

Biography: Don Roos

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Don Roos is a screenwriter and film director. Donald Paul Roos was born on April 14, 1959 in New York, USA. Roos attended the University of Notre Dame, in Indiana. After graduating, Roos moved to Los Angeles, where he pursued a career writing for television. Roos supported himself by working as a word processor, and to this day jokes that he has that as a fall-back plan. Roos began his writing career when he had a friend of his impersonate an agent and represent him; a phone call led to a job with playwright Matt Crowley (*The Boys in the Band*), who at the time was executive producer of the American TV series *Hart to Hart*. Roos went on to write for *The Colbys*, *Nightingales*, and other TV shows, before his spec scripts led to feature film writing assignments. His first major film was 1991's Academy Award-nominated *Love Field*, an interracial drama starring Michelle Pfeiffer and Dennis Haysbert.

Roos' work as the writer of the film *Single White Female* has earned him a permanent space in Hollywood movie trivia, since that title has entered the lexicon in reference to the film's psychotic lead character who begins to take on her roommate's identity.

Roos' is well-known for his work writing strong and engaging female characters, a skill that has also been useful in his film direction, leading to Independent Spirit Award nominations for actors Lisa Kudrow, Christina Ricci, and most recently, Maggie Gyllenhall. Roos himself has won a Best First Feature Independent Spirit Award, for *The Opposite of Sex*. An A-list Hollywood screenwriter, Roos has polished or written the screenplay to many high-profile studio films, sometimes as uncredited script doctor.



Don Roos on the set of *Happy Endings* (2004)

Films directed

- *Happy Endings* (2004)
- *Bounce* (2000)
- *The Opposite of Sex* (1998)