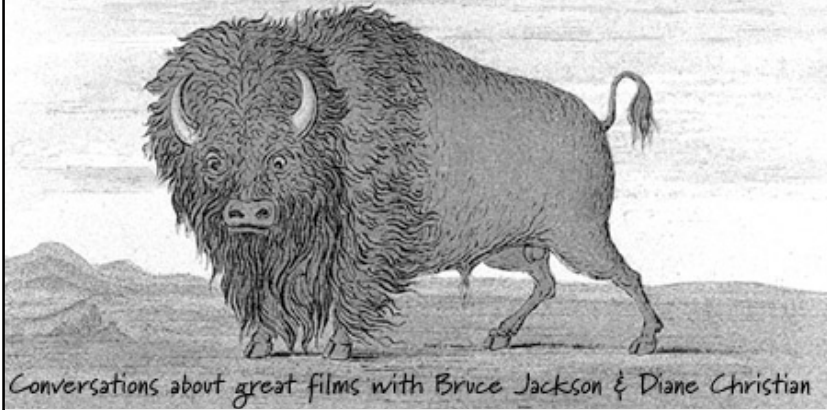


The Buffalo Film Seminars



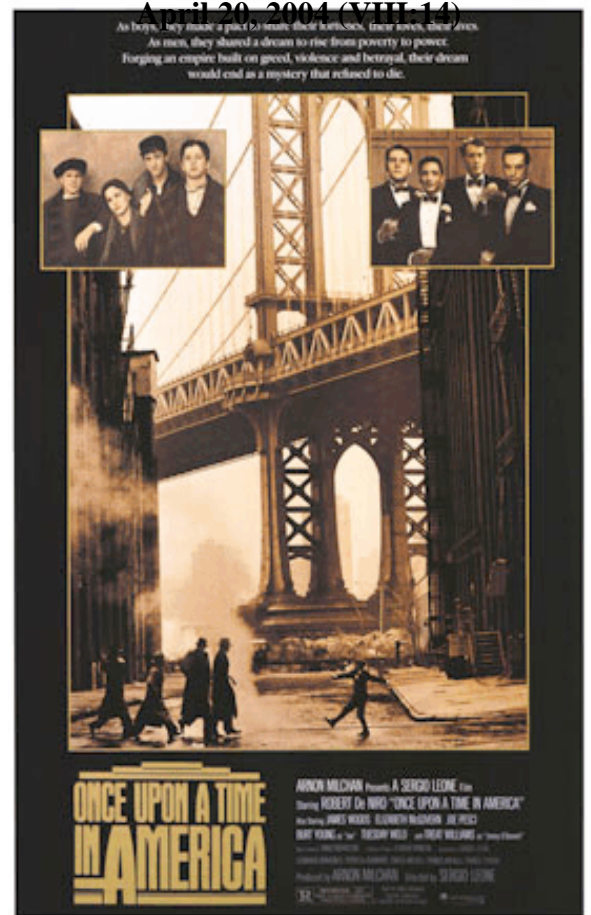
SERGIO LEONE (January 1929, Rome, Italy – 30 April 1989, Rome, heart attack) was the son of prolific pioneer filmmaker Roberto Roberti (Vincenzo Leone) and movie star Francesca Bertini. He studied law for a time, drifted from job to job, entered film industry in 1939, about same time father retired from 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.

ENNIO MORRICONE (10 November 1928, Rome, Italy, sometimes credited as Leo Nichols and Dan Savio) is perhaps the most prolific film composer ever. His IMDB credits list nearly 400 theatrical and made-for-tv scores, as well as one TV series score – "The Virginian" in 1962. He scored all 5 of Leone's westerns, as well as *The Genius* and *Once Upon a Time in America*. Some of his other film scores were for *Mal na* 2000, *Bulworth* 1998, *Lolita* 1997, *Wolf* 1994, *Disclosure* 1994, *Une pure formalité* 1994, *In the Line of Fire* 1993, *Cinema Paradiso* 1991, *Bugsy* 1991, *Hamlet* 1990, *Money* 1990, *State of Grace* 1990, *Casualties of War* 1989, *The Untouchables* 1987, *The Mission* 1986, *La Cage aux folles* 1978, and *Days of Heaven* 1978. Morricone and Leone would often work on the script and the score at the same time, with each writing into the other's ideas. Leone would then play the music to the actors during filming, much as music was played on the set by some early silent era directors.

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*).

ROBERT DE NIRO (17 August 1943, New York City) is one of America's best actors. He is also one of the world's best-paid actors: *Analyze This* 1999 \$8,000,000, *Ronin* 1998 \$14,000,000, *The Score* 2001 \$15,000,000, *Meet the Parents* 2000 \$13,500,000, *Analyze That* 2002 \$20,000,000 and *Showtime* 2001 \$17,500,000. He is famous for playing characters rather than himself. The cool and possessed young Vito Corleone in *The Godfather, Part II* 1974 (which won him a best supporting actor Oscar and moved him into the big time) exists in a different physical and psychological universe from the mentally deficient catcher in *Bang the Drum Slowly* and goofy Johnny Boy in *Mean Streets* 1973. In 1976 he played intelligent and elegant movie producer Monroe Stahr in Elia Kazan's film version of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Last Tycoon* and the psychotic protagonist of *Taxi Driver*. In 1980, he put on 40 pounds for the opening and closing scenes of Scorsese's *Raging Bull*, a role for which he won his first best actor Oscar. He put the pounds on again to play Al Capone in Brian De Palma's *The Untouchables* 1987. Some of de Niro's other films are *Meet the Fockers* 2003, *City by the Sea* 2002, *15 Minutes* 2001, *Men of Honor* 2000, *The Adventures of Rocky & Bullwinkle* 2000, *Flawless* 1999, *Jackie Brown* 1997, *Wag the Dog* 1997, *Cop Land* 1997, *Marvin's Room* 1996, *Sleepers* 1996, *Heat* 1995, *Casino* 1995, *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein* 1994, *This Boy's Life* 1993, *Goodfellas* 1990, *Angel Heart* 1990, *Jacknife* 1989, *The Mission* 1986, *Brazil* 1985, *Once Upon a Time in America* 1984, *The King of Comedy* 1983, *True Confessions* 1981, *The Deer Hunter* 1978, *New York, New York* 1977, and *1900* 1976. In 1993, he directed and costarred in his first feature film, *A Bronx Tale*.

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)