

Gene Hackman

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Eugene Allen Hackman^{[1][2][3]} (born January 30, 1930) is an American retired actor and novelist. In a career that spanned more than six decades, Hackman won two Academy Awards, four Golden Globes, one Screen Actors Guild Award, two BAFTAs, and one Silver Bear.

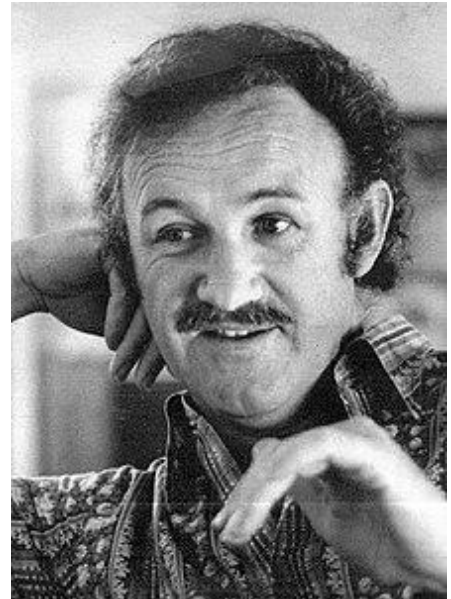
Hackman's two Academy Awards wins include one for Best Actor for his role as Jimmy "Popeye" Doyle in William Friedkin's acclaimed thriller *The French Connection* (1971), and the other for Best Supporting Actor playing "Little" Bill Daggett in Clint Eastwood's Western film *Unforgiven* (1992). His other Oscar-nominated roles were in *Bonnie and Clyde* (1967), *I Never Sang for My Father* (1970), and *Mississippi Burning* (1988).

Hackman's other major film roles included *The Poseidon Adventure* (1972), *The Conversation* (1974), *A Bridge Too Far* (1977), *Superman* (1978) and its sequels *Superman II* (1980) and *Superman IV: The Quest for Peace* (1987), *Hoosiers* (1986), *No Way Out* (1987), *Another Woman* (1988), *Bat*21* (1988), *The Firm* (1993), *The Quick and the Dead* (1995), *Get Shorty* (1995), *Crimson Tide* (1995), *Enemy of the State* (1998), *Antz* (1998), *Absolute Power* (1997), *The Royal Tenenbaums* (2001), *Runaway Jury* (2003), and *Welcome to Mooseport* (2004).

Early life and education

Eugene Allen Hackman was born in San Bernardino, California, the son of Eugene Ezra Hackman and Anna Lyda Elizabeth (née Gray).^{[4][5]} He has one brother, Richard. He has Pennsylvania Dutch, English, and Scottish ancestry; his mother was Canadian, and was born in Sarnia, Ontario.^{[6][7]} His family moved frequently, finally settling in Danville, Illinois, where they lived in the house of his English-born maternal grandmother, Beatrice.^{[6][8]} Hackman's father operated the printing press for the *Commercial-News*, a local paper.^[9] His parents divorced when he was 13 and his father subsequently left the family.^{[8][9]} Hackman decided that he wanted to become an actor when he was ten years old.^[10]

Gene Hackman



Hackman in 1972

Born	Eugene Allen Hackman January 30, 1930 San Bernardino, California, U.S.
Occupation(s)	Actor, novelist
Years active	1956–2004 (actor) 1999–2013 (novelist)
Political party	Democratic
Spouses	Faye Maltese (<i>m.</i> 1956; <i>div.</i> 1986) Betsy Arakawa (<i>m.</i> 1991)
Children	3
Awards	Full list

Hackman lived briefly in Storm Lake, Iowa, and spent his sophomore year at Storm Lake High School.^[11] He left home at age 16 and lied about his age to enlist in the United States Marine Corps. He served four and a half years as a field radio operator.^[12] He was stationed in China (Qingdao and later in Shanghai). When the Communist Revolution conquered the mainland in 1949, Hackman was assigned to Hawaii and Japan. Following his discharge in 1951,^[13] he moved to New York City and had several jobs.^[12] His mother died in 1962 as a result of a fire she accidentally started while smoking.^[14] He began a study of journalism and television production at the University of Illinois under the G.I. Bill, but left and moved back to California.^[15]

