



3-25-1999

On, Off-Screen Roll the Credits: IWU Alumni Have Roles in 315 Movies

Bob Aaron
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news>

Recommended Citation

Aaron, Bob, "On, Off-Screen Roll the Credits: IWU Alumni Have Roles in 315 Movies" (1999). *News and Events*. 873.
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/873>

This Article is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

March 25, 1999

Contact: Bob Aaron, 309/556-3181

On, Off-Screen

Roll the Credits: IWU Alumni Have Roles in 315 Movies

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Lights . . . camera . . . action!

About three dozen Illinois Wesleyan University alumni have had on-and-off-camera roles in 315 feature and made-for-television movies, according to the seventh edition of "Illinois Wesleyan at the Movies."

Since the last edition of the movie guide was published in 1996, IWU alumni have appeared in an additional 72 films. Among these movies are the surprise hit, *There's Something About Mary* (Richard Jenkins, class of 1969); the political thriller, *Absolute Power* (Jenkins); the hit comedy, *the Cable Guy* (Andy Dick, class of 1988 and a cast member of NBC's hit sitcom, *News Radio*); HBO's bio-pic, *Lansky*, the life-and-times of mobster Meyer Lansky (Stanley DeSantis, class of 1975); and *The Mod Squad*, the big screen reprise of the 1968-73 TV drama (Jenkins).

News Media Comment

When the fifth edition of "IWU at the Movies" appeared in 1995, Gannett--the nation's largest newspaper chain and owners of *USA Today*--reported: "As unlikely as it may seem, Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington has turned out 21 actors who have appeared in 178 films and made-for-TV movies from 'Silence of the Lambs' (Frankie Faison) to Sidney Sheldon's 'Windmills of the Gods' (Stephanie Faracy).

"So many alumni of the university's drama program have appeared in films," the Gannett News Service reported, "that the school publishes a brochure called 'Illinois Wesleyan at the Movies,' suitable for keeping in your TV room for quick reference."

IWU Alumni in Academy Award-Winning Films

IWU alumni have appeared in Academy Award-winning films like *The Silence of the Lambs* (Best Picture, Frankie Faison, class of 1971) and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (Best Picture, 1975; William Duell, class of 1949).

IWU alumni have played roles in critically acclaimed films like *The Hustler* (Best Picture nominee, 1961; Duell); *The Right Stuff* (Best Picture nominee, 1983; Katherine James, class of 1973); *Hannah and Her Sisters* (Best Picture nominee, 1986; Jenkins); and

Mississippi Burning (Best Picture nominee, 1988; Kevin Dunn, class of 1977, and Faison).

1990s Credits

Several IWU alumni have appeared in 1990s films, including:

- Small Soldiers--Dunn
- Almost Heroes--Dunn
- Bulworth--DeSantis
- Addicted to Love--Conrad McLaren, class of 1950
- In and Out--Duell
- The First Wives Club--Lea DeLaria, class of 1980
- The Birdcage--DeSantis
- How to Make an American Quilt--Jenkins
- I Love Trouble--Faison
- Ed Wood--DeSantis
- Dave--Dunn
- Mr. Saturday Night--David Pires, class of 1987

IWU alumni have played some enduring real-life characters on the screen: Jenkins played astronaut Gregory Jarvis, a victim of the Challenger space shuttle explosion in Challenger, a made-for-TV movie; Dunn played FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover in the 1992 biography of pioneering film comedian Charlie Chaplin; McLaren played U.S. Navy Secretary Gideon Welles in the 1991 TV movie, Ironclads, a film about the Civil War; and Dunn played Watergate conspirator Chuck Colson in the 1995 Oliver Stone-directed film biography, Nixon.

IWU alumni have appeared in films starring many Hollywood legends:

- Absolute Power starring Clint Eastwood, Gene Hackman, and Ed Harris (Jenkins).
- The Birdcage starring Robin Williams and Gene Hackman (DeSantis).
- Blaze starring Paul Newman (Jenkins).
- Bonfire of the Vanities starring Tom Hanks, Bruce Willis, and Melanie Griffith (Dunn).
- The Cable Guy starring Jim Carrey and Matthew Broderick (Dick).
- Columbo Goes to College (made for TV) starring Peter Falk (James Sutorius, class of 1967).
- Coming to America starring Eddie Murphy (Faison).
- Dave starring Kevin Kline and Sigourney Weaver (Dunn).
- Eddie starring Whoopi Goldberg (Jenkins).
- First Wives Club starring Goldie Hawn, Diane Keaton, and Bette Midler (DeLaria).
- Fletch starring Chevy Chase (Alison LaPlaca, class of 1982).
- Hannah and Her Sisters starring Woody Allen and Mia Farrow (Jenkins).

- Hoosiers starring Gene Hackman (Sam Smiley, class of 1952).
- I Love Trouble starring Nick Nolte and Julia Roberts (Faison).
- Mississippi Burning starring Gene Hackman and Frances McDormand (Dunn, Faison).
- Nixon starring Sir Anthony Hopkins (Dunn).
- Silence of the Lambs starring Sir Anthony Hopkins and Jodie Foster (Faison).
- The Thorn Birds, a TV mini-series starring Richard Chamberlain and Rachel Ward (Stephanie Faracy, class of 1974).
- The Witches of Eastwick starring Jack Nicholson, Cher, Susan Sarandon, and Michelle Pfeiffer (Jenkins).

IWU alumni also have worked off-screen as scenic artists, assistant directors, assistant camera operators, and choreographers.

The 32-page brochure, "Illinois Wesleyan at the Movies," is available free-of-charge by calling 309/556-3181 or writing Illinois Wesleyan University, Office of University Communications, P.O. Box 2900, Bloomington, Ill. 61702-2900.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 2,000 students in a College of Liberal Arts, and individual schools of Music, Theatre Arts, Art, and Nursing. Since 1994, these facilities have been added to the IWU campus: a \$15 million athletics and recreation center, a \$25 million science center, a \$6.8 million residence hall, and a \$5.1 million Center for Liberal Arts.