

Ernest P. Lehman K6DXK 1915-2005 - A Screen writer, 6 Academy Award nominations, in 2001 Lehman received an honorary Oscar for his accomplishments. Born NYC in 1915, to a wealthy Long Island family whose fortunes were seriously affected by the Great Depression. (Pictured receiving his Oscar in 2001)

Upon his graduation from College of City of New York, Lehman became a freelance writer. Lehman felt that freelancing was a very nervous way to make a living, so he began writing copy for a publicity firm which focused on plays and celebrities. This experience helped form the basis of his 1957 film "Sweet Smell of Success." He co wrote this with Clifford Odets. Lehman churned out a slew of short stories and novellas for magazines such as Colliers, Redbook and Cosmopolitan. These attracted the attention of Hollywood and in the mid 50s, Paramount signed Lehman to a writing contract.



Our subjects writing credits; The King and I; North By Northwest; West Side Story; The Prize; The Sound of Music; Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?

In addition to screen writing, Lehman tried his hand at producing and was among a distinct few in Hollywood who had a faith in a film adaptation of Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? He managed to persuade studio executive Jack Warner to allow him to take on the project and the start film was a critical sensation, garnering many Academy Award nominations.

In 1972, Lehman directed his first and last film, Portnoy's Complaint. His 1976 screenplay for Family Plot earned him a second Edgar Award.

Lehman expired at UCLA Medical Center after a prolonged illness. He is survived by wife Laurie and three sons.

Mr. Lehman shown here enjoying his ham radio set at his home near Beverly Hills. Can you see the "Sound of Music" portrait on the far wall? Partially scripted from wikipedia.com W8SU 2006