Career

Beginnings to the 1960s

In 1956, Hackman began pursuing an acting career. He joined the Pasadena Playhouse in California,^[12] where he befriended another aspiring actor, Dustin Hoffman.^[12] Already seen as outsiders by their classmates, Hackman and Hoffman were voted "The Least Likely To Succeed",^{[16][12]} and Hackman got the lowest score the Pasadena Playhouse had yet given.^[17] Determined to prove them wrong, Hackman moved to New York City. A 2004 article in Vanity Fair described Hackman, Hoffman, and Robert Duvall as struggling California-born actors and close friends, sharing NYC apartments in various two-person combinations in the 1960s.^{[18][19]} To support himself between acting jobs, Hackman was working at a Howard Johnson's restaurant^[20] when he encountered an instructor from the Pasadena Playhouse, who said that his job proved that Hackman "wouldn't amount to anything".^[21] A Marine officer who saw him as a doorman said "Hackman, you're a sorry son of a bitch". Rejection motivated Hackman, who said,^[20]

Acting was something I wanted to do since I was 10 and saw my first movie, I was so captured by the action guys. Jimmy Cagney was my favorite. Without realizing it, I could see he had tremendous timing and vitality.

Gene Hackman^[10]

It was more psychological warfare, because I wasn't going to let those fuckers get me down. I insisted with myself that I would continue to do whatever it took to get a job. It was like me against them, and in some way, unfortunately, I still feel that way. But I think if you're really interested in acting there is a part of you that relishes the struggle. It's a narcotic in the way that you are trained to do this work and nobody will let you do it, so you're a little bit nuts. You lie to people, you cheat, you do whatever it takes to get an audition, get a job.

Hackman got various bit roles, for example in the film *Mad Dog Coll* and on the TV series *Tallahassee 7000*, *The United States Steel Hour*, *Route 66*, *The Naked City*, *The Defenders*, *The Dupont Show of the Week*, *East Side/West Side*, and *Brenner*.

He began performing in several Off-Broadway plays, starting with *The Saintliness of Margery Kempe* in 1959 and including *Come to the Palace of Sin* in 1963.

In 1963 he made his Broadway debut in *Children From Their Games* which only had a short run as did *A Rainy Day in Newark*. However *Any Wednesday* with actress Sandy Dennis was a huge Broadway success in 1964. This opened the door to film work. His first role was in *Lilith*, with Jean Seberg and Warren Beatty in the leading roles.

Hackman returned to Broadway in *Poor Richard* (1964-65) by Jean Kerr, which ran for over a hundred performances. He continued to do television - *The Trials of O'Brien*, *Hawk*, *The FBI* - and he a small part as Dr. John Whipple in the epic film *Hawaii*. He had small roles in features like *First to Fight* (1967), *A Covenant with Death* (1967) and *Banning* (1967).

In 1967 he appeared in an episode of the television series *The Invaders* entitled "The Spores".

Bonnie and Clyde

Another supporting role, Buck Barrow in 1967's *Bonnie and Clyde*,^[12] earned him an Academy Award nomination as Best Supporting Actor.

A return to Broadway, *The Natural Look* (1967) only ran for one performance. He did *Fragments and The Basement* Off Broadway the same year.

