

# *As Good As It Gets, 1997*

Presented by TriStar Pictures

Rated PG-13

Directed by James L. Brooks

## Cast

Carol Connelly	Helen Hunt	Policewoman	Maya Rudolph
Melvin Udall	Jack Nicholson	Detective Ray	John F. O'Donohue
Simon Bishop	Greg Kinnear	Hospital Doctor	David A. Kipper
Beverly, Mother	Shirley Knight	Nurse Receptionist	Mary Elizabeth Still
Frank Sachs	Cuba Gooding, Jr.	Children At Café 24	Chloe Brooks, Cooper Brooks
Vincent	Skeet Ulrich	Female Passersby	Sharon L. Alexander, Holly Denys
Jackie	Yardley Smith	Dr. Green	Lawrence Kasdan
Nora	Lupe Ontiveros	Psychiatric Patients	Alison Rose, Kathryn Morris
Neighbor Woman	Bibi Osterwald	Café 24 Busboy	Wood Harris
Carl	Ross Bleckner	Publisher	Linda Gehringer
Caterer	Bernadette Balagtas	Receptionist	Julie Benz
Party Goers	Jaffe Cohen, Laurie Kilpatrick, Alice Vaughn	Dr. Bettes	Harold Ramis
Handyman	Brian Doyle-Murray	Nurse	Antonia Jones
Mother At Table	Kristi Zea	Woman in Lobby	Kaitlin Hopkins
Daughter at Table	Annie Maginnis Tippe	Sean From The Bakery	Jimmy Workman
Café 24 Waitresses	Patricia Childress, Rebekah Johnson, Missi Pyle, Leslie Stefanson, Tara Subkoff	Veterinarian	Danielle Spencer
Café 24 Manager	Shane Black	Man On Bus	Todd Solondz
Man At table	Peter Jacobson	Maitre D'	Tom McGowan
Woman At Table	Lisa Edelstein	Singer	Danielle Brisebois
Café 24 Customer	Stan Bly	Men's Store Salesman	Matt Molloy
Carol's Date	Randall Batinkoff	Bar Waiter	Paul Greenberg
Spencer Connelly	Jesse James	Food Waiter	Kirk Ringberg
Street Hustlers	Jamie Kennedy, Justin Herwick	Bartender	Dave Hawthorne
		Verdell, the dog	Jill
		Supporting Dogs	Timer and Billy

## Awards

1998 Academy Award, Best Actor in a Leading Role, Jack Nicholson  
1998 Academy Award, Best Actress in a Leading Role, Helen Hunt  
1998 American Comedy Awards, Funniest Actor in a Motion Picture Leading Role, Jack Nicholson  
1998 American Comedy Awards, Funniest Actress in a Motion Picture Leading Role, Helen Hunt  
1998 BMI Film Music Award, Hans Zimmer  
1999 Blockbuster Entertainment Awards, Favorite Actress – Video, Helen Hunt  
1998 Broadcast Film Critics Association Awards, Best Actor, Jack Nicholson  
1998 Florida Film Critics Circle Awards, Best Actress Helen Hunt  
1998 Golden Globes, Best Motion Picture – Comedy/Musical  
1998 Golden Globes, Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture – Jack Nicholson  
1998 Golden Globes, Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture – Helen Hunt  
1998 Golden Satellite Awards, Best Motion Picture – Comedy or Musical  
1998 Gold Satellite Awards, Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture – Comedy or Musical Jack Nicholson  
1998 Gold Satellite Awards, Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture – Comedy or Musical Helen Hunt  
1998 Golden Screen, Germany  
1999 London Critics Circle Film Awards, Actor of the Year  
1997 National Board of Review, Best Actor, Jack Nicholson  
1997 National Board of Review, best Supporting Actor, Greg Kinnear  
1998 Online Film Critics Society Awards, Best Actor Jack Nicholson  
1998 Screen Actors Guild Awards, Outstanding performance by a Female Actor in a Leading Role, Helen Hunt  
1998 Screen Actors Guild Awards, Outstanding performance by a Male Actor in a Leading Role, Jack Nicholson  
1998 Southeastern Film Critics Association Awards, Best Original Screenplay, Mark Andrus/James Brooks  
1998 Southeastern Film Critics Association Awards, Best Supporting Actor, Greg Kinnear  
1998 Writers Guild of America, Best Screenplay written directly for the Screen, Mark Andrus/James Brooks  
1998 Young Star Awards, Best Performance by a Young Actor in a Comedy Film, Jesse James

## Chapter 1: Start

From the beginning you are listening to Hans Zimmer's (*Moonlighting* '82, *Driving Mrs. Daisy* '89, *Black Rain* '89, and *The Last Emperor* '87) music, which establishes the tone of the movie.

*As Good As It Gets* opened December 23, 1997, and swept audiences and critics off their feet. Named to over 75 Top Ten Lists and winner of three Golden Globe Awards (Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Actress), the film grossed over \$100 million in North America alone.

Biography for Hans Zimmer, (Composer)

Date of birth 12 September 1957, Frankfurt, Germany, Birth name Hans Florian Zimmer

Spouse Suzanne Zimmer, four children

Trade mark

- Uses elements from the characters' culture in the music. Some examples are tribal chants in *The Lion King*, Ukulele in *Pearl Harbor* and Guitar with vocals in *Gladiator*.
- Seamlessly mixes synthesizers with real instruments and soloists. Often uses solo cello and acoustic/electric guitar.

Trivia

- One of his biggest fans (after first hearing *Crimson Tide*) is director and producer Steven Spielberg, whose friendship and loyalty toward John Williams is perhaps the only reason why Zimmer has not become a regular for Spielberg-directed films.
- *The Last Samurai* marks his 100th score.
- Inspired by Ennio Morricone's *The Mission*.
- He heads DreamWorks' film music division. His appointment marks the first time that a composer has headed the music department of a major studio since the days of Dimitri Tiomkin at MGM and Alfred Newman at Twentieth Century Fox.
- His music is heavily used in trailers.

