

# JEFF LENBURG BIOGRAPHY

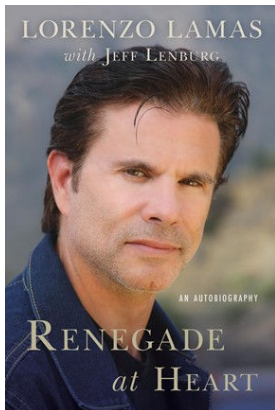


Jeff Lenburg is a prolific, award-winning author, celebrity biographer, and writer-producer. He has written 35 books, including celebrity memoirs and biographies, entertainment histories, popular references, and two national bestsellers. His books are the recipient of nominations for such prestigious awards as the American Library Association's "Best Non-Fiction Award," the Evangelical Christian Publisher Association's "Gold Medallion Award" for "Best Autobiography/Biography," and the "Theatre Library Association Award," and are translated into several languages around the globe.

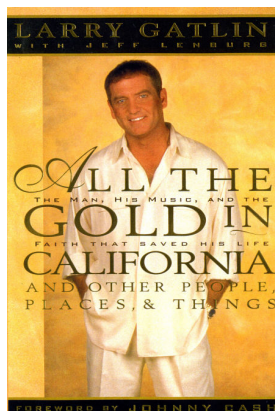
In his teens, Jeff began interviewing many famous Hollywood personalities and became a frequent contributor to many leading and

respected film journals and magazines that published his freelance work.

As one of the nation's premier biographers, Jeff's has written 18 acclaimed celebrity memoirs and biographies. They include



*Renegade at Heart*, the autobiography of actor Lorenzo Lamas (of TV's *Renegade* and *Falcon Crest* fame), *How to Make a Million Dollars with Your Voice (Or Lose Your Tonsils Trying)*, with radio/TV legend Gary Owens, and *All the Gold in California and Other People, Places & Things*, the inspiring autobiography of Grammy award-winning singer-songwriter Larry Gatlin. His many other biographies broke new ground as the "first" written on their subjects. Among them are *Peekaboo: The Story of Veronica Lake*, a sensitive, moving portrait of this famous '40s star's lifelong battle with alcoholism and mental illness; *Dudley Moore: An Informal Biography*, the first illustrated book on the life and career of this lovable funnyman; and *Dustin Hoffman: Hollywood's Antihero*, the first biography ever written about this Oscar-winning actor. Jeff is also the co-author of *Steve Martin: An Unauthorized Biography*.



Jeff's work to chronicle the lives of Hollywood's most famous also includes the successful eight-volume series he authored for Chelsea House, *Legends of Animation*, featuring individual in-depth biographies of eight famous animators, including Tex Avery, Walt Disney, William Hanna and Joseph Barbera, Matt Groening, Walter Lantz, John Lasseter, Hayao Miyazaki, and Genndy Tartakovsky.

As a nationally recognized expert on cartoon animation, Jeff has written seven books about the history of this lively art. One such title is *Who's Who in Animated Cartoons*, the first international guide to 300 award-

## FAST FACTS

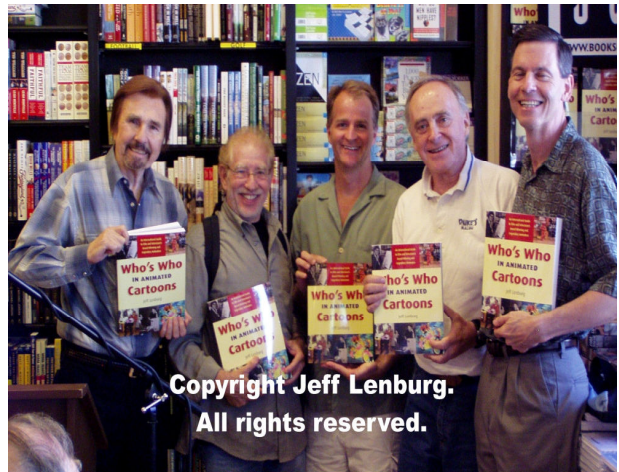
Jeff is the author of 35 books, including celebrity memoirs and biographies, popular histories, and two national bestsellers.

His published books have been translated in Chinese, Indian, Italian, and German.

He is the author of first-time bios of film stars Dustin Hoffman, Dudley Moore, and Veronica Lake.

He is a nationally recognized expert on cartoon animation and has penned seven books preserving its history.

A foremost authority and coauthor of two books on the Three Stooges comedy team, he was a close friend of four surviving members--Moe Howard, Larry Fine, Joe Besser, and Joe DeRita.

