



Lee Mendelson is a third generation San Franciscan, born March 24, 1933. He graduated from Stanford in 1954 and served as a navigator in the United States Air Force from 1955 to 1957. He was a writer-producer-director at KPIX TV in San Francisco from 1961 to 1963, where his series on the history of California won a coveted Peabody Award.

Opening Lee Mendelson Productions in 1963, his first network hit was *A MAN NAMED MAYS*, starring Willie Mays on NBC TV. In 1965 he produced “A Charlie Brown Christmas” which won an Emmy and a Peabody.

Along with Charles Schulz and animator Bill Melendez, Lee went on to produce 45 “Peanuts” Prime time specials, which won four more Emmys and one more Peabody and 15 other Emmy Nominations. He was also the Executive Producer of four “Peanuts” animated feature films.

Lee produced 12 “Garfield” prime time specials, which won four Emmys, as well as a 120-program series, “Garfield and Friends.” He also produced 3 “Cathy” animated specials, one of which won an Emmy.

Lee has produced 48 live action, prime time network specials, starring such hosts as Paul Newman, Joanne Woodward, Whoopi Goldberg, Telly Savalas, Bing Crosby, Lucille Ball, Gene Kelly, Lee Marvin, Peter Falk, Henry Fonda, Flip Wilson, Woody Allen, Walter Cronkite and George C. Scott. Among these are two documentaries written by Nobel Prize Winner John Steinbeck, “Travels With Charley” and “America and Americans,” the latter of which won two Emmys as best documentary of the year.

His first “Peanuts” movie (“A Boy Named Charlie Brown”) received an Oscar nomination for best musical score, and the “Peanuts” music has received 4 Grammy Nominations.

Lee is the author of the book “A Charlie Brown Christmas, The Making of a Tradition” which was on the New York Times Bestseller List for 8 weeks and sold over 200,000 copies, as well as two other books on Charles Schulz.

Lee was the lyricist for “Christmas Time is Here” (music by Vince Guaraldi for “A Charlie Brown Christmas”) which has become a Christmas standard. The music from the “Peanuts” shows has sold over 4 million albums and has been performed by such artists as Vince Guaraldi, David Benoit, Wynton Marsalis, and George Winston.

Lee is the father of four children – three of whom work for Lee Mendelson Productions (Glenn, Lynda and Jason), and the fourth (Sean) is a recent graduate of Santa Clara University. Lee’s hobbies are tennis, golf and travel.

Lee’s latest productions include: “Born to Play Ball” on Willie Mays; “The Making of a Charlie Brown Christmas” for ABC TV; and “A Charlie Brown Valentine” for ABC TV. He is also completing a documentary “Freedom,” about a tank company in World War II.