Composer - filmography

1. August Rush (2006)
2. Tripoli (2007)
3. DragonBall Z (2007)
4. Mission: Impossible III (2006)
5. Good Year, A (2005)
6. Over the Hedge (2005)
7. New World, The (2005)
8. Batman Begins (2005) (co-composer)
9. Ring Two, The (2005)
10. Weather Man, The (2005)
11. "Athens 2004: Games of the XXVIII Olympiad" (2004)
12. Spanglish (2004)
13. Luras Stern (2004)
14. Shark Tale (2004)
15. Thunderbirds (2004)
16. King Arthur (2004)
17. Tricks of the Trade: Making 'Matchstick Men' (2004) (V)
18. Lion King 1½, The (2004) (V)
19. Journey to Safety: Making 'Tears of the Sun' (2003) (V)
20. Something's Gotta Give (2003)
21. Last Samurai, The (2003)
22. "Threat Matrix" (2003) TV Series (main title)
23. "Carnivàle" (2003) TV Series (from "The Thin Red Line")
24. Matchstick Men (2003)
25. Essence of Combat: Making 'Black Hawk Down', The (2003)
26. Tears of the Sun (2003)
27. Thelma & Louise: The Last Journey (2003) (V)
28. Ring, The (2002)
29. Road (2002) (from "Rock, The (1996)") (uncredited)
30. Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron (2002)
31. Black Hawk Down (2001)
32. Riding in Cars with Boys (2001)
33. Invincible (2001/II)
34. Breaking the Silence: The Making of 'Hannibal' (2001) (V)
35. Pearl Harbor (2001)
36. "What About Joan" (2001) TV Series (theme)
37. Hannibal (2001)
38. Pledge, The (2001)
39. "Critic, The" (2000) TV Series (theme)
40. Everlasting Piece, An (2000)
41. Gladiator Games: The Roman Bloodsport (2000) (TV)
42. Hans Zimmer: Scoring Gladiator (2000) (V)
43. Mission: Impossible II (2000)
44. Gladiator (2000)
45. Road to El Dorado, The (2000)
46. Motorrad-Cops: Hart am Limit, Die (2000) (TV) (theme)
47. "Candidato, El" (1999) TV Series
48. "Motorrad-Cops: Hart am Limit, Die" (1999) TV Series
49. Chill Factor (1999)
50. Dritte Reich - in Farbe, Das (1998) (TV)
51. Thin Red Line, The (1998)
52. Prince of Egypt, The (1998)
53. Lion King II: Simba's Pride, The (1998) (V)
54. Last Days, The (1998)
55. As Good as It Gets (1997)
56. Scream 2 (1997) (from "Broken Arrow (1996)")
57. Peacemaker, The (1997)
58. Smilla's Sense of Snow (1997)
59. Preacher's Wife, The (1996)
60. Fan, The (1996)
61. Rock, The (1996) (two themes)
62. "High Incident" (1996) TV Series (theme)
63. Muppet Treasure Island (1996)
64. Broken Arrow (1996)
65. Whole Wide World, The (1996)
66. Two Deaths (1995)
67. Something to Talk About (1995)
68. Nine Months (1995)
69. Beyond Rangoon (1995)
70. Crimson Tide (1995)
71. Drop Zone (1994)
72. Lion King, The (1994)
73. Renaissance Man (1994)
74. Africa: The Serengeti (1994)
75. Monkey Trouble (1994) (additional music)
76. I'll Do Anything (1994)
77. "Critic, The" (1994) TV Series (theme)
78. "Ryori no tetsujin" (1993) TV Series (1991)
79. Younger and Younger (1993)
80. House of the Spirits, The (1993)
81. Cool Runnings (1993)
82. True Romance (1993)
83. Calendar Girl (1993)
84. Point of No Return (1993)
85. Sniper (1993) (additional music)
86. "Space Rangers" (1993/I) TV Series
87. "Millennium: Tribal Wisdom and the Modern World" (1992)
88. Where Sleeping Dogs Lie (1992)
89. Toys (1992)

90. League of Their Own, A (1992)
91. Power of One, The (1992)
92. Radio Flyer (1992)
93. K2 (1992) (European version)
94. Regarding Henry (1991)
95. Backdraft (1991)
96. Thelma & Louise (1991)
97. White Fang (1991/I) (additional music)
98. To the Moon, Alice (1990) (TV) (as Hans Florian Zimmer)
99. Green Card (1990)
100. Pacific Heights (1990)
101. Fools of Fortune (1990)
102. Twister (1990)
103. Chicago Joe and the Showgirl (1990)
104. Days of Thunder (1990)
105. Bird on a Wire (1990)
106. Diamond Skulls (1989)
107. Driving Miss Daisy (1989)
108. Black Rain (1989)
109. Fruit Machine, The (1988)
110. Spies Inc. (1988)
111. Burning Secret (1988)
112. Rain Man (1988)
113. "First Born" (1988) (mini) TV Series
114. Paperhouse (1988)
115. Nightmare at Noon (1988)
116. World Apart, A (1988)
117. Prisoner of Rio (1988)
118. Taffin (1988)
119. Nature of the Beast, The (1988)
120. Comeback (1987) (TV)
121. Wind, The (1987) (V)
122. Terminal Exposure (1987)
123. Separate Vacations (1986)
124. Castaway (1986) (additional music)
125. Wild Horses (1985) (TV)
126. Insignificance (1985)
127. Histoire d'O: Chapitre 2 (1984)
128. Eureka (1984) (additional music)
129. Success Is the Best Revenge (1984)
130. Moonlighting (1982)

Greg Kinnear stated that they say that an actor's credit location is extremely important, and Greg said, "it is hard to do much better than this." Greg Kinnear stated that he was extremely nervous to be working with the great "Jack", who is known to be "an exceptional actor who gives you the unexpected on the set." After the first couple of days, which began with this scene, Jack was Melvin, and that was how Greg saw him.



Revealing mistakes: When Melvin picks up Simon's dog and it urinates, you can see that the stream of urine is clearly coming out of Melvin's gloved index finger.

Biography for Greg Kinnear, (Simon)  
Height 5' 9"

Mini biography Greg Kinnear was born on June 17, 1963, in Logansport, Indiana, USA to parents Edward Kinnear, a career diplomat who worked for the US State Department and Suzanne Kinnear, a full-time homemaker. Greg also has two brothers--one named James, an executive director of the Corvallis Convention and Visitors Bureau in Oregon (born in 1957), and one named Steve, a business manager who works for the Billy Graham Training Center in North Carolina (born in 1959). As a child, Greg and his family moved around a lot, from places as far as Beirut, Lebanon to Athens, Greece. While a student in Athens, Greg first ventured into the role of talk show host with his radio show "School Daze With Greg Kinnear." Returning to the States for a college education, he attended the University of Arizona in Tucson, where he graduated in 1985 with a degree in broadcast journalism. From Arizona he headed out to Los Angeles, where he landed his first job as a marketing assistant with Empire Entertainment. Following this job he auditioned to be an MTV VJ, but failed and became a host and on-location reporter for the channel. When that job went under he had bit parts on such television shows as "L.A. Law" (1986) and "Life Goes On" (1989). He would later become the creator, co-executive producer, and host of "Best of the Worst" (1990), which aired from 1990 to 1991. He then received his breakthrough when he became the first host of "Talk Soup" (1991) until 1994, when he left the show for the NBC late-night talk show, "Later with Greg Kinnear" (1994). It was also in 1994 that Kinnear had his first big screen role, as a talk show host yet again in the Damon Wayans comedy Blankman (1994). In 1995 he won the part of the David Larrabee in Sydney Pollack's remake of Billy Wilder's 1954 classic Sabrina (1995). He then received the lead role in the 1996 comedy Dear God (1996). In 1997, Greg was cast in James L. Brooks's blockbuster comedy drama *As Good As It Gets* (1997), for which he received an Oscar nomination for Best Supporting Actor. His next film, the romantic comedy *Smile Like Yours, A* (1997), had him starring opposite Lauren Holly as part of a couple trying to have a baby. The film met with lukewarm reviews and a low box office, but his next film, *You've Got Mail* (1998), struck gold. He played Meg Ryan's significant other, a newspaper columnist wholly unlike what was to be his next character that of *Captain Amazing* in the 1999 summer action film *Mystery Men* (1999). His more recent films have *Nurse Betty* (2000), *Looser* (2000), and *Someone Like You...* (2001).

Spouse Helen Labdon 199-present

Trivia

- Attended the University of Arizona.