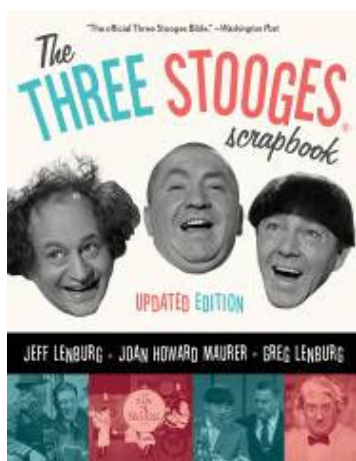


Top left: Jeff being inducted into Hollywood's "Cartoon Legends Walk of Fame" with animation icons William Hanna, Friz Freleng, and Don Messick. Top right: With film and television voice artist Gary Owens, animator/producer Bob Kurtz, animator/director Chris Bailey and producer Tee Bosustow at a Hollywood book signing for Jeff's book, WHO'S WHO IN ANIMATED CARTOONS. Photos copyright Jeff Lenburg. All rights reserved.

winning and legendary animators from film and television in animation's 100-year history. Another is Jeff's *The Encyclopedia of Animated Cartoons*, now in its third edition, the most comprehensive reference ever produced that chronicles the history of more than 3,100 animated cartoons--silent cartoons, theatrical sound cartoon series, full-length animated features, television specials, and television cartoon series.

Jeff is also the author of *The Great Cartoon Directors*, the first and only book to examine the careers of legendary animators from Hollywood's "Golden Age of Cartoons"--Tex Avery Bob Clampett, William Hanna and Joe Barbera, Dave Fleischer, Friz Freleng, Ub Iwerks, Chuck Jones, Walter Lantz and others, and two editions of *The Encyclopedia of Animated Cartoon Series*. It was the first encyclopedic reference on animated cartoon series ever written. In addition, Jeff has written the most comprehensive career guide for beginning and experienced animation professionals imaginable, *Career Opportunities in Animation*, for Ferguson Publishing.

In 1993, for his work as an animation historian, Jeff was inducted into the "Cartoon Legends Walk of Fame" in Hollywood along with celebrated cartoon icons Bill Hanna, Joe Barbera and Friz Freleng. That same year, Cartoon Network named him to serve on its Advisory Board.



Considered the foremost authority on the Three Stooges comedy team and a close friend of Stooges Moe Howard, Larry Fine, Joe Besser and Joe DeRita, Jeff has co-authored two books about this wacky comedy trio.

The first, *The Three Stooges Scrapbook*, is indisputably the most complete team history of the Stooges ever written. Co-written by Moe Howard's daughter, Joan Howard Maurer, the original edition was the culmination of ten years



With Joe Besser to promote Joe's autobiography, which Jeff cowrote, on a Los Angeles television news show. Photo copyright Jeff Lenburg. All rights reserved.

Howard Maurer, the original edition was the culmination of ten years

of research and interviews, including exclusive interviews with the Stooges, their friends, and family members by Jeff and his twin brother Greg to complete and which the *Washington Post* praised as "the Three Stooges bible." The second, born out of Jeff's 16-year friendship with Three Stooges member Joe Besser, is the comic's sentimental autobiography, *Once a Stooge, Always a Stooge*.

Recognized as a top researcher, Jeff has penned many popular references as well. Included among them are two editions of *The Facts on File Guide to Research*, a comprehensive guide to conducting research and writing, and as a longtime baseball enthusiast, *Baseball's All-Star Game: A Game-by-Game Guide*, Jeff's widely praised history of baseball's mid-summer classic.

In 1995, Jeff turned his attention toward writing fiction. That year, he published his first novel, a classic Hollywood "whodunit" that won widespread acclaim, *Scared to Death: A Lori Matrix Hollywood Mystery*. Jeff is in the process of penning a second all-new cozy mystery, entitled *Deadly Innocence*.



During his illustrious career, Jeff has interviewed dozens of other major personalities, world figures and headline-makers, including baseball Hall of Famers George Brett and Nolan Ryan, tennis star Chris Evert, former First Lady Betty Ford, and controversial and former New York policeman Frank Serpico. He has also appeared on more than 100 radio and television programs, namely *BBC Live*, *CBS Evening News*, *The Dennis Miller Show*, *E!'s Mysteries & Scandals*, *Entertainment Tonight*, *NBC's Today Show*, *CNN's Showbiz Today*, and many others.

As a writer, producer, and creative consultant, Jeff has lent his talents to a variety of top-rated network specials and documentaries for ABC, NBC, PBS, and Tribune Broadcasting, including TV's *Greatest Commercials*, *Hollywood's Private Home Movies*, *The Three Stooges: A Celebration*, and *The Story of the Boys Republic*. He has also appeared as an on-camera personality on several documentaries, including *I Know That Voice* and *Picture Perfect: The Making of Sleeping Beauty*.

Jeff first broke into the business writing, producing, and directing various short films, including an adaptation of Willie Nelson's classic song, "The Red Headed Stranger." Later, he trained as a screenwriter under a Director Guild of America-sponsored protégé of Academy Award-winning film director Arthur Hiller and director Richard Donner. As a co-producer, Jeff worked alongside Emmy Award-winning documentary producer, Don Bresnahan, including production of the PBS documentary, *The Story of the Boys Republic*.

In recognition of his achievements, Jeff is listed in such prominent references as *Contemporary Authors* and *Men of Achievement* and was awarded the "Journalism Alumnus of the Year Award" by his alma mater, Fullerton College. He makes his home near Phoenix, Arizona, with his wife Debby.

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