Brooks, James L. (1940-) Encyclopedia Article

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Emmy Award-winning television writer-producer, James L. Brooks made an extraordinary feature film debut in 1983 with *Terms of Endearment,* winning five Academy Awards, including Best Screenplay, Director, and Picture. Three further films (including the Oscar-nominated *Broadcast News,* 1987) followed at wide intervals, while Brooks confined himself to wielding his considerable influence on popular movie and television culture behind the scenes. As a producer of such hits as *Big* (1988), *The War of the Roses* (1989), and *Jerry Maguire* (1996), he confirmed his acute instinct for material with strongly defined characters and popular appeal. Born in New Jersey and educated at New York University, the former television newswriter made his major breakthrough with the creation of *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* before producing such high-rating series as *Taxi, Cheers, Lou Grant,* and *Rhoda.* In 1997, he returned to filmmaking, writing, producing, and directing the Oscar-nominated *As Good as it Gets.*

Further Reading:

Willsmer, Trevor. "James L. Brooks." *Who's Who in Hollywood,* edited by Robyn Karney. New York, Continuum, 1993.