Actor - filmography

1. Dark Matter (2005)
2. Bad News Bears, The (2006) Bullock
3. Robots (2005) (*post-production*) Ratchet
4. Matador, The (2004) Danny Wright
5. Godsend (2004) Paul Duncan
6. Stuck On You (2003/I) Walt
7. Auto Focus (2002) Bob Crane

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 8. We Were Soldiers (2002) Maj. Bruce Crandall (Snake)    | 20. Dear God (1996) Tom Turner                         |
| 9. Dinner with Friends (2001) (TV) Tom                    | 21. Sabrina (1995) David Larrabee                      |
| 10. Someone Like You... (2001) Ray Brown                  | 22. Blankman (1994) Talk Show Host                     |
| 11. Gift, The (2000) Wayne Collins                        | 23. "Talk Soup" (1991) TV Series Host (1993-1995)      |
| 12. Loser (2000) Professor Edward Alcott                  | 24. Based on an Untrue Story (1993) (TV) Orlando Stein |
| 13. Nurse Betty (2000) Dr. David Ravell/George McCord     | 25. "Best of the Worst" (1991) TV Series Host          |
| 14. What Planet Are You From? (2000) Perry Gordon         | 26. Dillinger (1991) (TV) Arizona Legislator           |
| 15. Mystery Men (1999) Captain Amazing/Lance Hunt         | 27. Murder in Mississippi (1990) (TV) News reporter    |
| 16. You've Got Mail (1998) Frank Navasky                  | Miscellaneous Crew - filmography                       |
| 17. As Good as It Gets (1997) Simon Bishop                | 1. Capturing the Friedmans (2003) (special thanks)     |
| 18. Smile Like Yours, A (1997) Danny Robertson            | Writer - filmography                                   |
| 19. Beavis and Butt-Head Do America (1996) ATF Agent Bork | 1. "Talk Soup" (1991) TV Series (writer) (1991-1995)   |

At first we just think Melvin is a mean character, but once he enters his apartment, we see the 1, 2, 3 of the locks and light switches, which tells this guy is a little strange. It also holds our interest in knowing more about this character, who suffers from OCD Obsessive Compulsive Disorder.

The director, James Brooks took a walk around the block with Cuba and described his character. He told him that the world doesn't believe in Bisexual people, but if he had to put his character in a nutshell, he would describe him as a bisexual. This is the type of guy that does what it takes to get what he wants. Surprisingly, after you see this movie, you do question that aspect about this character Cuba is playing.

Chapter 2 (0:05:47) "Never interrupt me."

Some interesting choices in the set decorations, look at the two prominent pictures in the living room and then on into the den. We have two pictures of some really great writers on the wall, Edward Albee and Noel Coward. But here he is writing this crap. By the way the chest hair is make-up and the pecks have been airbrushed.

Continuity: While Simon is being verbally assaulted by Melvin, his shirt is unbuttoned. After he turns away, his shirt is buttoned.

The idea of his work is showing that he is struggling with the meaning of love. Great little gasps here by Jack, which reveals to us he just got the meaning of love.

Biography for Jack Nicholson (Melvin Udall)

Birth name John Joseph Nicholson, Nickname Mulholland Man, Height 5' 10"

Mini biography Abandoned by his father in his childhood, he was raised believing his grandmother was his mother and his mother was his older sister. The truth was revealed to him years later when a Time magazine researcher uncovered the truth while preparing a story on the star. Jack had a 17 year relationship with actress Anjelica Huston which ended in 1990 after Rebecca Broussard was carrying his child. Spouse Sandra Knight 1962-1968, divorced, one child

Trade mark, Shark's grin, and sunglasses

Trivia

- Graduate of Manasquan High School Manasquan, NJ
- Used to be a messenger boy for MGM's cartoon department.
- Dedicated his Oscar for *As Good As It Gets* (1997) to J.T. Walsh, his co-star in *Few Good, Men, A* (1992) who had died shortly before the Academy Awards in 1998.
- Loves jokes at his expense so much that he showed up at every Academy Awards hosted by Billy Crystal, who in turn would incorporate Nicholson somehow in the telecast.
- Lives on famed "Bad Boy Drive" a.k.a. Mulholland Drive in Beverly Hills, CA. It's nicknamed so because its residents are famed Hollywood bad boys Warren Beatty, Marlon Brando, and Nicholson.
- Avid Los Angeles Lakers fan. He never misses a Lakers home game. Because of this, producers on his films must work the shooting schedule around the Lakers' schedule.

- Never does televised interviews.
- Flew to Cuba and met with Fidel Castro in June 1998. While there, Nicholson also met with leaders of the Cuban film industry, enjoyed local restaurants jazz clubs and visited a famous cigar factory. He left greatly impressed with the country and its Communist dictator, though the luxuries he was treated to on the island are off-limits to most Cuban citizens.

Personal quotes

- "You only lie to two people in your life: your girlfriend and the police."

Salary *As Good as it Gets*, \$15 million

Biography from Leonard Maltin's Movie Encyclopedia: Not many actors could have risen from a bit in the three-day *The Little Shop of Horrors* (1960) to the lead in the multimillion-dollar epic *Hoffa* (1992); fewer still are sufficiently comfortable with their stardom to continue to take small but challenging roles, but this paunchy, balding actor with what "Time" magazine once called a "shark's grin" has always been a consummate professional, albeit an incredibly well-paid one, as well as one of the few contemporary stars whom *anybody* can do an impression of. Nicholson got his movie start with legendary cheapie producer Roger Corman, who cast him in the title role of *Cry Baby Killer* (1958). He played small roles for the next few years; in addition to playing a masochistic dental patient in *Little Shop* he costarred as Peter Lorre's moron son in *The Raven* (1963), and hung around to play the lead in *The Terror* filmed shortly thereafter on the same sets and starring Boris Karloff. Nicholson got his first screenplay credit that same year, co writing the virtually unknown *Thunder Island*. After a period of relative inactivity, he resurfaced by producing, writing, and costarring in a trio of low-budget Monte Hellman films: a pair of existential Westerns, *Ride in the Whirlwind* (1965), and *The Shooting* (1967), and *Flight to Fury* (1966), a tropical adventure. Nicholson played a filling-station attendant named "Poet" in *Hell's Angels on Wheels* (1967), a pony-tailed rocker in *Psych-Out* wrote the script for Corman's LSD epic *The Trip* and co wrote, co produced (with Bob Rafelson), and briefly appeared in the cult favorite *Head* (all 1968). He stepped in to replace Rip Torn at the last minute and played a boozy Southern lawyer in another biker film ... but this one, *Easy Rider* (1969), changed his life. The unexpected, phenomenal success of this counterculture road film (and his riveting performance as a drop-out lawyer) made Nicholson a demi-star, especially to the Beatles-generation audiences who comprised the bulk of the movie going public in those years. (It also earned him his first Oscar nomination.) His role in Vincente Minnelli's *On a Clear Day You Can See Forever* (1970) was cut down to nothing, but Nicholson's vibrant portrayal of an angry, disaffected ex musician in *Five Easy Pieces* (also 1970) proved to be a star-making turn, thanks in large part to his memorable "chicken salad sandwich" tirade; it also brought him a second Oscar nomination, in the Best Actor category. His sublimely cynical sexual politician in *Carnal Knowledge* (1971) cemented his reputation as the star of a new generation. His follow ups, *A Safe Place* (1971) and *The King of Marvin Gardens* (1972), didn't endear him to the movie going main stream, but reaffirmed his status as an individualist who sought out challenging and contemporary material. He then co wrote, co produced, and directed the X-rated coming-of-age drama *Drive, He Said* (1972). Nicholson hit his stride with starring roles in *The Last Detail* (1973, Oscar nominated again as a career sailor on m.p. duty), *Chinatown* (1974, Oscar-nominated as detective Jake Gittes), and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (1975, winning his first Oscar as the not-so-crazy, rebellious asylum patient Randall Patrick McMurphy). In his Academy Award acceptance speech, the sly Nicholson thanked film pioneer Mary Pickford who'd just made an appearance on the show-"for being the first actor to get a percentage of her pictures." Now a full-fledged star, Nicholson took chances that few others would dare, playing a goofy sidekick to Warren Beatty in the farcical *The Fortune* leaving Hollywood to work for Michelangelo Antonioni in the inscrutable *The Passenger* taking a singing role in *Tommy* (all 1975), and a supporting part in *The Last Tycoon* (1976). His subsequent starring films were a mixed bag, however: *The Missouri Breaks* (1976, a disappointing "summit meeting" with Marlon Brando), *Goin' South* (1978, a quixotic comedy which he directed), *The Shining* (1980, an over-the top tour de force in which he went crazy for nearly two hours, under Stanley Kubrick's direction), *The Postman Always Rings Twice* (1981, a seamy and steamy remake of the James M. Cain classic), and *The Border* (1982, a muddled drama about illegal aliens). The actor's choices grew canner at this time. He was surprisingly effective as playwright Eugene O'Neill in Warren Beatty's sprawling *Reds* (1981, earning a Best Supporting Actor Oscar nomination), and charming as the comically dissolute former astronaut who laconically romances Shirley MacLaine in *Terms of Endearment* (1983), which won him a Best Supporting Actor Academy Award. John Huston gave him one key piece of direction to play a dimwitted hit-man in *Prizzi's Honor* (1985)-"Remember, he's *dumb*"-and the result was one of his alltime best performances, opposite Kathleen Turner and his longtime girlfriend Anjelica Huston. He chalked up another Oscar nomination, then played a thinly disguised version of journalist Carl Bernstein in *Heartburn* (1986), creating an unforgettable Nicholson moment by bursting into song (the "Soliloquy" from *Carousel*!). He was devilishly well cast as Satan in modern-day guise in *The Witches of Eastwick* which allowed him to "let go" in a furiously funny climax, then played a heartbreaking man on the skids in *Ironweed* which earned him another Oscar nomination (both 1987). He rounded out 1987 with a very funny, deadpan cameo appearance as an imperious network anchorman in *Broadcast News*. By now something of an icon-as actor, movie star, and power broker-he accepted a whopping salary (and percentage) to play *The Joker* in *Batman* (1989), and chewed the scenery to his heart's content (and his fans'). In 1990 he realized a longtime ambition to make a sequel to *Chinatown* directing and starring in the disappointing *The Two Jakes*. After some time off, he appeared in three movies in succession in 1992: the dreadful comedy *Man Trouble* (which reunited him with director Bob Rafelson), the smash hit *A Few Good Men* (which gave him a plum, Oscar-nominated supporting role as a Machiavellian Marine officer), and the ambitious biography *Hoffa* (in which his galvanizing performance-in very convincing makeup-had to carry a diffuse and unsatisfying script). He then re teamed with director Mike Nichols to try something completely different-a werewolf movie, namely *Wolf* (1994). In 1994 he received the American Film Institute Life Achievement Award, reaffirming his unique status as a counterculture hero who has managed to function extraordinarily well in the movie mainstream. His next film was *The Crossing Guard* (1995).

