

Document Citation

Title	A brief history of time
Author(s)	
Source	<i>New Yorker Films</i>
Date	1993
Type	distributor materials
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	A brief history of time, Morris, Errol, 1991

A BRIEF HISTORY OF TIME

Directed by Errol Morris

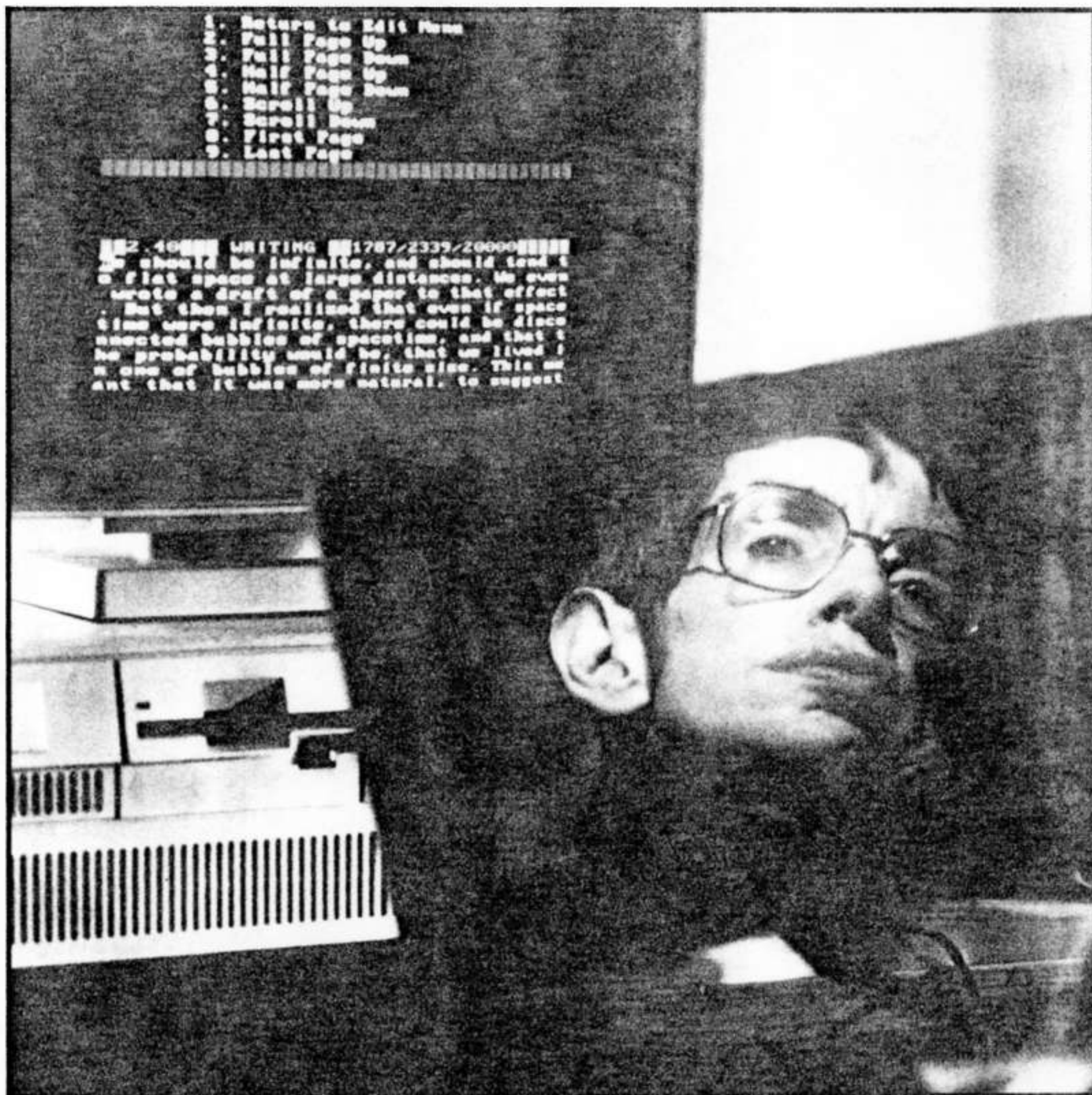
Cast: Stephen Hawking, Roger Penrose, John G. Taylor, John Wheeler.

Great Britain, 1992.
In English.

84 mins. Color.

Rental: Apply.

New Release



Errol Morris has probably done more than any recent director to expand our ideas of what is possible in a documentary film. Here he tackles the bestselling book by Stephen Hawking, the British physicist/cosmologist who has become a worldwide cult figure as well as a seminal scientific thinker. Like *The Thin Blue Line* and Morris's other documentaries, ***A Brief History of Time*** explores a hyperreality beyond the factual surface, boldly incorporating fictional techniques: expressive lighting and set design; offbeat, evocative montages; and a strong sense of mystery, enhanced by Philip Glass's hypnotic score. The development of Hawking's thought, which centers on the origins of the universe, is interwoven with the no less remarkable progression of his life. In 1963 he was diagnosed with ALS ("Lou Gehrig's Disease") and given two years to live. In 1985 he lost the power of speech. Yet he has persevered, speaking through a computer-aided synthesizer, indefatigably travelling, lecturing, and writing, his theories more adventurous than ever. The most staggering scientific concepts – concerning the Big Bang, the expansion of the universe, Black Holes, the beginning and end of Time – are always grounded in the singularly impressive presence of Hawking himself, slumped deep in his wheelchair, fingers clicking at a control pad, his craggy, bespectacled face reflected in the flickering phosphors of a computer terminal. Hawking becomes an inspiring symbol of the frailty of human beings in the immensity of the universe, and of the indomitable power of the mind to soar beyond its physical limitations.