

# Fierstein, Harvey (1954-) Encyclopedia Article

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## Fierstein, Harvey (1954—)

The gravel-voiced Harvey Fierstein was one of the first openly homosexual American actor/playwrights who lent his name and support to gay rights and AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) activism during the 1980s and 1990s. His breakthrough work was the autobiographical 1982 play *Torch Song Trilogy*, dealing with a young man's coming out and his relationship with his mother. Fierstein became familiar to moviegoers for his work as a supporting actor in such blockbuster hits as *Mrs. Doubtfire* (1993) and *Independence Day* (1996) and he narrated the 1984 Oscar-winning documentary *The Times of Harvey Milk*, about an assassinated gay politician.

### Further Reading:

Fierstein, Harvey. *Torch Song Trilogy*. New York, Random House, 1984.

"Harvey Fierstein." *Current Biography*. Vol. 45, 1984.