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Actor - filmography

1. *Something's Gotta Give* (2003) Harry Sanborn
2. *Anger Management* (2003) Dr. Buddy Rydell
3. *About Schmidt* (2002) Warren R. Schmidt
4. *Pledge, The* (2001) Jerry Black
5. *As Good as It Gets* (1997) Melvin Udall
6. *Mars Attacks!* (1996) President James Dale/Art Land
7. *Evening Star, The* (1996) Garrett Breedlove
8. *Blood and Wine* (1996) Alex Gates
9. *Crossing Guard, The* (1995) Freddy Gale
10. *Wolf* (1994) Will Randall
11. *Hoffa* (1992) James R. 'Jimmy' Hoffa
12. *A Few Good Men, A* (1992) Col. Nathan R. Jessep
13. *Man Trouble* (1992) Eugene Earl Axline, aka Harry Bliss
14. *Two Jakes, The* (1990) Jake Gittes
15. *Batman* (1989) The Joker/Jack Napier
16. *Ironweed* (1987) Francis Phelan
17. *Broadcast News* (1987) Bill Rorich
18. *Witches of Eastwick, The* (1987) Daryl Van Horne
19. *Elephant's Child* (1986) (TV) Narrator
20. *Heartburn* (1986) Mark Louis Forman
21. *Prizzi's Honor* (1985) Charley Partanna

22. Terms of Endearment (1983) Garrett Breedlove
  23. Border, The (1982) Charlie Smith
  24. Reds (1981) Eugene O'Neill
  25. Postman Always Rings Twice, The (1981) Frank Chambers
  26. Shining, The (1980) Jack Torrance
  27. Goin' South (1978) Henry Lloyd Moon
  28. Last Tycoon, The (1976) Brimmer
  29. Missouri Breaks, The (1976) Tom Logan
  30. One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (1975) Randle McMurphy
  31. Fortune, The (1975) Oscar Sullivan aka Oscar Dix
  32. Tommy (1975) A. Quackson (mental health specialist)
  33. Professione: reporter (1975) David Locke
  34. Chinatown (1974) J. J. (Jake) Gittes
  35. Last Detail, The (1973) Billy "Bad Ass" Buddusky
  36. King of Marvin Gardens, The (1972) David Staebler
  37. Safe Place, A (1971) Mitch
  38. Carnal Knowledge (1971) Jonathan Fuerst
  39. Five Easy Pieces (1970) Robert Eroica Dupea
  40. On a Clear Day You Can See Forever (1970) Tad Pringle
  41. Rebel Rousers, The (1970) Bunny
  42. Easy Rider (1969) George Hanson
  43. Psych-Out (1968) Stoney
  44. Shooting, The (1967) Billy Spear
  45. Hells Angels on Wheels (1967) Poet
  46. St. Valentine's Day Massacre, The (1967) Gino, Hit Man
  47. Ride in the Whirlwind (1965) Wes
  48. Back Door to Hell (1964) Burnett
  49. Flight to Fury (1964) Jay Wickham
  50. Ensign Pulver (1964) Dolan
  51. Terror, The (1963) Lt. Andre Duvalier
  52. Raven, The (1963) Rexford Bedlo
  53. Broken Land, The (1962) Will Brocius
  54. Wild Ride, The (1960) Johnny Varron
  55. Studs Lonigan (1960) Weary Reilly
  56. Little Shop of Horrors, The (1960) Wilbur Force
  57. Too Soon to Love (1960) Buddy
  58. Cry Baby Killer, The (1958) Jimmy Wallace
- Miscellaneous Crew - filmography
1. Something's Gotta Give (2003) (singer: "La vie en rose")
  2. My Buddy Jack (2003) (V) (special thanks)
  3. Skull Session: The Making of 'Anger Management' (2003) (I)
  4. AFI's 100 Years... 100 Passions (2002) (TV) (thanks)
  5. Code of Conduct (2001) (V) (special thanks)
  6. Eyeball Eddie (2000) (film mentor)
- Writer - filmography
1. Drive, He Said (1971)
  2. Head (1968) (written by)
  3. Trip, The (1967/II)
  4. Ride in the Whirlwind (1965)
  5. Flight to Fury (1964)
  6. Thunder Island (1963)
- Producer - filmography
1. Two Jakes, The (1990) (producer) (uncredited)
  2. Drive, He Said (1971) (producer)
  3. Head (1968) (producer)
  4. Shooting, The (1967) (producer)
  5. Ride in the Whirlwind (1965) (producer)
- Director - filmography
1. Two Jakes, The (1990)
  2. Goin' South (1978)
  3. Drive, He Said (1971)
  4. Terror, The (1963) (uncredited)

Cuba's confrontation is important, as it allows the audience a hint as to how to take this character or not take this character.

Biography for Cuba Gooding Jr.

Date of birth 2 January 1968, The Bronx, New York, USA, Height 5' 10"

Mini biography Cuba Gooding Jr. was born on January 2, 1968 in The Bronx, New York. His father, Cuba Gooding, was the lead vocalist for the R&B group The Main Ingredient who had a hit with the song "Everybody Plays The Fool". His mother, Shirley, was a backup singer for The Sweethearts. His father moved the family to Los Angeles in 1972 only to abandon them two years later. Despite this setback, Cuba was able to maintain a positive outlook and overachieved throughout school. He attended four different high schools and was elected class president in three of them. While at high school, Cuba met and fell in love with Sara Kapfer whom he later lived with for seven years before tying the knot in March 1994.

