

Document Citation

Title	'Godfather' plays to empty house
Author(s)	
Source	<i>United Press International</i>
Date	1972 Mar 23
Type	article
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	The Godfather, Coppola, Francis Ford, 1972

MAR. 23 1972

'Godfather' Plays To Empty House

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (UPI)—The premiere of "The Godfather" in Kansas City had all the trimmings — women in evening gowns, men in tuxedos, a champagne party. But no one watched the movie.

It opened to an empty house.

To protest what they called unfair stereotyping of Italian-Americans in the movie, members of the Italian-American Unification Council bought all 1,806 seats, arrived in formal attire, and then stayed in the lobby and held a meeting during the film.

"We strongly oppose a kind of prejudice the picture can cause — not by discouraging the picture's viewing, but by appealing to viewers to place the picture in its proper perspective," Thomas Gialde, vice president of the council, told the lobby meeting.

Kansas City was the site of the only such protest against "The Godfather," which opened nationally Wednesday.

Gialde said that because of novels, television series and motion pictures similar to "The Godfather," the American culture had developed a prejudicial outlook to Italian-Americans.

"The Italian-American

image is repeatedly presented to the public as crooked or something less than desirable. Unfortunately, it comes as no surprise to the public to learn of an Italian-American lawbreaker.

"It often surprises the public to learn that its Italian-American friend, associate or neighbor can't furnish them with a hot television set and doesn't know anything more about something called the 'Mafia' than they do," Gialde said.

"We ask you to think about your Italian-American friends when you see 'The Godfather' and to realize that they do not live in the manner portrayed upon the screen, nor do they have friends who live like that."