**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.


“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 Odones, 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.

---

The Sons of Italy thanks researcher/writer Bill Dal Cerro of the Italic Studies Institute for his assistance in compiling this list.