Following high school, Cuba studied Japanese martial arts for three years before turning his focus toward acting. Early on, he landed guest starring roles on shows like "Hill Street Blues" (1981) and "MacGyver" (1985). His first major role was in the 1991 box office surprise *Boyz n the Hood* (1991). He followed this success with supporting roles in major films like *Few Good Men, A* (1992), *Lightning Jack* (1994), and *Outbreak* (1995).

In 1996, Cuba was cast as an arrogant but loyal football player in the Tom Cruise-Cameron Crowe film *Jerry Maguire* (1996). The film became a huge box office smash and earned Cuba an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor. His "Show Me The Money" line in the movie became a nation-wide catchphrase. The role elevated him to superstar status as many of Hollywood's top producers began to "show him the money" to appear in their films.

Since *Jerry Maguire* (1996), Cuba has managed to keep busy with a wide range of roles alongside many of Hollywood's biggest stars. Most recently, he won critical support for his portrayal of a mentally handicapped man in the heartwarming film *Radio* (2003), another movie about football. In 2002, he was given a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Currently, he resides in Studio City, California with Sara, now a school teacher, and their two sons.

Trivia

- Break danced in the 1984 closing ceremonies of the Olympic Games in Los Angeles
- Was a backup dancer for Paula Abdul

Salary *Boyz n the Hood* (1991) \$32,000

Actor - filmography

1. *Shadowboxer* (2005) Mikey
2. *End Game* (2005) Tom Quinn
3. *Home on the Range* (2004) Buck

4. Radio (2003) Radio
  5. Fighting Temptations, The (2003) Darrin Hill
  6. Boat Trip (2002) Jerry Robinson
  7. Snow Dogs (2002) Dr. Ted Brooks
  8. In the Shadows (2001) Draven
  9. Rat Race (2001) Owen Templeton
  10. Pearl Harbor (2001) Petty Officer Doris 'Dorie' Miller
  11. Men of Honor (2000) BM2/Chief/Senior Chief Carl Brashear
  12. Chill Factor (1999) Arlo
  13. Instinct (1999) Theo Caulder
  14. Murder of Crows, A (1999) (V) Lawson Russell
  15. What Dreams May Come (1998) .Albert Lewis
  16. As Good as It Gets (1997) Frank Sachs
  17. Do Me a Favor (1997) Liquor Store Clerk
  18. Audition, The (1996)
  19. Jerry Maguire (1996) Rod Tidwell
  20. Tuskegee Airmen, The (1995) (TV) Billy Roberts
  21. Losing Isaiah (1995) Eddie Hughes
  22. Outbreak (1995) Maj. Salt
  23. Blown Away (1994) Bomb Squad Class Member
  24. Lightning Jack (1994) Ben Doyle
  25. Judgment Night (1993) Mike Peterson
  26. Daybreak (1993) (TV) Torch
  27. Few Good Men, A (1992) Cpl. Carl Hammaker
  28. Gladiator (1992) Abraham Lincoln Haines
  29. Murder Without Motive: The Edmund Perry (1992) Tyree
  30. Boyz N the Hood (1991) Tré Styles
  31. Judgement (1989) Officer Alvarez
  32. Sing (1989) Stanley
  33. Coming to America (1988) Boy getting haircut
- Producer - filmography
1. Murder of Crows, A (1999) (V) (producer)

### Chapter 3 (0:10:09) Breakfast

Up to this point you have kind of a dark comedy (comedy that derives its laughter from painful situations), you are not sure as to whom to cheer for or relate to in the movie. Instead we are watching a romantic comedy that is the genre of this film.

The role of Carol Connelly was initially offered to Holly Hunter.

Here is the “word,” that put everyone in the audience on the edge of their seats... Jew. The jury is still out by the time we get to this scene. So this really lets the audience know that they are seeing a comedy. Now all of a sudden with Helen here, we are into familiar territory, it is like a romantic comedy. Once you get by this really uncomfortable moment in the picture, you can get into the picture itself to see where it will take you.



(0:13:40) This is called a Hard beat, acting term, for when an actor has to move from one emotion to the next.

(0:14:48) This scene had been toned down, from the original version. This is also the audition scene for both of these actors. You can notice the uncomfortable edge of an older woman and a younger man. Helen Hunt asked to audition with this scene. Reason being, it is considered inappropriate to ask an actress to audition with a sexually

explicit scene. Helen wanted to show her strength and confidence as an actress, thus the scene.

There is a great resemblance of the three family members here. You believe they are related.

(0:16:04) 'Betty White' was offered the Shirley Knight (Beverly Connelly) role, but turned it down.

The building where Helen Hunt's character lives is just across the street from where her character lived in "Mad About You" (1992).

Here we are establishing exposition for the story that follows, this is where the audience learns the who, what, where and when of a story.

(0:18:07) The man in the car is Ross Bleckner who is a really top artist. The street hustler's are played by Jamey Kennedy from *Scream* and *The Kennedy Experiment*, Justin Herwick, who was a professional wind surfer, Skeet Ulrich, who had a lot of his work cut out.

(0:20:31) Simon's reaction to Skeet is important, as it establishes that he is a caring person, not the movie stereotype of a homosexual man. This dialog represents the underlying theme for the movie, that if you look at another human being for any length of time you will discover their humanity.

*As Good As It Gets* began as *Old Friends*, a spec script written by Mark Andrus (*Late For Dinner*), that was acquired by executive producer Laura Ziskin in 1992. After several years of development, the project eventually made its way to Oscar-winning filmmaker, James L. Brooks (*Terms of Endearment*). James Brooks agreed to work on the project and began rewriting it himself. He spent about one year working on the project, before they had finished a script.

Biography for James L. Brooks, (Director)

Spouse Holly Beth Holmberg 1978-present, Marianne Catherine Morrissey 1964-divorced  
Trivia Owns Gracie Films which produces "The Simpsons".

Biography from Leonard Maltin's Movie Encyclopedia: The creator (or co creator) of hit TV shows "Room 222" (1969-74), "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" (1970-77), and "Taxi" (1978-83), the multitalented Brooks made his feature-film debut writing, producing, and directing *Terms of Endearment* (1983), which won Academy Awards for Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Screenplay-not a bad way to start a film career. His long suit is character delineation (possibly a byproduct of his extensive work in episodic TV), which was amply demonstrated in his handling of the three principal, sympathetic but not totally likable characters of *Broadcast News* (1987), Oscar nominated for Best Picture and Best Screenplay. It wasn't until 1994 that he wrote and directed another feature, the near musical *I'll Do Anything Not* that he hasn't been busy; his company produced "The Tracey Ullman Show" and its wildly successful animated spin off, "The Simpsons," among others. Brooks produced *Big* (1988), *Say Anything* and *The War of the Roses* (both 1989), and acted in *Real Life* (1979) and *Modern Romance* (1981).

