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It's the stuff legends are made of. 
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Norman Jewison

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 by *Ronald Wolf*

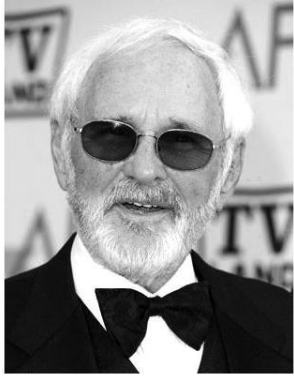
There is someone known to most people if not everyone in Hollywood. He has been directing top Hollywood movies since 1963, including *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Moonstruck*. He received Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee Medal and was an Officer of the Order of Canada just to name a few awards.

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Multi-talented people like Jewison has a beginning and it all began in Toronto, Ont., when his parents Dorothy Irene and Percy Joseph Jewison, a general store and post office manager, produced a son.



during the Second World War.

Norman's early start came in 1949 when he was a student who did some writing, directing and acting in the All-Varsity Revue. From all his talents, Jewison may be most remembered as a director but he didn't start off that way.

After graduation from Victoria College, where he did some work as a waiter at nearby restaurants, he was determined to venture off to Hollywood and New York City where he could become a great actor. But, alas, his first venture into stardom was not meant to be. Along with the cost of living and employment opportunities less than favourable he returned to Toronto and worked as a taxi driver.

It's not known as to why he went off 10,000 miles away to London, England but he found some work there as a scriptwriter for a children's show and a bit actor for the BBC. When he became unemployed in late 1951, he returned to Canada and became a production trainee for the CBC.

It was at the CBC when he got his first break as an assistant director. While he was employed for seven years, he also wrote, directed, and produced many types of shows, dramas, and specials including *Showtime* and *The Big Revenue*. After only one year at CBC, he married Margaret Ann Dixon.

It was the 1950s that proved to be a magical decade for him. In 1958, he was recruited to work for America specifically for CBC in New York. He finally got the limelight he worked so hard for. His first gig as a director was *Your Hit Parade* followed by *The Andy Williams Show*; then came the 1960s. Jewison directed the *Judy Garland* comeback special in 1961.

Some would say if not for Tony Curtis that Jewison wouldn't be a successful director. It was at Garland's rehearsal that Curtis suggested to Jewison that he should be directing feature films.

The next year *Forty Pounds of Trouble* was directed by Jewison. At the end of the 1960s he moved his family to England claiming American politics just wasn't his cup of tea. Jewison would film one of the biggest top-grossing films of all time *Fiddler on the Roof* which won three Oscars and was nominated for five other awards including best picture and director. It was at this time that Jewison had made it as a director in a big way.

The 1970s was the decade for his return to Canada. In 1978, he settled in Caledon, Ont., where he produced prize-winning cattle.

Jewison received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and Canada's Walk of Fame. He even got a park named after him in Toronto in 2001.

On Nov. 26, 2004 tragedy struck the Jewison household when he lost his wife after 47 years of marriage. Margaret was 74 plus one day when she passed away from undisclosed causes.

Will Canada ever stop producing famous, hardworking people? It will when Canada stops being inhabited by humans. After all, Canada is a great country where we all can say it's our history, our country.