



Edward M. Zwick

Class of 1970

Born in Winnetka, Edward Zwick began directing and acting in high school and trained as an apprentice at the Academy Festival in Lake Forest. While studying literature at Harvard, he continued writing and directing for the theatre. Upon graduation, he was awarded a Rockefeller Fellowship to study in Europe with some of the major innovative theatre companies.

Zwick was accepted as a Directing Fellow at the American Film Institute in 1975. *Timothy and the Angel*, Zwick's AFI short film, won first place in the student film competition at the 1976 Chicago Film Festival and caught the attention of the producers of the television series *Family*. He served as story editor on *Family* and subsequently became a director and producer.

The television movie *Special Bulletin* marked the beginning of Zwick's collaboration with Marshall Herskovitz, with whom he created the Emmy Award-winning television series *thirtysomething*. Together Herskovitz and Zwick created The Bedford Falls Company as their home for film and television projects, including the critically acclaimed series *My So-Called Life*, *Relativity*, and *Once and Again*.

Zwick began his feature film career directing *About Last Night*. He went on to direct the Academy Award-winning films *Glory* and *Legends of the Fall*. Zwick also directed *Courage Under Fire*, *The Siege*, *The Last Samurai*, *Blood Diamond* and *Defiance*.

Zwick has been honored with three Emmy Awards, the Humanitas Prize, the Writer's Guild of America Award, two Peabody Awards, a Director's Guild of America Award, and AFI's Franklin J. Schaffner Alumni Award. He received an Academy Award as a producer of 1999's Best Picture *Shakespeare in Love*.

At New Trier, Zwick played soccer and tennis, produced Potpourri, played various leads in plays and musicals, and sang with every possible singing group, not to mention the stairwell of the MD building.