Hackman was in episodes of *Iron Horse* ("Leopards Try, But Leopards Can't") and *Insight* ("Confrontation"), In 1968. he appeared in an episode of *I Spy*, in the role of "Hunter", in the episode "Happy Birthday... Everybody". That same year he starred in the *CBS Playhouse* episode "My Father and My Mother" and the dystopian television film *Shadow on the Land*.^[22]

In 1969 he played a ski coach in *Downhill Racer* and an astronaut in *Marooned*. Also that year, he played a member of a barnstorming skydiving team that entertained mostly at county fairs, a film which also inspired many to pursue skydiving and has a cult-like status amongst skydivers as a result: *The Gypsy Moths*. Hackman supported Jim Brown in two films, *The Split* (1968) and *Riot* (1969),

Hackman nearly accepted the role of Mike Brady for the TV series *The Brady Bunch*,^[23] but his agent advised that he decline it in exchange for a more promising role, which he did.

1970s and Stardom

Hackman was nominated for a second Best Supporting Actor Academy Award for his role in *I Never Sang for My Father* (1970). He starred in *Doctors' Wives* (1971), *The Hunting Party* (1971) then won the Academy Award for Best Actor for his performance as New York City Detective Jimmy "Popeye" Doyle in *The French Connection* (1971), marking his graduation to stardom.^[12]

After *The French Connection*, Hackman starred in ten films (not including his cameo in *Young Frankenstein*) over the next three years, making him the most prolific actor in Hollywood during that time frame. He followed *The French Connection* with leading roles in *Cisco Pike* (1972), and *Prime Cut* (1972) then was in the disaster film *The Poseidon Adventure* (1972) and Francis Ford Coppola's *The Conversation* (1974), which was nominated for several Oscars, and won the Palme d'Or in Cannes.^[12] That same year, Hackman appeared, in what would become one of his most famous comedic roles, as Harold the Blind Man in *Young Frankenstein*.^[24] Hackman also appeared in *Scarecrow* (1973) alongside Al Pacino, *Zandy's Bride* (1974) and *Night Moves* (1975) for director Arthur Penn.

Hackpman played one of Teddy Roosevelt's former Rough Riders in the Western horse-race saga *Bite the Bullet* (1975). He reprised his Oscar-winning role as Doyle in the sequel *French Connection II* (1975), and co-starred with Burt Reynolds and Liza Minnelli in *Lucky Lady* (1975), a notorious flop. After making *The Domino Principle* (1977) for Stanley Kramer, Hackman was part of an all-star cast in the war film *A Bridge Too Far* (1977), playing Polish General Stanisław Sosabowski, and was an officer in the French Foreign Legion in *March or Die* (1977.)

Hackman showed a talent for both comedy and the "slow burn" as criminal mastermind Lex Luthor in Superman: The Movie (1978), a role he would reprise in its 1980 and 1987 sequels.

1980s

Hackman alternated between leading and supporting roles during the 1980s. He appeared opposite Barbra Streisand in All Night Long (1981) and supported Warren Beatty in Reds (1981). He played the lead in Eureka (1983) and a support in Under Fire (1983). Hackman provided the voice of God in Two of a Kind (1983) and starred in Uncommon Valor (1983), Misunderstood (1984), Twice in a Lifetime (1985), Target (1985) for Arthur Penn, and Power (1986). Between 1985 and 1988, he starred in nine films, making him the busiest actor, alongside Steve Guttenberg.^[26]

Hackman played the coach in Hoosiers (1986), which an American Film Institute poll in 2008 voted the fourth-greatest film of all time in the sports genre,^[27]. After Superman IV: The Quest for Peace (1987) Hackman was in No Way Out (1987), Split Decisions (1988), Bat*21 (1988), Full Moon in Blue Water (1988), and Another Woman (1988) from Woody Allen.

Hackman starred in Mississippi Burning (1988), where he was nominated for a second Best Actor Oscar.^[28] After this he was in The Package (1989).

1990s

Hackman starred in Loose Cannons (1990) with Dan Aykroyd and had a support role in Postcards from the Edge (1990). He appeared with Anne Archer in Narrow Margin (1990), a remake of the 1952 film The Narrow Margin.

