

## Senior Citizens and Investments

By Woodrow Wilcox

Many senior citizens look for rather safe investments. After all, they need the rewards that the investment generates and they need to get back their original investment at some time.

When I lived in Los Angeles and was an actor in some television shows, one of my senior citizen relatives phoned me and bragged about an investment that he had made in the motion picture "TITANIC". I cautioned that relative to get his money out of that investment as soon as possible because I believed that he would lose money on the deal that he described to me. He thought that investing in the biggest gross revenue movie from Hollywood would produce enormous profits. I told this relative, "You might know a lot more about most investments than I do, but I know a lot more about Hollywood accounting than you do!"

My senior citizen relative ignored my advice. As a result of not taking my advice and continuing to invest in the movie "TITANIC", the relative lost over \$400,000.

In Hollywood, the rules of accounting for revenues and expenses are different from most enterprises. The major studios allocate revenue and expenses to various productions depending on what makes the studio executives and studio stockholders the most money.

One of my friends produced and directed a major science fiction cult film in the 1950's. It is a classic. My friend took all the risk of producing the movie and then let a major studio distribute it. It was such a big hit that he expected great income for the rest of his life. But, the major studio had clauses in the contract for distribution which allowed them to take more and more of the gross receipts until my friend got little or nothing.

So, for most entertainment projects, I would caution senior citizens against investing. But, there are a few exceptions. One of them is Grizzly Adams Productions. That company produced the famous Grizzly Adams television series years ago. The company is still in business. It produces television shows, motion pictures, and instructional short films for schools, churches, and nonprofit groups.

Grizzly Adams Productions produces some of the family value programs that you now watch on PAX-TV, The Travel Channel, The Sci-Fi Channel, TBN and other channels.

Vice President and Senior Producer at Grizzly Adams Productions David Balsiger told me that no investor has ever lost money by investing in a Grizzly Adams project. The accounting practices at Grizzly Adams Productions are very different from the accounting practices at major motion picture and television studios in Hollywood.

David Balsiger explained to me that at Grizzly Adams Productions, the investors get paid back first and then the investors and the production company split the profits on a 50-50 basis.

If my senior citizen relative still had his \$400,000 to invest, I could confidently recommend that he consider investing in a Grizzly Adams Productions project. There are various movie/tv/dvd funding projects available for investor participation. So an investor who wants to support family values media and make a profit at the same time can usually find a suitable investment with Grizzly Adams Productions.

David Balsiger told me about some very interesting tax savings like “write-offs” for investing in media projects that are still available this year. If you want more information, contact David Balsiger at Grizzly Adams Productions. Here is the contact information: phone – 970-663-3820; fax – 970-663-6487; website – [www.grizzlyadams.tv](http://www.grizzlyadams.tv). You can email David at [dwbalsiger@ultrasys.net](mailto:dwbalsiger@ultrasys.net). I know David Balsiger personally because of our common involvement and support of family value oriented media. Let him know that you learned about this from Woody Wilcox’s article. It will give us more conversation topics for our future meetings and common efforts to support family values media.

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