



WHAT'S THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN? Biographies

DANNY DEVITO (Max Fairbanks) is one of the entertainment industry's most successful actors and filmmakers. Having appeared in, directed, or produced numerous films throughout his career, Devito has become one of Hollywood's most recognized and beloved personalities.

Early in his career, DeVito wrote, directed and produced several short films. His emergence as a filmmaker was finally recognized in 1987 when he directed and starred in *Throw Momma From The Train* with Billy Crystal. That success was followed two years later by *The War of the Roses* with Michael Douglas and Kathleen Turner. Both films revealed a distinctive DeVito trademark with their use of darker comedic themes.

In 1992 DeVito added yet another dimension to his career. With producer Michael Shamberg and Stacey Sher he formed Jersey Films. *Reality Bites* was the company's first feature (on which DeVito served as producer), followed by Quentin Tarantino's *Pulp Fiction*, which won the coveted Palme d'Or at the 1994 Cannes Film Festival and received seven Academy Award® nominations.

Jersey Films also produced *Get Shorty*; *Sunset Park*; *Feeling Minnesota*; *Fierce Creatures*; *Matilda*, directed by and starring DeVito; *Gattaca*; *Living Out Loud*, starring DeVito and Holly Hunter; *Man on the Moon*, the Andy Kaufman biopic starring Jim Carrey and DeVito and directed by Milos Forman; *Drowning Mona*, starring DeVito; and *Erin Brockovich*, starring Julia Roberts.

DeVito also recently starred in *Foolproof*, *The Virgin Suicides*, *The Big Kahuna* with Kevin Spacey, and the upcoming *The Heist*.

As an actor DeVito achieved prominence as the star of the hit television series *Taxi* and later starred in such films as *Junior*; *Renaissance Man*; *Batman Returns*; *Jack the Bear*; *Other People's Money*; *Twins*; *Romancing the Stone*; *Jewel of the Nile*; *Wise Guys*; *Ruthless People* and

Tin Men. Two films featuring DeVito won the Academy Award® for Best Picture – *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *Terms of Endearment*.

DeVito attended Catholic schools in New Jersey, and after graduation attended the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. After years of being unemployed, DeVito landed a starring role in one of the three one-act plays presented together under the title “The Man with the Flower in his Mouth.” Other stage performances followed in rapid succession, including “Down the Morning Line,” “The Line of Least Existence,” “The Shrinking Bride” and “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest.” The latter shaped DeVito’s future when Michael Douglas attended a performance – his father, Kirk, was the star – and three years later asked DeVito to recreate his role in the award-winning film version starring Jack Nicholson. It was the role that first brought him national recognition.

In 1975, under a grant from the American Film Institute, DeVito and his wife, actress Rhea Perlman, wrote and produced *Minestrone*, which has been shown twice at the Cannes Film Festival and has been translated into five languages. They also wrote and produced *The Sound Sleeper* (a 16mm black and white short) and appeared together in five episodes of *Taxi*. Winner of the coveted Emmy and Golden Globe for his acting in that series, DeVito also directed multiple episodes.

DeVito directed and starred with Perlman in *The Ratings Game* (1984) and again in an episode of *Amazing Stories* (1985) for Steven Spielberg. Through their own TV production company, New Street Productions, they made *What a Lovely Way to Spend an Evening* and *The Selling of Vince DeAngelo*, both directed by DeVito for cable.

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