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Producer - filmography

1. Spanglish (2004) (producer)
2. Riding in Cars with Boys (2001) (producer)
3. "What About Joan" (2001) TV Series producer
4. "Critic, The" (2000) TV Series (executive producer)
5. As Good as It Gets (1997) (producer)
6. Jerry Maguire (1996) (producer)
7. Bottle Rocket (1996) (executive producer)
8. I'll Do Anything (1994) (producer)
9. "Critic, The" (1994) TV Series (executive producer)
10. "Phenom" (1993) TV Series (executive producer)
11. Best of the Tracey Ullman Show, The (1990) (TV)
12. Simpsons Christmas Special, The (1989) (TV)
13. "Simpsons, The" (1989) TV Series
14. War of the Roses, The (1989) (producer)
15. Say Anything... (1989) (executive producer)
16. Big (1988) (producer)
17. Broadcast News (1987) (producer)
18. "Tracey Ullman Show, The" (1987) TV Series
19. Terms of Endearment (1983) (producer)
20. Starting Over (1979) (producer)
21. "Associates, The" (1979) TV Series
22. "Taxi" (1978) TV Series (executive producer)
23. Cindy (1978) (TV) (producer)
24. "Lou Grant" (1977) TV Series (executive producer)
25. "Rhoda" (1974) TV Series (executive producer)
26. Thursday's Game (1974) (TV) (producer)

27. "Mary Tyler Moore" (1970) TV Series

Writer - filmography

1. Spanglish (2004) (written by)
2. As Good as It Gets (1997) (screenplay)
3. I'll Do Anything (1994) (written by)
4. Simpsons, The (1991) (VG) (characters)
5. Simpsons Christmas Special, The (1989) (TV)
6. "Simpsons, The" (1989) TV Series (developed by)
7. Broadcast News (1987)
8. Terms of Endearment (1983)
9. Starting Over (1979)
10. "Taxi" (1978) TV Series (creator)
11. Cindy (1978) (TV)
12. "Rhoda" (1974) TV Series (creator) (writer)
13. Thursday's Game (1974) (TV)
14. "Mary Tyler Moore" (1970) TV Series (creator)
15. "My Friend Tony" (1969) TV Series (writer)
16. "Room 222" (1969) TV Series (writer)
17. "Doris Day Show, The" (1968) TV Series (writer)
18. "That Girl" (1966) TV Series (writer)
19. "Time-Life Specials: The March of Time" (1965)
20. "My Mother the Car" (1965) TV Series (2 episodes)
21. "Andy Griffith Show, The" (1960) TV Series (writer)
22. "My Three Sons" (1960) TV Series (writer)

Miscellaneous Crew - filmography

1. Royal Tenenbaums, The (2001) (special thanks)

2. Simpsons Wrestling, The (2001) (VG)
3. Rushmore (1998) (thanks)
4. My Own Private Idaho (1991) (special thanks)
5. Simpsons Christmas Special, The (1989) (TV)
6. "Simpsons, The" (1989) TV Series (developer)
7. Jumpin' Jack Flash (1986) (special thanks)
8. "Taxi" (1978) TV Series (executive consultant)
9. Cindy (1978) (TV) (creative consultant)

Director - filmography

1. Spanglish (2004)
  2. As Good as It Gets (1997)
  3. I'll Do Anything (1994)
  4. Broadcast News (1987)
  5. Terms of Endearment (1983)
- Actor - filmography
1. Modern Romance (1981) David
  2. Real Life (1979) Driving Evaluator

(0:22:45) From an acting stand point this is a really a tough scene to play. She has to change from that forceful beginning to carry on the scene with this actor. It is a hard beat.

Continuity: When Melvin is sitting in the cafe talking to Carol, he removes his glasses and begins to unbutton his breast pocket. In the next shot, his pocket is still buttoned. And in the next, it is unbuttoned as he puts his glasses in.

#### Chapter 4 (0:23:25) Beaten & robbed

The artwork was created by Billy Sullivan. He also worked with Greg to help make his moments believable as an artist, watch the hand that he draws with.

(0:24:21) There were some scenes here that were cut out, that feature these guys on animal tranquilizers. Just to show how really crazy they were or can be. The original version had a terribly graphic violent moment here, but it alienated the audience.



(0:25:00) Greg stated that he had never been a victim of random violence, so he had to go and talk to some friends of his whom had an experience with violence. They mentioned this moment of how everything stops in time. Here is an example of that moment.

(0:26:07) Roger Schumacher is the dog's trainer; he was like the acting spirit of the dog. They did this one moment where the dog runs from all of this noise; it is a great real moment for the dog. The dog's real name is Jill. "We needed to find adult dogs, and that was hard to do. We had a couple come from England, and as we were getting the dogs, we had to feel out which ones might be capable of playing the lead...Jill, who came from Texas, was the last dog. When she came in, she just stood out – she had a look." The breed Brussels Griffon (a rare European dog breed.) Roger commented in *Entertainment*

*Weekly*, July 31, 1997, That it is simple a reverse of an old trend. "Lassie was a girl dog that was played by a male."

Verdell the dog was played by three to six Brussels Griffons, named Timer, Sprout, Debbie, Billy, Parfait, and Jill. Jill was the star.

#### Chapter 5 (0:26:45) Designated watcher

Cuba gives a really strong performance to the movie; he is the unsung hero of this film.

A little bit of *The Shining* fear here, as he enters his apartment.

Continuity: The position of the dog on the rug the first time he is going to eat in Melvin's apartment. First shot, he is on the edge of the carpet, next shot, back on the carpet, and next shot, on the edge of the carpet again. You can tell by looking at the color of the rug.

There is an untrained dog here, which looks like Jill. What you see is a real dog, with real behavior in a terrified environment, as it is getting yelled at. Name of the song, "*Always look on the Bright Side of Life*," Hans Zimmer played this song at a New Year's Eve party that James Brook was in attendance at, it is a Monty Python song, and after this movie was released SONY Pictures put this song on their phone system. But there is a line in the song that says, "Life's a piece of shit!" which might not have occurred to anyone calling this large corporation. Here they use a recording by Art Garfunkel of "*Always Look on the Bright Side of Life*," a Monty Python song from *Life of Brian* (1979) and *Spamalot* (2005). The original lyric, "Life's a piece of shit..." was changed to "Life's a counterfeit."

Jack Nicholson dedicated his Oscar to his *Few Good Men, A* (1992) co-star J.T. Walsh who had died shortly before the Academy Awards in 1998.

The role of Melvin Udall was initially offered to John Travolta.

Chapter 6 (0:30:11) Hospital visit

Michelle Burk did the make-up for this scene. It took 2 ½ hours to do this make-up job.

Dioptic shot being done here with the mirror shot, notice that you do not see the camera when you peep into the mirror.

Here is an interesting comment that the director made to Helen Hunt, "This is the nicest place for this gal to be at in her day." Think about that, before you interpret this restaurant as another greasy spoon.

Biography for Helen Hunt,  
Birth name Helen Elizabeth Hunt Height 5' 6"

Mini biography Helen Hunt began studying acting at the age of eight with her father, respected director and acting coach Gordon Hunt. A year later she made her professional debut and afterward worked steadily in films, theatre and television.  
Spouse Hank Azaria, 1999-2000, divorced

Trivia

- Graduated from Providence High School in Burbank, California.
- Attended UCLA for 1 month.
- Did a guest voice on "Simpsons, The" (1989) as Moe's girlfriend. The voice of Moe is Hank Azaria, Helen's real life love at that time.
- Got the lead in *As Good As It Gets* (1997) after Holly Hunter turned it down.
- Has won Four Emmys, five Golden Globes, a Blockbuster Award, two Screen Actors Guild awards, four American Comedy Awards, three Viewers for Quality Television Awards, and an Oscar, along with other awards. [2001]
- Witnessed the World Trade Center attacks from the roof of her brand new New York apartment, and decided to leave the city right away, but could not get a flight out. She booked a private jet at considerable expense, and flew herself and her staff out of Connecticut three days later, the first day they allowed private jets to fly. [September 2001]
- The only actress to win an Oscar and an Emmy in the same calendar year.

