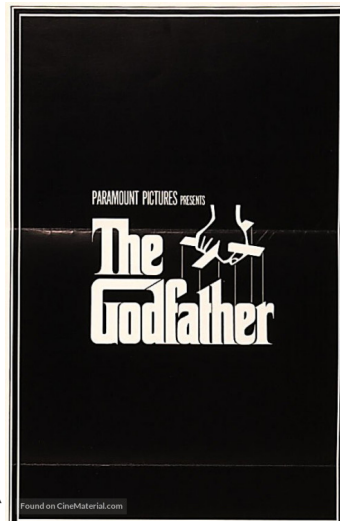


The Godfather (1972)

Screenplay by Mario Puzo & Francis Ford Coppola
Directed by Francis Ford Coppola

Cast

Marlon Brando	Vito Corleone
Al Pacino	Michael Corleone
James Caan	Santino "Sonny"
Robert Duvall	Tom Hagen
Diane Keaton	Kay Adams
Talia Shire	Connie Coreleone



Oscar Wins

Best Actor (Brando)
Best Picture
Best Adapted Screenplay (Coppola & Puzo)

Oscar Nominations

Best Supporting Actor (Caan, Pacino, Duvall)
Best Director, Film Editing, Costume Design, Sound Mixing

Plot Synopsis

Michael, the young and idealistic son of Vito Corleone, the head of the most powerful Mafia clan in New York, returns home as a war hero and is determined to live his own life. But tragic circumstances make him face the legacy of his family.

Tidbits and Trivia

- There was intense friction between Francis Ford Coppola and Paramount, in which [Paramount] frequently tried to have Coppola replaced, citing his inability to stay on schedule, unnecessary expenses, and production and casting errors (Coppola actually completed the film ahead of schedule and budget).
- Marlon Brando did not memorize most of his lines and read from cue cards during most of the film.
- The cat held by Marlon Brando in the opening scene was a stray the actor found while on the lot at Paramount, and was not originally called for in the script. So content was the cat that its purring muffled some of Brando's dialogue, and, as a result, most of his lines had to be looped.
- Al Pacino boycotted the Academy Awards ceremony, angry that he was nominated for the Academy Award Supporting Actor, noting that his character had more screen time than his co-star, Best Lead Actor nominee (and winner) Marlon Brando.
- According to Mario Puzo, the character of Johnny Fontane was NOT based on Frank Sinatra. However, it was widely assumed that it was, and Sinatra was furious; when he met Puzo at a restaurant, he screamed vulgar terms and threats at Puzo. Sinatra was also vehemently opposed to the film. Due to this backlash, Fontane's role in the film was scaled down to a couple of scenes.
- The early buzz on The Godfather (1972) was so positive that a sequel was planned before the film was even finished filming.
- One of the reasons why Francis Ford Coppola finally agreed to direct the film was because he was in debt to Warner Brothers, following \$400,000 budget overruns on George Lucas's THX 1138 (1971). Lucas urged him to take the job.