After Class Action (1991) and Company Business (1991) Hackman played the sadistic sheriff "Little" Bill Daggett in the Western Unforgiven directed by Clint Eastwood and written by David Webb Peoples. Hackman had pledged to avoid violent roles, but Eastwood convinced him to take the part, which earned him a second Oscar, this time for Best Supporting Actor. The film also won Best Picture.^[12]

In 1993, he appeared in Geronimo: An American Legend as Brigadier General George Crook, and co-starred with Tom Cruise as a corrupt lawyer in The Firm, a legal thriller based on the John Grisham novel of the same name. Hackman would appear in two other films based on John Grisham novels, playing convict Sam Cayhall on death row in The Chamber (1996), and jury consultant Rankin Fitch in Runaway Jury (2003).



Hackman (right) with President Ronald Reagan in 1987

Gene is someone who is a very intuitive and instinctive actor ... The brilliance of Gene Hackman is that he can look at a scene and he can cut through to what is necessary, and he does it with extraordinary economy—he's the quintessential movie actor. He's never showy ever, but he's always right on.

Alan Parker

director of Mississippi Burning (1988)^[25]

Other notable films Hackman appeared in during the 1990s include *Wyatt Earp* (1994) (as Nicholas Porter Earp, Wyatt Earp's father), *The Quick and the Dead* (1995) opposite Sharon Stone, Leonardo DiCaprio and Russell Crowe, and as submarine Captain Frank Ramsey alongside Denzel Washington in *Crimson Tide* (1995).

Hackman played film director Harry Zimm with John Travolta in the comedy-drama *Get Shorty* (1995). In 1996, he took a comedic turn as conservative Senator Kevin Keeley in *The Birdcage* with Robin Williams and Nathan Lane.^[29] He co-starred with Hugh Grant in *Extreme Measures* (1996) and reunited with Clint Eastwood in *Absolute Power* (1997). Hackman did *Twilight* (1998) with Paul Newman for director Robert Benton, did one of the voices for *Antz* (1998) and co-starred with Will Smith in *Enemy of the State* (1998), his character reminiscent of the one he had portrayed in *The Conversation*.

2000s

Hackman co-starred with Morgan Freeman in *Under Suspicion* (2000), Keanu Reeves in *The Replacements* (2000), Owen Wilson in *Behind Enemy Lines* (2001), Sigourney Weaver in *Heartbreakers* (2001) and appeared in the David Mamet crime thriller *Heist* (2001),^[30] as an aging professional thief of considerable skill who is forced into one final job. He made a cameo in *The Mexican* (2001).

Hackman gained much critical acclaim playing against type as the head of an eccentric family in Wes Anderson's comedy film *The Royal Tenenbaums* (2001), for which he received the Golden Globe Award for Best Actor in a Motion Picture Musical or Comedy. In 2003, he also starred in another John Grisham legal drama, *Runaway Jury*, at long last getting to make a picture with his long-time friend Dustin Hoffman.

In 2004, Hackman appeared alongside Ray Romano in the comedy *Welcome to Mooseport*, his final film acting role to date.^[31]

Hackman was honored with the Cecil B. DeMille Award from the Golden Globe Awards for his "outstanding contribution to the entertainment field" in 2003.^[32]

Retirement from acting

On July 7, 2004, Hackman gave a rare interview to Larry King, where he announced that he had no future film projects lined up and believed his acting career was over. In 2008, while promoting his third novel, he confirmed that he had retired from acting.^[33] When asked during a *GQ* interview in 2011 if he would ever come out of retirement to do one more film, he said he might consider it "if I could do it in my own house, maybe, without them disturbing anything and just one or two people."^[34] He briefly came out of retirement to narrate two documentaries related to the Marine Corps: *The Unknown Flag Raiser of Iwo Jima* (2016)^[35] and *We, The Marines* (2017).^[36]

Career as a novelist

Together with undersea archaeologist Daniel Lenihan, Hackman has written three historical fiction novels: *Wake of the Perdido Star* (1999),^[37] a sea adventure of the 19th century; *Justice for None* (2004),^[38] a Depression-era tale of murder; and *Escape from Andersonville* (2008) about a prison

escape during the American Civil War.^[39] His first solo effort, a story of love and revenge set in the Old West titled *Payback at Morning Peak*, was released in 2011.^[40] His most recent novel *Pursuit*, a police thriller, followed in 2013.

