

Shirley Eder

Columnist

By [VARIETY STAFF](#) 

Showbiz columnist Shirley Eder died Saturday May 29 after a long battle with Alzheimer's Disease in New York. She was 85.

Her celebrity column ran in the Detroit Free Press and in syndication from the early 1960s until 1993. After retiring from the Free Press, she wrote for other newspapers, women's and celebrity magazines.

Eder was a regular on television and radio, including entertainment segments on Detroit's WJBK-TV and WJR-AM radio. She also was an entertainment reporter for WXYZ-TV in the 80s and 90s, covering celebrity news as well as the Oscars and other award shows.

A native New Yorker, Eder attended NYU, and began a career in radio during World War II reading war bulletins. She went on to report on entertainment for three New York radio stations and debuted on TV in 1951, as host of TV's "Women Talk It Over" in New York.

Although she followed her husband to Detroit, she continued to cover Cannes, the Oscars and movie premieres. She was the only recipient of the Publicists Guild Press Award not to be based in New York or Los Angeles.

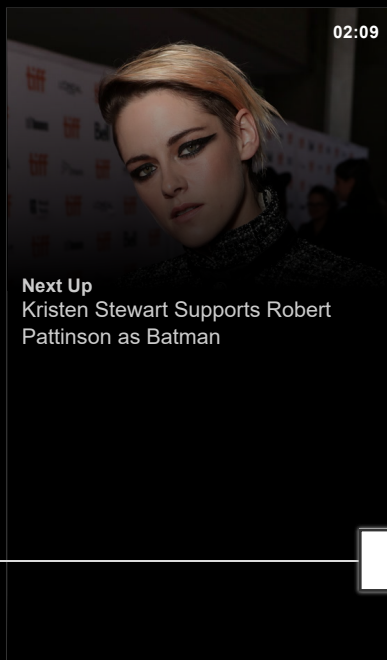
In 1973, she wrote a book about her experiences called "Not This Time, Cary Grant." Among the experiences outlined was a trip to Vietnam with Bob Hope. Other trips included one to the Pyramids with Frank Sinatra. She had cameos in films, often playing the star-struck fan or the entertainment journalist, including in "Palm Springs Weekend."

Eder is survived by a son, John, and a daughter, Toni Slotkin, an ABC Sports producer.

Donations may be made to the Hebrew Home for the Aged at Riverdale, 5901 Palisade Ave., Riverdale, N.Y. 10471.

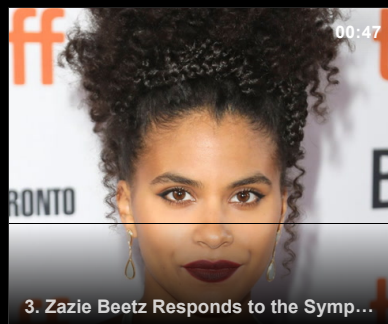
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