

Marshall, Garry (1934-) Encyclopedia Article

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Marshall, Garry (1934—)

New Yorker Garry Marshall (born Marscharelli) wrote a memoir called *Wake Me When It's Funny*. The title reveals the creative drive behind a man who, whether as scriptwriter, producer, or director, became a linchpin in the growth of popular TV sitcoms from the mid-1960s. Nonetheless, he is most closely identified with directing *Pretty Woman* (1990), the hit film that unleashed Julia Roberts on an ecstatic public. Shamelessly commercial, and controversial for sugaring a fundamentally demeaning premise with a fairytale plot, the film presented a synthesis of Marshall's considerable skills at manipulating situation and character and combining sudsy emotion with comedy. A former news reporter, jazz drummer, and stand-up comic, he wrote for several TV shows (*Joey Bishop*, *Dick Van Dyke Show*, *Here's Lucy*) before masterminding (initially with Jerry Belson) over a dozen prime-time series successes, among them *The Odd Couple*, *Happy Days*, and *Mork and Mindy*. An occasional actor (he had a recurring role in *Murphy Brown*), he began making glossy feature films in 1982.

Further Reading:

Katz, Ephraim. *The International Film Encyclopedia*. New York, Harper Collins, 1994.

Kirby, Kathryn. "Garry Marshall." In *Who's Who in Hollywood*, edited by Robyn Karney. New York, Continuum, 1994.