In 2011, Hackman appeared on the Fox Sports Radio show *The Loose Cannons*, where he discussed his career and his novels with Pat O'Brien, Steve Hartman, and Vic "The Brick" Jacobs.

Personal life

Marriages and family

Hackman has been married twice. He has three children from his first marriage.

In 1956, Hackman married Faye Maltese (1929–2017),^{[41][42]} with whom he had one son and two daughters: Christopher Allen, Elizabeth Jean, and Leslie Anne Hackman.^[43] He was often out on location making films while the children were growing up.^[44] The couple divorced in 1986, after three decades of marriage.^[45]

In 1991, he married classical pianist Betsy Arakawa (born 1961).^[46] They share a Santa Fe, New Mexico home,^[47] which *Architectural Digest* featured in 1990. At the time, the home blended Southwestern styles and crested a twelve acre hilltop, with a 360-degree view that stretched to the Colorado mountains. As of 2022, Hackman continues to attend Santa Fe cultural events.^[48]

Politics

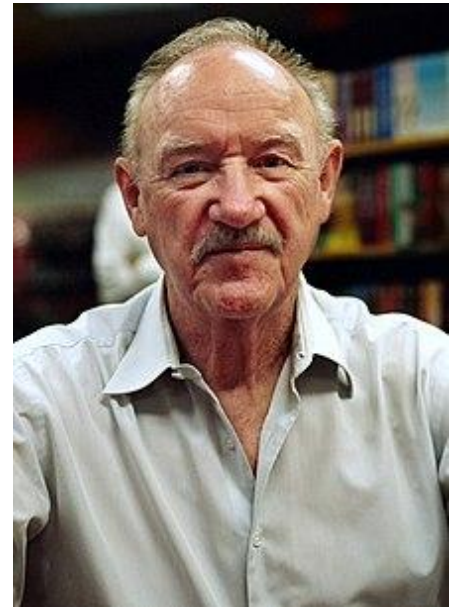
Hackman is a supporter of the Democratic Party, and was "proud" to be included on Nixon's Enemies List. However, he has spoken fondly of Republican president Ronald Reagan.^[49]

Interests

In the late 1970s, Hackman competed in Sports Car Club of America races, driving an open-wheeled Formula Ford.^{[50][51]} In 1983, he drove a Dan Gurney Team Toyota in the 24 Hours of Daytona Endurance Race.^[52] He also won the Long Beach Grand Prix Celebrity Race.^[53]

Hackman is a fan of the Jacksonville Jaguars and regularly attended Jaguars games as a guest of former head coach Jack Del Rio.^{[54][55]} Their friendship goes back to Del Rio's playing days at the University of Southern California.^[56]

Architecture and design are another of Hackman's interests. As of 1990, he had created ten homes, two of which were featured in *Architectural Digest*. After a period of time, he moves onto another house restoration. "I don't know what's wrong with me," he remarked, "I guess I like the process, and when it's over, it's over."^{[47][57]}



Hackman at a book signing in 2008

In 2012, 81-year-old Hackman was struck by a pickup truck while bicycling in the Florida Keys.^[58] He made a full recovery. As of 2018, Hackman remains an active cyclist.^[59]

Health

Hackman underwent an angioplasty in 1990.^[60]

