



EDWARD ASNER
AWARD-WINNING ACTOR / ACTIVIST

Versatile, committed, eloquent, and talented are all adjectives that describe actor and activist Edward Asner. Best known for his comedic and dramatic crossover as the gruff but soft-hearted journalist “Lou Grant,” Asner originated the role on the landmark television newsroom comedy *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*. “Lou Grant’s” story continued in the newspaper-set drama *Lou Grant*, which earned Asner five Emmys and three Golden Globe Awards. He received two more Emmy and Golden Globe Awards for the mini-series *Rich Man, Poor Man* and *Roots*. His prolific acting career demonstrates a consummate ability to transcend the line between comedy and drama.

One of the most honored actors in the history of television, Asner has received seven Emmy Awards and 16 nominations, as well as five Golden Globe Awards, and served as National President of the Screen Actors Guild for two terms. He was inducted into the Television Academy Hall of Fame in 1996. Asner received the Ralph Morgan Award from the Screen Actors Guild in 2000, presented periodically for distinguished service to the Guild's Hollywood membership. In 2002, he was again honored by the Guild as the 38th recipient of the prestigious Life Achievement Award for career achievement and humanitarian accomplishment, presented annually to an actor who fosters the highest ideals of the profession.

In addition to his professional versatility, Asner has consistently served and committed himself to the rights of the working performer in addition to advocating for human rights, world peace, environmental preservation, and political freedom. A passionate and informed spokesperson for such causes, he is a frequent speaker on labor issues and an ally for some of the acting industry's older artists. He has received the Anne Frank Human Rights Award, The Eugene Debs Award, Organized Labor Publications Humanitarian Award, American Civil Liberties Union's Worker's Right's Committee Award, and the National Emergency Civil Liberties Award.

Asner has more than 100 television credits to his name, including starring in the series *Off the Rack*, *The Bronx Zoo*, and *Thunder Alley*. Numerous guest appearances include roles in *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *ER*, *Arli\$\$*, and *The Practice*. Besides commercials and several books



Speaking to the World

on tape, he has lent his voice to popular cartoon shows such as *The Simpsons*, *Spiderman*, and *The Justice League*. Asner's dozens of motion pictures include *They Call Me Mister Tibbs!*, *Fort Apache the Bronx*, *JFK*, and the European production of *Giovanni XXIII* - the highest rated television mini-series in the history of Italian television. In 2003 he played the role of Santa Claus in the box office hit, *Elf*. Asner has done several Hallmark movies and was nominated for another Emmy for *The Christmas Card*.

Recently, he co-starred in the feature film *Gigantic* with John Goodman, Zooey Deschanel and Jane Alexander. He also had an Emmy nominated guest appearance on *CSI/NY* and is the lead voice of "Carl Fredricksen" in Pixar's 2009 box office hit *UP!*

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- America's Elders: Senior Power
- My Most Important Role: Public Citizen
- Jews and the Struggle for Human Rights
- Censorship in the Entertainment Industry
- Achieving Public Education Goals