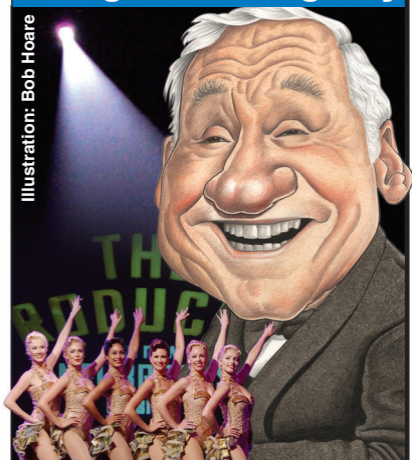


Rising below vulgarity

Illustration: Bob Hoare



M E L B R O O K S

- ▶ **Born:** June 28, 1926, in Brooklyn, New York, as *Melvin Kaminsky*
- ▶ **Serves as corporal in U.S. Army in North Africa during World War II**
- ▶ Starts out in show business as stand-up comic before moving into comedy writing for television
- ▶ **Moves into film as actor, director, writer and producer on popular films such as *Young Frankenstein* and *Blazing Saddles* (both 1974)**
- ▶ Adapts 1968 film *The Producers* into hugely successful *Broadway* musical in 2001. Show wins 12 **Tony** awards, breaking 37-year record of 10 held by *Hello, Dolly!*
- ▶ **Married to second wife, actress *Anne Bancroft*, from 1964 until her death in June 2005**
- ▶ One of few entertainers to win **Oscar, Emmy, Grammy** and **Tony** Awards – including Oscar for Best Screenplay (*The Producers*, 1968), and Tonys for Best Musical, Book and Original Score (*The Producers*, 2001)