

THE WRAP

Covering Hollywood

5 Standout Jeffrey Tambor Roles Before 'Transparent's' Maura



TV | By **Diane Garrett** on May 15, 2015 @ 8:21 am

[Follow @dianegarrett](#)



Emmys 2015: The awards contender honed his comedic chops on “Three’s Company” and its spinoff, “The Ropers”

This story originally appeared in TheWrap magazine: Emmy Race Begins.

Before his revelatory turn in “Transparent,” **Jeffrey Tambor** was best known for his Emmy nominated performances as unctuous sidekick Hank Kingsley in faux talk show “The Larry Sanders Show” and “Arrested Development” patriarch George Bluth.

But the 70-year-old actor with the distinctive bald pate and patented hang-dog expression has credits that stretch decades earlier to include roles on Broadway, “Three’s Company” spinoff “The Ropers,” plus “...And Justice for All” with **Al Pacino**.

These diverse roles prepared him for an unlikely leading role in “Transparent.” He considers it the part of a lifetime, but here’s a quick look at five standout earlier roles, ranging from the sublime to the ridiculous, followed by a handful of Tambor’s many credits over the years.

Also Read: [Emmy Wrap Cover Story: Jeffrey Tambor Sweats the Small Stuff for 'Transparent' Role](#)

“The Larry Sanders Show” (1992-8): Nearly two decades after the show ended, strangers still greet Tambor with his distinctive, “Hey now” catchphrase as **Garry Shandling**’s needy sidekick (above center).

“Arrested Development” (2003-6, 2013): Tambor does double duty in this quirky comedy recently revived by Netflix, playing George Bluth Sr. (above left) and twin brother Oscar. Oscar’s scraggly ‘do foreshadowed the longer locks Mort/Maura wears in “Transparent.”

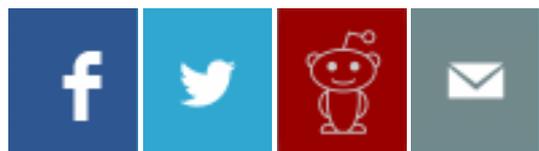
“Glengarry Glen Ross” (2005): Nearly three decades after his 1976 Broadway debut in “Sly Fox,” Tambor returned (above left) to the Great White Way in the Tony-winning revival of **David Mamet**’s play about real estate.

“...And Justice for All” (1979): The actor played lawyer friend (above right) to **Al Pacino**’s Arther in **Norman Jewison**’s courtroom drama.

“The Ropers” (1979-80): Tambor was a snobby neighbor to Stanley (Norman Fell) and Helen (Audra Lindley) Roper in this short-lived spinoff to “Three’s Company,” also guest starring on that show.

Also Read: ['Transparent' Review: Jeffrey Tambor Will Break Your Heart in Amazon's Binge-Worthy Show](#)

Plus: Over the course of his career, Tambor has also appeared in all three Hangover movies; a failed TV adaptation of “Nine to Five” in 1982; “Meet Joe Black” in 1998; “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” (2000), “Max Headroom” (1987-8); “Mr. Sunshine” (1986); and recurring roles on “Hill Street Blues,” “The Good Wife” and “Archer.”



9 Outtakes From 'Transparent' Star Jeffrey