Biography from Leonard Maltin's *Movie Encyclopedia*: She made her acting debut, in the TV movie "Pioneer Woman," at the age of nine-she is the daughter of famed theater director and acting coach Gordon Hunt. Since then, Hunt has appeared in numerous TV projects, plays, and films

but this versatile and appealing young actress has just come into her own in the 1990s. She appeared in *Girls Just Want to Have Fun* (1985), played Kathleen Turner's daughter in *Peggy Sue Got Married* (1986) and Matthew Broderick's love interest in *Project X* (1987) and has also appeared in *Miles From Home* (1988), *Next of Kin* (1989), the low-budget sci-fi films *Trancers* (1985) and *Trancers II* (1991), and the direct-to-video comedy *Only You* (1991). Overdue for a break on the big screen, Hunt gave excellent performances as a married woman having an affair with a paraplegic writer in *The Waterdance* (1992) and as an aging Billy Crystal's youthful talent agent in *Mr. Saturday Night* (also 1992). After years of appearances in episodic TV and made-for-TV movies, she finally attained stardom in the winning sitcom "*Mad About You*" (1992-) opposite Paul Reiser.

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Actress - filmography

1. *Empire Falls* (2004) (TV) Janine Roby
2. *Good Woman, A* (2004) Mrs. Erlynne
3. *Curse of the Jade Scorpion, The* (2001) Betty Ann Fitzgerald
4. *One Night at McCool's* (2001) (scenes deleted) Truck Driver
5. *What Women Want* (2000) Darcy McGuire
6. *Cast Away* (2000) Kelly Frears
7. *Pay It Forward* (2000) Arlene McKinney
8. *Dr. T & the Women* (2000) Bree Davis
9. *Twelfth Night, or What You Will* (1998) (TV) Viola
10. *As Good as It Gets* (1997) Carol Connelly
11. *Twister* (1996) Dr. JoAnne 'Jo' Thornton-Harding
12. *Kiss of Death* (1995/I) Bev Kilmartin
13. *Sexual Healing* (1993) Rene
14. *In the Company of Darkness* (1993) (TV) Gina Pulasky
15. *Trancers III* (1992) (V) Lena
16. "*Mad About You*" (1992) TV Series Jamie Buchman
17. *Mr. Saturday Night* (1992) Annie
18. *Bob Roberts* (1992) Rose Pondell
19. *Only You* (1992/I) Claire Enfield
20. *Waterdance, The* (1992) Anna
21. *Murder in New Hampshire: The Pamela Smart Story* (1991)
22. *Trancers II* (1991) Lena Deth
23. *Into the Badlands* (1991) (TV) Blossom
24. "*My Life and Times*" (1991) TV Series Rebecca Miller
25. "*Captain Planet and the Planetees*" (1990) Additional Voices
26. *Incident at Dark River* (1989) (TV) Jesse McCandless
27. *Next of Kin* (1989) Jessie Gates
28. *Frog Prince, The* (1988) Princess Henrietta
29. *Miles from Home* (1988) Jennifer
30. *Shooter* (1988) (TV) Tracey
31. *Stealing Home* (1988) Hope Wyatt (adult and pregnant)
32. *Project X* (1987) Teri
33. *Nativity, The* (1986) (voice) Mary
34. *Peggy Sue Got Married* (1986) Beth Bodell
35. "*Galtar and the Golden Lance*" (1985) Additional Voices

36. *Trancers* (1985) Leena
37. *Waiting to Act* (1985) Tracy
38. *Girls Just Want to Have Fun* (1985) Lynne Stone
39. "*St. Elsewhere*" (1982) TV Series Clancy (1984-1986)
40. *Sweet Revenge* (1984) (TV) Debbie Markham
41. *Choices of the Heart* (1983) (TV) Cathy
42. *Quarterback Princess* (1983) (TV) Tami Maida
43. *Bill: On His Own* (1983) (TV) Jenny Wells
44. "*It Takes Two*" (1982/I) TV Series Lisa Quinn
45. *Desperate Lives* (1982) (TV) Sandy Cameron
46. *Child Bride of Short Creek* (1981) (TV) Naomi
47. *Miracle of Kathy Miller, The* (1981) (TV) Kathy Miller
48. *Best Little Girl in the World, The* (1981) (TV) Unknown
49. *I Think I'm Having a Baby* (1981) (TV) Phoebe
50. *Angel Dusted* (1981) (TV) Lizzie Eaton
51. *Transplant* (1979) (TV) Janice Hurley
52. "*Fitzpatrick's, The*" (1977) TV Series Kerry Gerardi
53. *Rollercoaster* (1977) Tracy Calder
54. *Spell, The* (1977) (TV) Kristina Matchett
55. *Having Babies* (1976) (TV) Sharon McNamara
56. *Death Scream* (1975) (TV) Teila Rodriguez
57. "*Swiss Family Robinson*" (1975) TV Series Helga Robinson
58. *Swiss Family Robinson, The* (1975) (TV) Roberta
59. *All Together Now* (1975) (TV) Susan Lindsay
60. "*Amy Prentiss*" (1974) TV Series Jill Prentiss
61. *Pioneer Woman* (1973) (TV) Sarah Sargeant

Producer - filmography

1. *Timepiece* (2003) (co-producer)
2. "*Mad About You*" (1992) TV Series (producer)

Miscellaneous Crew - filmography

1. Joe (1997) (special thanks)

Director - filmography

1. "*Mad About You*" (1992) TV Series (5 episodes 1998-1999)

Writer - filmography

1. "*Mad About You*" (1992) TV Series ("*The Final Frontier*")

## Chapter 7 (0:34:45) Verdell jumps cracks

In one scene the dog starts mimicking Jack Nicholson by stepping over the cracks in the sidewalk. The filmmakers accomplished this by placing little obstacles on the cracks so that the dog had to step over them. They then removed the obstacles digitally in post-production.

This defines this guy as a writer, as he tells us how many books he has written 62 he states. This scene was added.



According to the Wall Street Journal, the Chinese translation for this movie's title was "Mr. Cat Poop."

The MPAA originally rated this film R. It was reduced to PG-13 on appeal.

Chapter 8 (0:36:05) "Simon's home."

This is Lawrence Kasden playing Dr. Green on your credit sheet, (*The Empire Strikes Back* '81, *Body Heat* '81, *Raiders of The Lost Ark* '81, *The Big Chill* '83, *Return of the Jedi* '83, *Silverado* '85, *The Bodyguard* '92, *Wyatt Earp* '94, and nominated for four Academy Awards) a great Hollywood writer and director. The picture's original title was *Old Friends*, and everyone was kind of unhappy with the title, it was Hans Zimmer who suggested, "How about that thing he says in the Psychiatrist's office."

Here he reveals that he suffers from Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, OCD.

Chapter 9 (0:42:00) Melvin's kicked out

Patricia Childress shows how there really are no small parts. She does a great job here.

Shane Black is a writer, he wrote the original *Lethal Weapon*. There was a hint of flirting with the manager and the waitress, where Helen Hunt kept saying, "You're married." Scene was never used, they just didn't need the side story.

Chapter 10 (0:44:16) At Carol's

This is a real filming location in Park Slope, Brooklyn, New York City, New York, USA, for Helen Hunt's Neighborhood. Original idea was that it was Helen's house and she had her mother move in, but they changed it to being Helen's mother's place.

Chapter 11 (0:48:30) Simon, you're broke

Simon's low point in the movie, and here he is imitating Jack Nicholson.

Chapter 12 (0:50:21) At his publisher's

Continuity: Melvin removes his glasses twice while looking out of the window on a rainy evening.

A nice henny shot here to begin the scene. And here you also need to give special thanks to the wardrobe department for this outfit.

Chapter 13 (0:52:14) Dr. Bettes

This scene was shot several ways, one with her balling continuously, the other with her near hysteria, and then they came to a happy medium. Shirley Knight is playing the character of the mother. The HMO comment was a nice timely pop culture reference to what was taking place in American politics at the same time period as this film was released.

