

Al pacino



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paper: Al Pacino·paper·1940? 4? 25? Oscar-winning actor Al Pacino has kept moviegoers riveted since the 1970s, with roles in films like *The Godfather*, *Dog Day Afternoon*, *Serpico*, *Dick Tracy* and *Scent of a Woman*.

**Synopsis**Alfredo James Pacino was born on April 25, 1940, in New York City. He began studying acting in his teens and eventually made his way from the stage to the big screen. During his career he has brought a brooding seriousness and explosive rage to gritty roles, including those of gangster Michael Corleone in *The Godfather* (1972) and drug lord Tony Montana in *Scarface* (1983).

A versatile performer, he has starred in a diverse range of projects during his prolific career, appearing in countless stage productions and directing several films as well. He received an Academy Award for Best Actor for his portrayal of a blind man in *Scent of a Woman* (1992) and in 2007 received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Film Institute. **Early Life & Path to Stardom**Alfredo James Pacino was born in New York City on April 25, 1940. He was the only child of Italian immigrants from Sicily who separated when he was a toddler. After they split, Pacino™s father moved to California and Pacino was raised by his mother and grandparents in the Bronx.

Though somewhat shy as a child, in his early teens Pacino developed an interest in acting and was later accepted at the High School of Performing Arts. However, he proved to be a poor student, failing most of his classes before he eventually dropped out at age 17. After leaving school, Pacino worked a variety of jobs before moving to Greenwich Village in 1959 to pursue his dreams of becoming an actor. He began studying theater at the Herbert Berghof Studio and soon landed parts in off-Broadway productions,

including a 1963 role in the William Saroyan play *Hello, Out There*. In 1966, Pacino made the next step forward in his career when he was accepted at the Actors Studio, where he studied under renowned coach Lee Strasberg. Pacino's work there led to more-significant projects in 1969; namely, the Broadway production of *Does a Tiger Wear a Necktie* for which he received a Tony Award and a part in the coming-of-age film *Me, Natalie*.

But it would be Pacino's performance in a little-known 1971 movie called *The Panic in Needle Park* that would set his career on a path to new heights. Pacino's portrayal of a heroin addict caught the eye of Francis Ford Coppola, who was in the midst of casting for his upcoming picture *The Godfather*, based on the novel by Mario Puzo. Although he had been considering such superstars as Robert Redford and Jack Nicholson for the part, Coppola ultimately chose the more or less unknown Pacino to play Michael Corleone. Released in 1972, *The Godfather* was a massive success and is widely considered (along with its first sequel) to be among the greatest films of all time. Telling the tale of the Corleone crime family and Michael Corleone's rise to power, Pacino was just one of many actors including Marlon Brando, James Caan, Robert Duvall and Diane Keaton to receive critical acclaim for their performances. *The Godfather* dominated the 1973 Academy Awards, winning Oscars for Best Picture, Best Actor (Marlon Brando) and adapted screenplay while receiving nominations for direction, sound, costume design, and editing.

Caan, Duvall and Pacino each received a supporting actor nomination, but, angered over not receiving a nod from the Academy in the category of lead actor, Pacino boycotted the event. In the wake of *The Godfather*'s success, <https://assignbuster.com/al-pacino/>

Pacino quickly became a sought-after leading man. Following a co-starring role with Gene Hackman in *Scarecrow* (1973), Pacino starred in three successive hit films, each of which earned him an Academy Award nomination for Best Actor. In 1974 he starred in *Serpico*, the true story of police officer Frank Serpico, whose undercover work during the 1960s helped expose corruption in the NYPD. The film was both a critical and commercial success.

That same year, he appeared again as Michael Corleone in *The Godfather: Part II*, which also starred Robert De Niro and received as many accolades as its predecessor. And in 1975 Pacino starred in *Dog Day Afternoon*, playing a much more unusual role as John Wojtowicz, who in 1972 attempted to rob a bank in Brooklyn to pay for his boyfriend's sex change. The actor next starred in the box-office failure *Bobby Deerfield* before returning to form in the legal drama *And Justice for All* (1979), earning himself yet another Academy Award nomination. Down to Earth and Back to the Stage Given his dazzling success during the 1970s, Pacino's film-acting career experienced a relative lull in the decade that followed. With the exception of his role as crazed drug dealer Tony Montana in the Brian De Palma-directed hit *Scarface* (1983), Pacino's other films from this era were significantly less successful and his roles less memorable. *Cruising* (1980), *Author! Author!* (1982) and *Revolution* (1985) were all commercial and critical flops. But during this time Pacino also returned to the stage, where he achieved more notable results. In 1983 he received a Drama Desk Award nomination for his performance in the David Mamet play *American Buffalo*, and in 1988 he

received favorable reviews for his portrayal of Marc Antony in a New York Shakespeare Festival production of Julius Caesar.

Then Pacino returned to the screen in the 1989 thriller *Sea of Love*, which ultimately reestablished his star power. Many more films were to follow, and many more accolades along with them. A Star Is Reborn In 1990, Pacino appeared in two films" *The Godfather: Part III* and *Dick Tracy*. His role in the latter earned him his first Academy Award nomination in more than a decade and marked the first in a steady string of roles in hit movies in the years to come. In the first half of the 1990s Pacino earned favorable reviews for his work in outings such as *Frankie and Johnny* (1991), with Michelle Pfeiffer, and *Carlitos Way* (1993). And he received his first Academy Award for his lead role as a blind man in 1992™s *Scent of a Woman*, while also being nominated in the supporting actor category for his role in *Glengarry Glen Ross* (1992).

In the latter half of the decade, parts in such films as Michael Mann™s *Heat* (1995), gangster film *Donnie Brasco* (1997), supernatural thriller *The Devils Advocate* (1997), Oliver Stone™s football classic *Any Given Sunday* (1999) and Academy Award™ winning *The Insider* (1999) helped keep Pacino both busy and relevant. He filled in his schedule by writing, directing and performing in the documentary *Looking for Richard*, an exploration of William Shakespeare™s *Richard III*. ;,?