his remarkable compassion for others and the love and commitment he had for his family,” Landau said in part on GoFundMe. “David will live in our hearts & memories, and he will forever be a part of our ‘Avatar’ Family.”

“The kindest man, a loving father and husband, a gifted artist...you’ll be deeply missed,” Snyder wrote in his post about Brenner.

Brenner’s first film was 1985’s “Radioactive Dreams,” where he served as an apprentice editor. He eventually teamed with Stone on some of the director’s earlier films such as “Platoon,” “Salvador” and “Wall Street” and was mentored by British editor Claire Simpson. His Oscar for “Born on the Fourth of July” would be for just his second feature as a film editor.

In an interview with [ProVideoCoalition](#) from last year, Brenner discussed that he took the same approach to tracking and massaging multiple character arcs on whatever film he’s working on, be it an enormous blockbuster or a smaller scale project.

“No matter what the budget or scale, as the editor, you’re just trying to get the story and characters to work. Whether or not it’s a \$200M action film or a \$20M art house film, you’re still trying to get the movie to play,” he said.

Brenner is survived by his wife Amber of 19 years and three children.



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DEADLINE

David Brenner Dies: Oscar-Winning Film Editor Of ‘Born on the Fourth of July,’ ‘Avatar’ Sequels Was 59



Tom Tapp

Fri, February 18, 2022, 12:28 PM



David Brenner, the Oscar-winning film editor who worked on a string of blockbusters as well as nine films for director Oliver Stone, died on Thursday. He was 59. The news was confirmed by Avatar producer Jon Landau, with whom Brenner had been working on the sequels.

Landau called Brenner’s editing skills “extraordinary,” but said what was most impressive about him was “his remarkable compassion for others and the love and commitment he had for his family.”

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- [Weekend Box Office Hammered By Nor'easter & No New Wide Releases, But 'Spidey' Still Chasing 'Avatar' - Sunday Update](#)



Avatar director James Cameron called Brenner an “editor extraordinaire” and “a very dear member of the #AvatarFamily” whose “talent, compassion and friendship will be truly missed.”

Over three decades in the film business, Brenner worked with top directors on a remarkable number of big-budget hits, including *Independence Day*, *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides*, *Transformers: Age of Extinction*, *Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice*, *Justice League* (both versions) and the *Avatar* sequels.

He first worked with Stone on 1986's *Salvador* as an assistant editor. That relationship grew through *Platoon* and *Wall Street* until Brenner moved up to co-editor — with Joe Hutshing — on *Talk Radio*. The duo then edited two more films for Stone, *The Doors* and [Born on the Fourth of July](#), the latter of which earned them a shared Best Film Editing Oscar. It was Brenner's second film as a full-fledged editor.

In addition to those films, he also worked with Stone on *Heaven & Earth* (1993), *World Trade Center* (2006) and *Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps* (2010).

Other directors he had multi-film collaborations with include Zac Snyder — on the aforementioned *Justice League* supercut as well as *Man of Steel* (2013) and *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice* (2016). He also co-edited the *300* sequel *Rise of an Empire* with Wyatt Smith in 2014, which Snyder co-wrote and produced.

Brenner worked with Roland Emmerich on four films: *Independence Day* (1996), *The Patriot* (2000), *The*



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James Cameron and Lawrence Kasanoff's [Lightstorm](#) Entertainment set up a [GoFundMe page](#) which, according to Landau, is not only to help the Brenner family financially, but “to let his wife Amber and his children Annie, Haider and Sasha know how many other lives David touched.”



We have lost a very dear member of the [#AvatarFamily](#), David Brenner, an editor extraordinaire on the Avatar sequels. Our hearts go out to his wife Amber and their children Annie, Haider and Sasha. His talent, compassion and friendship will be truly missed.

pic.twitter.com/sXIV3mSX2l

— James Cameron (@JimCameron) [February 18, 2022](#)

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