Hank Azaria was the first husband to Helen Hunt, and he is heavily rumored, to be gay. He performed in the movie *The Bird Cage*, regular voice on *The Simpsons* (receives \$100,000 per episode) and he had a short lived television career in 2002 *The Hank Azaria Show*.

Birth name Hank Alber Azaria

Height, 6', Spouse Helen Hunt, 1999-2000, filed for divorce

Trivia

- Provides voice over for the characters on *The Simpsons*
- Was trained at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York.
- Was a bartender in New York at the Arcadia (A Gay Bar).
- Hank Azaria attended Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts, from 1981-1985, but did not receive his B.A. until he completed two courses in L.A. in 1987. Hank Azaria was given Tufts' Light on the Hill Award in 1999.

#### Chapter 14 (0:58:37) Rock bottom

Greg said that this scene was easier than he thought it would be, since Jack as Melvin was so good at pushing all the right buttons. Melvin is great; he really doesn't understand what makes people tick. Side note, this wasn't all bad times for Greg Kinnear, at the top of his career, so far, and he went out and bought a top of the line Jaguar.



Hand held camera used during the fight.

#### Chapter 15 (1:02:34) Late-night visit

A helicopter shot. They had the wrong lens on the camera, thus they had to go in very close to get the shot, closer than the laws of New York City allow. Continuity: When Carol is going over to Melvin's apartment on the bus and the camera pans away the bus says "Not for Service", despite other people are also riding on the bus.

Shirley Knight's daughter coming out of the apartment building here, they had to change her make-up as she first appeared looking like a hooker.

Notice he is chewing gum, kind of a Nicholson trait.

Nice pauses here, after she says, "Do you have any idea how strange that sounds? I worried you did this..." The script says, "he takes a pause that is twice as long as the longest pause you could ever imagine." This is nice as their first love scene.

#### Chapter 16 (1:07:00) Chinese soup

Great choice here, to have Gregg exhausted, thus he lets this beast into his home. Since that would be the obvious question to this scene, why let him in?

#### Chapter 17 (1:09:03) Thank-you note

Another great scene for Helen Hunt, a single mother dealing with being a woman, caring and sexual energy and thoughts, so many things covered in this scene. And this all builds to this joke.

#### Chapter 18 (1:13:30) No thanks required

Here is how we solve a fundamental moment in the movie, getting all three of these guys into the car together.

Continuity: When Carol and Melvin are talking in the restaurant before the trip to Baltimore, Carol folds up the pages of the "Thank you" letter but they are immediately unfolded again.

(1:22:14) The man on the bus here is director Todd Solondz. This was an unforeseen moment, the kid Jesse started running alongside of the bus. Not something rehearsed. Crew or equipment visible: When Carol is waving goodbye to her son, there is a reflection of camera equipment clearly visible in the window.

Chapter 19 (1:22:54) Road trip begins

Now we are changing this story. We begin to tell two stories at the same time.

This car is mounted on the back of a trailer and is being driven through the streets of New York. Gregg stated, it was a hard scene to do, as the people of New York his fans, loves him so much they kept yelling for his attention. "Jack" "Jackie Boy!"

Chapter 20 (1:25:47) Sad Stories

Notice the top is down on the car, and then it is up when she pulls over to the side of the road. Noodle salad story. Jack had never heard of Noodle Salad and he refused to do the line, until the crew was polled to see how many of them knew what Noodle Salad was, or if such a thing existed.

Continuity: The headrests in the car while stopped on the side of the road.

Filming Locations for *As Good As It Gets* were New York City, New York and Los Angeles, California.

Chapter 21 (1:30:03) At the hotel

For the airline version, the movie had to be two hours long. The airline industry wanted this scene taken out of the movie.

At this point you have flat out, romantic comedy.

Chapter 22 (1:33:45) Big date

This is a Los Angeles restaurant that was made to look and feel like an East Coast restaurant. Again continuing with the romantic comedy routine, this is familiar territory for the audience.

They had five days to shoot this scene. They spent four days doing everything, up to the point of the conversation, the dialogue was done in one day.

Filming location, Khoury's Restaurant - 110 N. Marina Dr., Long Beach, California, USA (Baltimore restaurant).

Continuity: The amount of liquid in Carol's cocktail changes from the time she's at the bar to when it's placed on the table. At the bar it's about 3/4 empty, at the table, it's almost full again.

At this point you are supposed to become aware of the fact that the drugs he has taken just kicked in, so he now has an erection. At the kiss he is supposed to be tucking his erection back in to his pants, so it won't be obvious. This was prior to the Viagra movement.

Continuity: The style of knot in Melvin's tie keeps changing when he's having dinner with Carol at the seafood restaurant.

Here is a hard moment that Greg carries off, really well. How do you play the moment when you haven't talked to your folks for a long time?

Chapter 23 (1:44:36) "I have to draw you."

Kinnear said that the scene of him drawing her was really fun. He said that it was the fact that both characters just genuinely are having a moment of bliss.

The matching bath robes, is a carryover from *The Last Tango in Paris*. See how one movie borrows from another.

They were rained out the day of the filming for when he goes to visit his parents. The individual who was slated to play the father was Helen Hunt's father. When they re-scheduled the day, they thought better about going that far with the story.

Continuity: On the way home from Baltimore, they stop by a Mobil gas station. Different signs give prices of \$1.13 and \$1.14 for a gallon of unleaded.

This scene with the phone call to the pet kennel is the first day of filming. This is where the actors develop a character. You can kind of see that it is not a strong moment for these characters.

Chapter 24 (1:54:23) End of the road

This line, "I don't care what you have done for me," notice it is spoken with her back to us, the line was added in post-production, called looping.

The exterior used for Melvin Udall and Simon Bishop's apartment building is located near 5th Avenue on 12th Street in Manhattan.

Chapter 25 (1:55:40) Roommates

Continuity: When Simon is in the hotel in Baltimore, he rips his cast between the thumb and index finger. Upon the return to New York, when Carol is exiting the car, the cast is clearly and repeatedly seen to be intact.

"Mommy and Daddy are home." Not scripted and one of the funniest lines in the movie.

This is like odd couple unification, the coming together of two opposites.

Chapter 26 (1:59:38) Carol calls

Continuity: When Simon spends the night with Melvin, Carol calls and Simon picks up. When it's time for Melvin to talk to her, Simon supposedly sets the phone on the table for him to pick it up. But, when Simon does this, there is a sound of him hanging up the receiver, not setting it aside. When Melvin walks over to it, he picks it off the table as if it had always been there.

Kinnear stated that his motivation here with Jack was, "Talk him down from the ledge."

Chapter 27 (2:04:50) "I had to see you."

Theme: "Life is hard and people can help each other through it." Helen Hunt.

Theme: "How hard it is to change the smallest portion of your life, but if you can change, look what you can reap." James Brook.

This was Jack's idea to trip on the stairs. He said, "It lets me know I am enjoying the work, if I am constantly trying to get a little squirt out of it."

He hesitates at the door just like he did the first visit. The reason is that there was a pattern on the floor, which he could not cross. They decided to cut that out, as a result for the audience the trepidation is new and anxious, not to mention downright fun to watch on Jack's face.

Nicholson, "That delicate line between goofy and breath-takingly handsome is perfectly depicted here."

Chapter 28 (2:08:51) Greatest woman alive

Notice how she understands how much this guy listens to her. "Spencer...Spence."

Nothing addresses the fact that this couple probably won't make it.

Continuity: When Melvin kisses Carol the second time, she throws her right arm around his neck. In the next shot of the same kiss, her left arm is the one around his neck.

Continuity: When Melvin and Carol walk passed the bakery at the end of the movie, the lights come on and the staff in the bakery can be seen working. Before the lights came on, the staff must have been working in the pitch black.