Hackman, Gene (1930-) Encyclopedia Article

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Gene Hackman quickly gained critical recognition and Academy Award nominations for his roles in *Bonnie and Clyde* (1967), *I Never Sang for My Father* (1970), and *The French Connection* (1971). Hackman demonstrated considerable range, from the mousy surveillance expert involved in a murder in *The Conversation* (1974) to the delightfully overplayed Lex Luthor in *Superman: The Movie* (1978). Playing an inspirational basketball coach in *Hoosiers* (1986) revived his career from a slight slump. In the 1990s, Hackman found considerable success playing psychologically complex antagonists in movies such as *Unforgiven* (1992), *Crimson Tide* (1995), and *Extreme Measures* (1996). Even when he plays the villain, Hackman retains an amiable integrity that makes his performances compelling.

Further Reading:

Hunter, Allan. *Gene Hackman.* New York, St. Martin's Press, 1987.

Munn, Michael. *Gene Hackman.* London, Robert Hale & Co., 1997.