Filmography

Film

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1961	<i><u>Mad Dog Coll</u></i>	Policeman	<u>Uncredited</u>
1964	<i><u>Lilith</u></i>	Norman	
1966	<i><u>Hawaii</u></i>	John Whipple	
1967	<i><u>Banning</u></i>	Tommy Del Gaddo	
	<i><u>Community Shelter Planning</u></i>	Donald Ross, Regional Civil Defense Officer	Short film
	<i><u>A Covenant with Death</u></i>	Alfred Harmsworth	
	<i><u>First to Fight</u></i>	Sergeant Tweed	
	<i><u>Bonnie and Clyde</u></i>	<u>Buck Barrow</u>	
1968	<i><u>The Split</u></i>	Lieutenant Walter Brill	
1969	<i><u>Riot</u></i>	'Red' Fraker	
	<i><u>The Gypsy Moths</u></i>	Joe Browdy	
	<i><u>Downhill Racer</u></i>	Eugene Claire	
	<i><u>Marooned</u></i>	'Buzz' Lloyd	
1970	<i><u>I Never Sang for My Father</u></i>	Gene Garrison	
1971	<i><u>Doctors' Wives</u></i>	Dave Randolph	
	<i><u>The Hunting Party</u></i>	Brandt Ruger	
	<i><u>The French Connection</u></i>	NYPD Detective <u>Jimmy 'Popeye' Doyle</u>	
1972	<i><u>Prime Cut</u></i>	Mary Ann	
	<i><u>The Poseidon Adventure</u></i>	Reverend Frank Scott	
	<i><u>Cisco Pike</u></i>	Sergeant Leo Holland	
1973	<i><u>Scarecrow</u></i>	Max Millan	
1974	<i><u>The Conversation</u></i>	Harry Caul	
	<i><u>Young Frankenstein</u></i>	Harold, The Blind Man	
	<i><u>Zandy's Bride</u></i>	Zandy Allan	
1975	<i><u>French Connection II</u></i>	NYPD Detective Jimmy 'Popeye' Doyle	
	<i><u>Lucky Lady</u></i>	Kibby Womack	
	<i><u>Night Moves</u></i>	Harry Moseby	
	<i><u>Bite the Bullet</u></i>	Sam Clayton	
1977	<i><u>The Domino Principle</u></i>	Roy Tucker	
	<i><u>A Bridge Too Far</u></i>	Major General <u>Stanisław Sosabowski</u>	

	<u>March or Die</u>	Major William Sherman Foster	
1978	<u>Superman</u>		
1980	<u>Superman II</u>	<u>Lex Luthor</u>	
1981	<u>All Night Long</u>	George Dupler	
	<u>Reds</u>	Pete Van Wherry	
	<u>Under Fire</u>	Alex Grazier	
1983	<u>Two of a Kind</u>	God	Voice, uncredited
	<u>Uncommon Valor</u>	Colonel Jason Rhodes, <u>USMC</u> (Ret.)	
	<u>Eureka</u>	Jack McCann	
1984	<u>Misunderstood</u>	Ned Rawley	
1985	<u>Twice in a Lifetime</u>	Harry MacKenzie	
	<u>Target</u>	Walter Lloyd / Duncan 'Duke' Potter	
1986	<u>Power</u>	Wilfred Buckley	
	<u>Hoosiers</u>	Coach Norman Dale	
1987	<u>No Way Out</u>	Defense Secretary David Brice	
	<u>Superman IV: The Quest for Peace</u>	Lex Luthor, Nuclear Man	
	<u>Bat*21</u>	Lieutenant Colonel <u>Iceal Hambleton</u> , USAF	
1988	<u>Split Decisions</u>	Danny McGuinn	
	<u>Another Woman</u>	Larry Lewis	
	<u>Full Moon in Blue Water</u>	Floyd	
1989	<u>Mississippi Burning</u>	FBI Special Agent Rupert Anderson	
	<u>The Package</u>	Sergeant Johnny Gallagher	
	<u>Loose Cannons</u>	Detective MacArthur 'Mac' Stern	
1990	<u>Postcards from the Edge</u>	Lowell Kolchek	
	<u>Narrow Margin</u>	Robert Caulfield	
1991	<u>Class Action</u>	Jedediah Tucker Ward	
	<u>Company Business</u>	Sam Boyd	
1992	<u>Unforgiven</u>	Sheriff Bill 'Little Bill' Daggett	
1993	<u>The Firm</u>	Avery Tolar	
	<u>Geronimo: An American Legend</u>	Brigadier General <u>George Crook</u>	
1994	<u>Wyatt Earp</u>	<u>Nicholas Earp</u>	
	<u>The Quick and the Dead</u>	John Herod	
1995	<u>Crimson Tide</u>	Captain Frank Ramsey	
	<u>Get Shorty</u>	Harry Zimm	
	<u>The Birdcage</u>	Senator Kevin Keeley	
1996	<u>Extreme Measures</u>	Dr. Lawrence Myrick	
	<u>The Chamber</u>	Sam Cayhall	

