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The Godfather

Francis Ford Coppola

US 1972, 35mm, color, 175 min.

With Marlon Brando, James Caan,  
Al Pacino

NEARLY EVERY SCENE in this first installment of the history of the Corleone family organization in America has become iconic. With *The Godfather*, Mario Puzo proved he could write a hit (even if he had to disguise his mother as Don Vito to do it). Coppola proved he could renovate a hoary genre and make it serve his grand, epic ambitions—ambitions that frequently took the form of fantasies of corporate overthrow. And Paramount proved that auteurism (and strong-armed distribution tactics) might be the studio's savior.

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