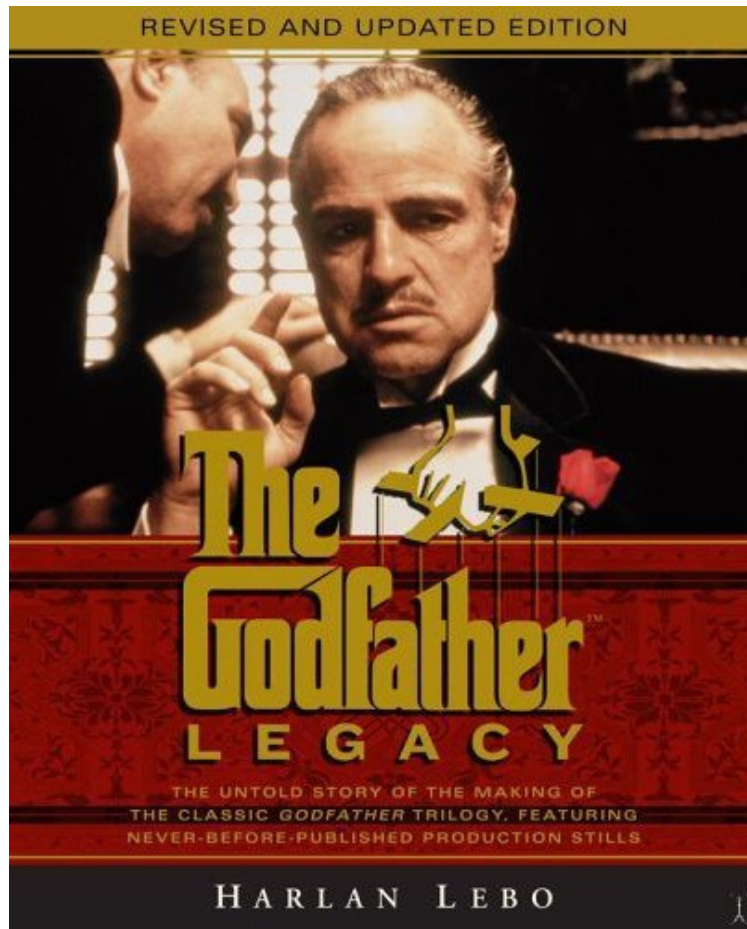


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The Godfather Legacy: The Untold Story of the Making of the Classic Godfather Trilogy Featuring Never-Before-Published Production Stills

Harlan Lebo

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Harlan Lebo : The Godfather Legacy: The Untold Story of the Making of the Classic Godfather Trilogy Featuring Never-Before-Published Production Stills before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Godfather Legacy: The Untold Story of the Making of the Classic Godfather Trilogy Featuring Never-Before-Published Production Stills:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Yes, the disembodied horse's head is real! By Annie Van Auken Counting the front cover and chapter headers cropped from larger photos, there's 139 snapshots in THE GODFATHER LEGACY, most of them behind-the-scenes glimpses. This minutiae-intense book is primarily for devotees of Francis Coppola's original film. Reading about and seeing snaps of deleted scenes or perusing pages of

dialogue that were later rewritten are sure to intrigue these folks. It's doubtful however if anyone else will be interested in how much each antique streetlight cost, or which props were vintage and which repros. Whether or not one cares the way special effects were achieved, such as the murders of McCluskey, Luca Brasi, Sonny Corleone or Moe Greene, depends on what you think of magicians who reveal how they saw ladies in half or make audience members levitate. The book is most engaging when it tells the off-camera story of Coppola's many clashes with PARAMOUNT execs and how their interference and penny-pinching made an already enormous job that much more difficult for the young director. Had Paramount prevailed in casting for example, Robert Redford would've played Sonny Corleone. Al Pacino was their last choice for the plum role of Michael, and Coppola had to fight like hell to get final say. These are common knowledge. Less known perhaps is that Coppola wanted Robert De Niro for the Don's traitorous driver, Paulie Gatto, but in a sort-of ballplayer swap, De Niro's services were offered to and accepted by the producers of *THE GANG THAT COULDN'T SHOOT STRAIGHT*, a comedy based on Jimmy Breslin's novel. In exchange, Pacino was allowed to escape from a contract his agent had previously signed for that now rather obscure movie. A lucky break for Al, and us too, as De Niro was thus available to portray Don Corleone as a young man in *THE GODFATHER PART II*, a masterpiece that just may be the greatest sequel ever made. Yet, only 32 pages of *Godfather Legacy's* 257 are devoted to it. The story of the often maligned *PART III* is condensed even further, into 10 pages, all but two of which include half-page photos. As if they don't exist, we are given nothing on the murders of Don Tommasino, Don Ciccio, Don Altobello or my favorite villain of the series, Joey Zasa. It is revealed though why Richard Castellano wasn't in the second film or Robert Duvall in the final one. Money was the main reason, but Castellano also demanded that his own writer supply Clemenza's dialogue, an impossible condition for control freak Coppola to accept. As a real fan of this motion picture trilogy, I enjoyed Harlan Lebo's book, and even slogged through the many pages describing how sets were built and decorated. If you've read right to this point, you're probably prepared to do so, as well. 5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Riveting!!!! By A Customer This book is a MUST HAVE if you enjoyed watching "The Godfather" movies. I have a hard time putting that book down at night, but I have to get some sleep sometimes ;o) At last, we can figure out how they managed, with great ingenuity, to create all those "murders" which seem so "real" in the films. What struck me the most is to learn the skepticism of Paramount about the success of the first movie at the box office. I greatly admire Mr. Coppola's tenacity towards Paramount in wanting to keep his own choice of actors. He had to fight for his choices: actors, locations... not to mention the stress he had to endure at the thought of being fired at any moment during the making of the first movie. Not a very good atmosphere for the creation of a masterpiece, to say the very least! But Mr. Coppola kept on going against all odds. "Hats off" Mr. Coppola. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. 2 points of many more. By Ronald Barillaro Told the little known obstacles and how they were overcome to produce a remarkable film. This film was really the spark that was needed to ignite the career of one of my favorite actors-Al Pacino.

Here is the official companion to Francis Ford Coppola's masterful trilogy, packed with more than 100 photographs, many never before published. "The Godfather Legacy" explores the fascinating behind-the-scenes intrigue and uproar during the making of the three films. For the first time readers can find out about: The clashes between Coppola and the studio chiefs during the filming of "The Godfather", the pressurised production schedule, and the project's near cancellation; The real story behind the cooperation of the Mafia in the creation of "The Godfather"; The worldwide acclaim and stunning financial success following the release of "The Godfather" - a triumph that set the stage for the film industry's renaissance; The production of "The Godfather, Part II" and the rise of Coppola, Al Pacino and the others to the loftiest heights of power in Hollywood; and The creation of "The Godfather, Part III" two decades after the original film and the completion of video projects that unified the three films for the first time. Featuring production records, credits, reviews, and interviews with many of the principals involved, "The Godfather Legacy" is a rare and vivid peek into the making of three of the most compelling films in history.

"Crammed with behind-the-scenes details." -- "Los Angeles Times"