shadows of their eyes I'm goin' where the sun keeps shinin' Through the pourin' rain. Goin' where the weather suits my clothes Baskin' off of the northeast winds Salin' on summer breeze And skippin' over the ocean like a stone. ("Everybody's Talkin'" Fred Neil, 1968)


**Jon Voight** (29 December 1938, Yonkers, New York) became a star because of his Oscar-nominated performance as Joe Buck in *Midnight Cowboy*, but he was a late choice. The part had previously been offered to Michael...

**Rico Rizzo:** You know, in my own place, my name ain't Ratso. I mean, it just so happens that in my own place my name is Enrico Salvatore Rizzo.

**Joe Buck:** Well, I can't say all that.
**Rico Rizzo:** Rico, then.

**Party Guest:** Why are you stealing food?
**Rico Rizzo:** I was just, uh, noticing that you're out of salami. I think you oughtta have somebody go over to the delicatessen, you know, bring some more back.
**Party Guest:** Well, you know, it's free. You don't have to steal it.
**Rico Rizzo:** Well, if it's free, then I ain't stealin'.

**Joe Buck:** I like the way I look. Makes me feel good, it does. And women like me, goddammit. Hell, the only one thing I ever been good for is lovin'. Women go crazy for me, that's a really true fact! Ratso, hell! Crazy Annie they had to send her away!

**Rico Rizzo:** Then, how come you ain't scored once the whole time you been in New York?

**Ratso Rizzo:** Frankly, you're beginning to smell and for a stud in New York, that's a handicap.

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From James Leo Herlihy, *Midnight Cowboy*, 1965:

In his new boots, Joe Buck was six-foot-one and life was different. As he walked out of that store in Houston something snapped in the whole bottom half of him: A kind of power he never even knew was there had been released in his pelvis and he was able to feel the world through it. Brand-new muscles came into play in his buttocks and in his legs, and he was aware of a totally new attitude toward the sidewalk. The world was down there, and he was way up here, on top of it, and the space between him and it was no commanded by a beautiful strange animal, himself, Joe Buck. He was strong. He was exultant. He was ready.

"I'm ready," he said to himself, and he wondered what he meant by that.

Now at this time in which Joe Buck was coming out of the West on that Greyhound bus to seek his fortune in the East, he was already twenty-seven years old. But he had behind him as little experience of life as a boy of eighteen, and in some ways even less.

He had been raised by various blondes. The first three, who brought him up to the age of seven, were young and pretty.

There was a great deal of coming and going in the household of the three blondes and he was never certain which of them was which. At various intervals, each of them seemed to be his mother, known as Mama this or Mama that, but he later learned that two of them were merely friends in whose household his real mother shared. But the blondes were all nice to him, allowed him to do as he pleased, bought gifts and fondled him a great deal.

Following Rizzo to the back of the barroom, Joe noticed two things about him. First, that he was a cripple. His left leg was small and misshapen, probably the result of some childhood disease. His entire body dipped to the side with each step so that his walk had a kind of rolling motion to it like the progress of a lopsided wheel. The second thing Joe noticed was that the big ears sticking out of Rizzo's head did not seem at all to be the property of a man. Suddenly th runt was a twelve-year-old, and Joe had to restrain an impulse to reach out and tear and ear or tug on a handful of that filthy hair.

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For good *Midnight Cowboy* links visit [www.geocities.com/BourbonStreet/Bayou/3385/MidnightCowboy.html](http://www.geocities.com/BourbonStreet/Bayou/3385/MidnightCowboy.html) or [www.svn.com.br/~lud/cowboy.htm](http://www.svn.com.br/~lud/cowboy.htm) ... Join us next Wednesday 1 November for Bob Fosse's autoncromusical, *ALL THAT JAZZ*... for cast and crew info on almost any film: [imdb.com/search.html](http://imdb.com/search.html) or [allmovie.com](http://allmovie.com) ... for information on major American films, including detailed plot summaries: [www.filmsite.org](http://www.filmsite.org) ... email Bruce Jackson: [bjackson@buffalo.edu](mailto:bjackson@buffalo.edu)... email Diane Christian: [engdc@acsu.buffalo.edu](mailto:engdc@acsu.buffalo.edu)... for the series schedule, links and updates: [www.buffalofilmseminars.com](http://www.buffalofilmseminars.com) ... for the weekly email informational note, send an email to either of us.

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