1997	<i>Absolute Power</i>	President Allen Richmond	
1998	<i>Twilight</i>	Jack Ames	
	<i>Antz</i>	General Mandible	Voice
	<i>Enemy of the State</i>	Edward 'Brill' Lyle	
2000	<i>Under Suspicion</i>	Henry Hearst	Also executive producer
	<i>The Replacements</i>	Coach Jimmy McGinty	
2001	<i>The Mexican</i>	Arnold Margolese	
	<i>Heartbreakers</i>	William B. Tensy	
	<i>Heist</i>	Joe Moore	
	<i>Behind Enemy Lines</i>	Admiral Leslie Reigart	
	<i>The Royal Tenenbaums</i>	Royal Tenenbaum	
2003	<i>Runaway Jury</i>	Rankin Fitch	
2004	<i>Welcome to Mooseport</i>	Monroe 'Eagle' Cole	

Television

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1961	<i>Tallahassee 7000</i>	Joe Lawson	Episode: "The Fugitive"
1963	<i>Route 66</i>	Motorist	Episode: "Who Will Cheer My Bonny Bride?"
1967	<i>The F.B.I.</i>	Herb Kenyon	Episode: "The Courier"
	<i>The Invaders</i>	Tom Jessup	Episode: "The Spores"
1968	<i>Shadow on the Land</i>	Reverend Thomas Davis	Television film
2008	<i>Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives</i>	Self	Episode: "Big Breakfast"
2016	<i>The Unknown Flag Raiser of Iwo Jima</i>	Narrator	Voice, documentary
2017	<i>We, the Marines</i>		

Theatre

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1960–1961	<i>The Premise</i>	Various roles	The Premise, <u>Bleecker Street</u>
1963	<i>Children From Their Games</i>	Charles Widgin Rochambeau	<u>Morosco Theatre</u> , Broadway
1963	<i>A Rainy Day in Newark</i>	Sidney Rice	<u>Belasco Theatre</u> , Broadway
1963	<i>Come to the Palace of Sin</i>	Performer	<u>Lucille Lortel Theatre</u> , <u>Off-Broadway</u>
1964–1965	<i>Any Wednesday</i>	Cass Henderson	<u>Music Box Theatre</u> / <u>George Abbott Theatre</u>

1964–1965	<i>Poor Richard</i>	Sydney Caroll	<u>Helen Hayes Theatre, Broadway</u> ^[61]
1967	<i>The Natural Look</i>	Dr. Barney Harris	<u>Longacre Theatre, Broadway</u>
1967	<i>Fragments / The Basement</i>	Baxter / Zach	<u>Cherry Lane Theatre, Off-Broadway</u>
1992	<i>Death and the Maiden</i>	Roberto Miranda	<u>Brooks Atkinson Theatre, Broadway</u>

Accolades

Asteroid 55397 Hackman, discovered by Roy Tucker in 2001, was named in his honor.^[62] The official naming citation was published by the Minor Planet Center on May 18, 2019 (M.P.C. 114954).^[63]

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