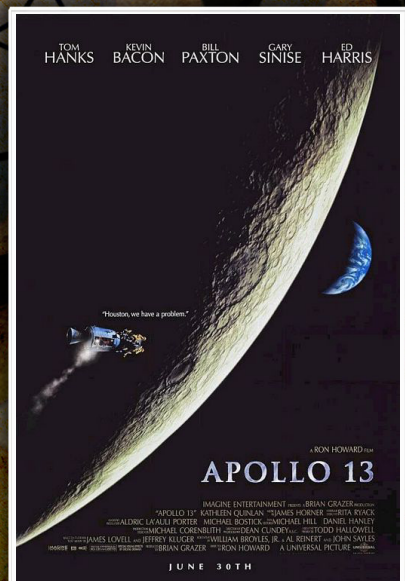## OVERVIEW

NASA's worst nightmare turned into one of the space agency's most heroic moments in 1970 when the Apollo 13 crew was forced to hobble home in a disabled capsule after an explosion seriously damaged the moon-bound spacecraft. Tom Hanks, Kevin Bacon, and Bill Paxton play astronauts Jim Lovell, Jack Swigert, and Fred Haise in director Ron Howard's intense, painstakingly authentic docudrama. The Apollo 13 crew and Houston-based mission controllers race against time and heavy odds to return the damaged spacecraft safely to Earth from a distance of 205,500 miles. Using state-of-the-art special effects and ingenious filmmaking techniques, Howard and his stellar cast and crew build nail-biting tension while maintaining close fidelity to the facts. The result is a fitting tribute to the Apollo 13 mission and one of the biggest box-office hits of 1995.

Apollo 13 (1995)

About the Director

Ronald Howard is an American actor, director, and producer. He came to prominence as a child actor, playing Opie Taylor in the sitcom *The Andy Griffith Show* for eight years, and later the teenaged Richie Cunningham in the sitcom *Happy Days* for six years. He made his directorial debut with the 1977 comedy *Grand Theft Auto*. He left *Happy Days* in 1980 to focus on directing; his films include the Academy Award-winning *Cocoon*, *Apollo 13*, and *A Beautiful Mind*. In 2003, he was awarded the National Medal of Arts.