

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-55950-8 - Francis Ford Coppola's Godfather Trilogy

Edited by Nick Browne

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Francis Ford Coppola's *Godfather* Trilogy

The films that make up *The Godfather* trilogy are among the most acclaimed works of American cinema. Taken together, they provide a perspective on almost a century of American life and culture as refracted through the conventions of the crime genre. Five original chapters illuminate the form and significance of Coppola's achievement. Together they demonstrate the complex ways that cinema aesthetics, cultural ideologies, creative personalities, and the circumstances of the American studio system came together to produce an epic vision of an American criminal dynasty.

Nick Browne is Professor of Film Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-55950-8 - Francis Ford Coppola's Godfather Trilogy

Edited by Nick Browne

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS FILM HANDBOOKS SERIES

General Editor

Andrew Horton, *University of Oklahoma*

Each CAMBRIDGE FILM HANDBOOK is intended to focus on a single film from a variety of theoretical, critical, and contextual perspectives. This “prism” approach is designed to give students and general readers valuable background and insight into the cinematic, artistic, cultural, and sociopolitical importance of individual films by including chapters by leading film scholars and critics. Furthermore, these handbooks by their very nature are meant to help the reader better grasp the nature of the critical and theoretical discourse on cinema as an art form, as a visual medium, and as a cultural product. Filmographies and select bibliographies are included to help the reader go further on his or her own exploration of the film under consideration.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-55950-8 - Francis Ford Coppola's Godfather Trilogy

Edited by Nick Browne

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Francis Ford Coppola's *Godfather* Trilogy

Edited by

NICK BROWNE



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-55950-8 - Francis Ford Coppola's Godfather Trilogy
 Edited by Nick Browne
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
 Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press
 The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
 Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521550840

© Cambridge University Press 2000

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2000

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Francis Ford Coppola's Godfather trilogy / edited by Nick Browne
 p. cm. – (Cambridge film handbooks)
 Filmography: p.
 Includes bibliographical references and index.
 ISBN 0-521-55084-X (hardcover)
 1. Godfather films – History and criticism. I. Browne, Nick.
 II. Series. Cambridge film handbooks series.
 PN1997.C56833F73 1999
 791.43'75 – dc21 99-17674
CIP

ISBN-13 978-0-521-55084-0 hardback
 ISBN-10 0-521-55084-X hardback

ISBN-13 978-0-521-55950-8 paperback
 ISBN-10 0-521-55950-2 paperback

Transferred to digital printing 2006

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-55950-8 - Francis Ford Coppola's Godfather Trilogy

Edited by Nick Browne

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

For Mona and Sabrina

Contents

| | |
|---|----------------|
| <i>Acknowledgments</i> | <i>page xi</i> |
| <i>List of Contributors</i> | xiii |
| Fearful A-Symmetries | |
| Violence as History in the <i>Godfather</i> Films NICK BROWNE | 1 |
| 1 If History Has Taught Us Anything . . . Francis Coppola, Paramount Studios, and <i>The Godfather Parts I, II, and III</i> JON LEWIS | 23 |
| 2 <i>The Godfather</i> and the Mythology of Mafia ALESSANDRO CAMON | 57 |
| 3 The Representation of Ethnicity in <i>The Godfather</i> VERA DIKA | 76 |
| 4 Ideology and Genre in the <i>Godfather</i> Films GLENN MAN | 109 |
| 5 Family Ceremonies: or, Opera in <i>The Godfather</i> Trilogy NAOMI GREENE | 133 |
| <i>Filmography</i> | 157 |
| <i>Reviews of the "Godfather" Trilogy</i> | 167 |
| <i>Select Bibliography</i> | 183 |
| <i>Index</i> | 185 |

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-55950-8 - Francis Ford Coppola's Godfather Trilogy

Edited by Nick Browne

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Acknowledgments

With appreciation to Dr. Jess Kraus, Director of the Southern California Injury Prevention Research Center, UCLA School of Public Health, for continuing advice and support and to the students in the seminars in the UCLA Department of Film and Television on "Violence in American Film" for continuous insight into this topic.

Contributors

Nick Browne is Professor of Film Studies at UCLA. He is the author of *The Rhetoric of Film Narration* (UMI Press, 1982) and *The History of Western Film Theory* (Beijing: China Film Press, 1994) and has edited *The Politics of Representation: Perspectives from Cahiers du Cinéma* (Harvard University Press, 1990), *American Television: New Directions in History and Theory* (1994), *New Chinese Cinemas: Forms, Identities, Politics* (Cambridge University Press, 1994), and *American Film Genres: History and Theory* (University of California Press, 1998). He is presently engaged in a study of violence in contemporary American film.

Alessandro Camon is Vice-President of Production of Edward R. Pressman Film Corporation, the producer of such films as *Badlands*, *Conan the Barbarian*, *Wall Street*, *Reversal of Fortune*, *Bad Lieutenant*, and *The Crow*. Camon took his degree in philosophy at the University of Padova in 1987 and studied film at UCLA as a Fulbright Scholar. He has been a programming executive for a major Italian TV network and entertainment columnist for an Italian newspaper. He is the author of several Italian language books on American cinema, notably *Il Killer dentro di noi: crimine e violenza nel cinema americano* (*The Killer Inside Us: Crime and Violence in American Cinema*, 1987).

Vera Dika holds a Ph.D. in Cinema Studies from New York University and teaches American cinema at both UCLA and the Uni-

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-55950-8 - Francis Ford Coppola's Godfather Trilogy
Edited by Nick Browne
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

xiv CONTRIBUTORS

versity of Southern California. She wrote *Games of Terror*, a study of the contemporary American horror film (Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 1991), and published film criticism for *The LA Times*, *Art in America*, and *Artforum*.

Naomi Greene is Professor in the Department of French and Italian and is a faculty member in the Film Studies Program at the University of California at Santa Barbara. She has published books on Artaud, René Clair, and most recently on Pier Paolo Pasolini (Princeton University Press, 1990) and is currently embarking on a study of the relations between opera and film.

Jon Lewis is Professor in the Department of English at Oregon State University. He has published widely in film and cultural studies. His first book, *The Road to Romance and Ruin: Teen Films and Youth Culture* (Routledge, 1992), received an Outstanding Academic Book Award from *Choice*. His second book, *Whom God Wishes to Destroy: Francis Coppola and the New Hollywood*, was published by Duke University Press in 1995.

Glenn Man is Professor and Chair of the English Department at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. His articles on film have appeared in the *New Orleans Review*, *Film Criticism*, *Literature/Film Quarterly*, and *East-West Film Journal*. His study of American film, *Radical Visions: American Film Renaissance, 1967–1976* (Greenwood Press), was published in 1994.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-55950-8 - Francis Ford Coppola's Godfather Trilogy

Edited by Nick Browne

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Francis Ford Coppola's *Godfather* Trilogy

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-55950-8 - Francis Ford Coppola's Godfather Trilogy
Edited by Nick Browne
Frontmatter
[More information](#)



Francis Ford Coppola, the director. Copyright Paramount Pictures, 1972. Courtesy of the Museum of Modern Art Film Stills Archive