

Erin Brockovich (2000)

Director: Steven Soderbergh

Writer: Suzannah Grant

Cast:

Julia Roberts (Erin Brockovich)

Albert Finney (Ed Masry)

Aaron Eckhart (George)

Tracey Walter (Charles Embry)

Awards:

Oscar Nominations:

Best Actor – Albert Finney

Best Director – Steven Soderbergh

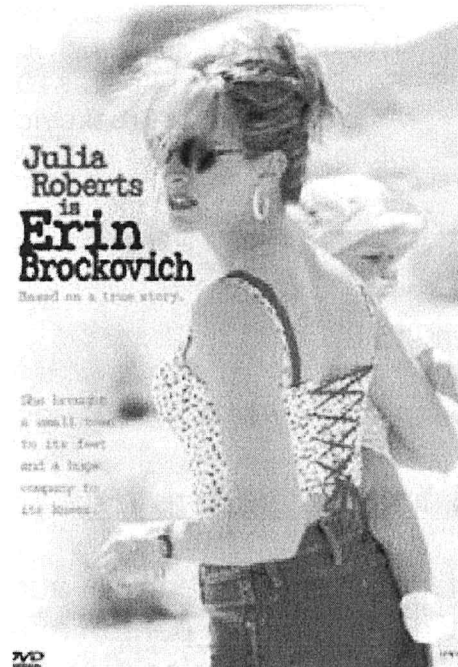
Best Writing – Suzannah Grant

Best Picture

Oscar Wins

Best Actress – Julia Roberts

Genre: Biography, Drama



Plot Synopsis

Erin Brockovich is an unemployed single mother, desperate to find a job, but is having no luck. This losing streak even extends to a failed lawsuit against a doctor in a car accident she was in. With no alternative, she successfully browbeats her lawyer to give her a job in compensation for the loss. While no one takes her seriously, with her trashy clothes and earthy manners, that soon changes when she begins to investigate a suspicious real estate case involving the Pacific Gas & Electric Company. What she discovers is that the company is trying quietly to buy land that was contaminated by hexavalent chromium, a deadly toxic waste that the company is improperly and illegally dumping and, in turn, poisoning the residents in the area. As she digs deeper, Erin finds herself leading point in a series of events that would involve her lawfirm in one of the biggest class action lawsuits in American history against a multi-billion dollar corporation.

Tidbits and Trivia

- The amazing car-crash in the opening sequence was done by digitally compositing shots of Julia Roberts taking off with the car and a radio-controlled car being hit by a stunt driver.

- Julia Roberts received an unprecedented salary for her lead role, making her the first woman to break the \$20m barrier.
- The real Erin Brockovich-Ellis sold the rights to her story to Universal Studios for a reported \$100,000.
- As of 2003, Erin Brockovich-Ellis was still with Masry's law firm although she has a new title: "Director of Research".

GENRE: BIOGRAPHY

Definition:

The true story of a notable person's life; written by another person.

Common Characteristics:

1. Describes the person's surroundings.
2. Shows how the person affects other people.
3. Provides examples that demonstrate the person's behavior.
4. Supplies details that illustrate the person's individuality.
5. Implies or notes how the writer feels about the person..

Notable Examples of the "Biopic"

- **Gandhi**
- **Amadeus**
- **Chaplin**
- **Ed Wood**
- **Braveheart**
- **Aviator**
- **Raging Bull**
- **A Beautiful Mind**
- **KuDun**
- **Pollock**
- **Walk the Line**
- **The Last Emperor**
- **Frida**
- **Ray**
- **Malcolm X**
- **Goodfellas**
- **Kinsey**
- **Man on the Moon**
- **My Left Foot**
- **La Bamba**