

AT THE MOVIES: POSITIVE FILM PORTRAYALS OF ITALIAN AMERICANS 1972- 2003

In 1972, the first “Godfather” film was released. The following is a partial list of movies made by major Hollywood studios and independent producers since 1972 that present Italian American characters and situations in a positive light.

During that same three-decade period, however, more than 260 films – an average of nearly nine movies a year – have been made about the Mafia.

“**Serpico**” (1973) Al Pacino as the heroic, real-life undercover detective.

“**Moonstruck**” (1987) Cher and Nicolas Cage in an Italian American love story.

“**Dominick and Eugene**” (1988) Ray Liotta as a young medical student financially supported by his mentally retarded brother, played by Tom Hulce.

“**Mac**” (1992) John Turturro stars and directs this original film about three Italian American brothers building a business.

“**Lorenzo’s Oil**” (1992) Susan Sarandon and Nick Nolte play real life Odone, a couple that saves their child’s life but cannot reverse his illness.

“**The Bridges of Madison County**” (1995) Meryl Streep as an Italian housewife in Iowa who sacrifices her happiness for her family.

“**Big Night**” (1996) Stanley Tucci and Tony Shalhoub play brothers who try to bring “authentic” Italian food to New Jersey of the 1950s.

“**The Bread, My Sweet**” (2002) Scott Baio plays an Italian American torn between making money and making the dying wish of his surrogate mother come true.

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Order Sons of Italy in America
219 E St. NE • Washington, DC 20002
202.547.2900 • 800.552.OSIA • 202.546.8168 (fax)
nationaloffice@osia.org • www.OSIA.org