SERGIO LEONE (January 1929, Rome, Italy – 30 April 1989, Rome, heart attack) was the son of prolific pioneer filmmaker Roberto Roberti (Vincenzo Leone) and movie star Francesca Bertini. He studied law for a time, drifted from job to job, entered film industry in 1939, about same time father retired from it. Over next 20 years he worked in various capacities on some 60 features, serving as assistant to Mario Camerini and Vittorio de Sica among other notable Italian directors, later to some American directors doing costume epics—Mervyn LeRoy on Quo Vadis 1950, Robert Wise, Helen of Troy 1955, William Wyler Ben Hur 1959. He had small acting roles in several films, Bicycle Thieves for example, where he played a young priest. His other films are C’era una volta il West/Once Upon a Time in the West (1969), Un Genio, due compari, un pollo 1975 (The Genius, uncredited), Gi la testa 1971 (Duck, You Sucker)/A Fistful of Dynamite/Once Upon a Time... the Revolution), Il Buono, il brutto, il cattivo 1966 (The Good, the Bad and the Ugly), Per qualche dollaro in pi 1965 (For a Few Dollars More, released in US in 1967), Per un pugno di dollari 1964 (as Bob Robertson in the European prints; Fistful of Dollars in US 1967), The Last Days of Sodom and Gomorrah 1962 (uncredited), Il Colosso di Rodi 1961 (The Colossus of Rhodes), and Gli Ultimi giorni di Pompei 1959 (The Last Days of Pompeii, uncredited). Clint Eastwood dedicated Unforgiven 1992 to him. Leone turned down an offer to direct The Godfather because he was working on a film he’d wanted to make for years, Once Upon a Time in America—an Italian film about American Jewish gangsters. When he died in 1989 he was preparing “The 900 Days,” a Soviet co-production about the World War II Siege of Leningrad in which he planned to star De Niro.


TONINO DELLI COLLI (20 November 1923, Rome, Italy) did two other films with Leone: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly, and Once Upon a Time in the West. He also shot nearly 120 other films, among them La Vita bella 1997, Life Is Beautiful 1997, Death and the Maiden 1994, The Name of the Rose 1986, Ginger e Fred 1986, Pasqualino Settebellezze 1976 (Seven Beauties), Salo, or The 120 Days of Sodom 1975, Lacombe Lucien 1974, and Arrivederci Roma 1957 (Seven Hills of Rome).


Once Upon a Time in America (1983)
227-238 min
Robert De Niro...David 'Noodles' Aaronson
James Woods...Maximilian 'Max' Bercovicz
Elizabeth McGovern...Deborah Gelly
TREAT WILLIAMS...James Conway O'Donnell
Tuesday Weld...Carol
Joe Pesci...Frankie Minaldi
Burt Young...Joe Minaldi
Danny Aiello...Police Chief Vincent Aiello
William Forsythe...Philip 'Cockeye' Stein
James Hayden...Patrick 'Patsy' Goldberg
Darlanne Fluegel...Eve
Larry Rapp...Fat' Moe Gelly
Dutch Miller...Van Linden
Robert Harper...Sharkey
Richard Bright...Chicken Joe
Gerard Murphy...Crowning
Amy Ryder...Peggy
Scott Tiler...Young Noodles
Rusty Jacobs...Young Max/David Bailey
Brian Bloom...Young Patsy
Adrian Curran...Young Cockeye
Mike Monetti...Young 'Fat' Moe
Julie Cohen...Young Peggy
Jennifer Connelly...Young Deborah

Directed by Sergio Leone
Based on Harry Grey's novel The Hoods
Script by Leonardo Benvenuti, Piero De Bernardi, Enrico Medioli, Franco Arcalli, Franco Ferrini, & Sergio Leone
Non-Original Music by Irving Berlin ("God Bless America"), Joseph M. LaCalle ("Amapola"), John Lennon ("Yesterday"), Paul McCartney ("Yesterday"), Gioacchino Rossini ("Overture" from opera La gazza ladra)
Cinematography by Tonino Delli Colli
Film Editing by Nino Baragli
Ennio Morricone...musical director
Gheorghe Zamfir...musician: pan flute
Margherita Pace...body double: Jennifer Connelly (uncredited)