Murphy, Eddie (1961-) Encyclopedia Article

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As a stand-up comedian and a cast member of *Saturday Night Live* (1981-1984) Eddie Murphy rose quickly from obscurity to stardom. In the movies *48 HRS.* (1982), *Trading Places* (1983), and *Beverly Hills Cop* (1984), he played street-smart characters forced into unusual situations. The popularity of his action-comedies decreased steadily after these early successes, but Murphy reinvented himself by leaving behind adult themes and found success in family films such as *The Nutty Professor* (1996), *Doctor Dolittle* (1998), and *Mulan* (1998).

Eddie Murphy as Stevie Wonder on *Saturday Night Live*.

Further Reading:

Sanello, Frank. *Eddie Murphy: The Life and Times of a Comic on the Edge*. New York, Carol Publishing, 1997.

Wilburn, Deborah A. *Eddie Murphy.* New York, Chelsea House, 1993.