



Pacino is more passive. "There's value in having your choice," he acknowledges, "but sometimes I've fallen into a role that I never would have normally picked for myself."

"*The Godfather* is an example of a part I would never have thought that I was right for. But it was chosen for me." Director Francis Ford Coppola decided 11 years ago that the virtually unknown Pacino would be perfect to play Michael, the youngest Corleone son.

Despite Paramount's desire to cast a "name" actor in the role, Coppola held out for Pacino. Later, Pacino said, "Only after I saw the picture did I realize why Francis wanted me. Somewhere in my loins, in my Sicilian heritage, there was a connection." Pacino's grandfather, it turned

out, had come from Corleone, Sicily.

Pacino's parents were divorced when he was two, and he was raised in a traditional Sicilian home in New York by his mother and grandparents. He has said he was "never let out of the house" until he was seven, except to accompany his mother to the movies.

So little Alfredo would spend hours entertaining his grandmother by acting out the films he saw. His colourful imagination delighted his school friends, and as he grew older his family and teachers encouraged him to become an actor. He was accepted at Manhattan's High School of Performing Arts, but after two years he quit.

He drifted from job to job — theatre usher, office boy, furniture mover —

