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# Mafia Movies: A Reader



## Synopsis

Rico 'Little Caesar' Bandello, Michael Corleone, and Tony Soprano are just some of the onscreen mafia figures that have fascinated audiences since cinema's inception. Portrayals of the Italian and Italian-American mafia, though, have differed markedly over time and across multiple cultures – from the Godfather trilogy to contemporary Italian films, and in works both by established producers like Martin Scorsese and emerging directors like Matteo Garrone. *Mafia Movies* encourages mafia aficionados to explore the rich variety of classics and rarities within the genre with provocative analyses of over forty films. The essays in this volume provide a comprehensive exploration of the myth of the mafia onscreen, identifying key features and connections to styles such as film noir, thrillers, and even westerns. *Mafia Movies* also questions whether there are uniquely American or Italian ways of depicting the mafia, exploring how filmmakers from both countries have approached the subject in divergent ways.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“For the growing number of students and scholars dealing with mafia issues, the collection edited by Dana Renga is an excellent new resource – it demystifies clichés, it consolidates the genre status of the mafia film, and proves itself to be an unavoidable reference for future studies in this intriguing field.” (Nicoletta Pireddu *Quaderni di Italianistica*; vol 32:02:2011) “Thought-provoking essays from cultural standpoint | While this collection is specifically dedicated to Italian-American culture, the breadth of films does justice to the

genre as a whole – A very welcome contribution to the topic of organized crime in cinema. – (George S. Larke-Walsh Italian American Review, vol 4:01:2014)

'Mafia Movies is an outstanding guide to a genre that has not yet received full critical attention. The range of works discussed in these essays is excellent, covering early American movies through to very recent Italian films. With a splendid introduction by Dana Renga, this immensely rich and informative collection will surely become an indispensable resource.' (Stephen Gundle, Department of Film and Television Studies, University of Warwick)

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