



# ALFREDO, ALFREDO

## "Basically I'm shy"

**A**l Pacino is very picky about the parts he plays — and rightly so. At 43, he has been nominated for five Academy Awards, and yet he has made only 12 films. Because he is stage-trained and avoids Hollywood whenever possible, he would rather not work than take a part he didn't feel was absolutely right.

He feels absolutely right in his new movie, **Scarface**. Inspired by the 1932 gangster picture starring Paul Muni, the 1983 **Scarface** is set in Miami's Cuban community. Pacino plays Tony Montana, one of the thousands of prisoners released from Cuban jails in 1980 and sent to live in the United States. An ambitious man in search of the American dream, Montana builds up his own empire of crime.

"As an actor," he explains, "you're always waiting for someone to offer you a part. In a sense, you're really not at the helm. You're a component. So you'd like to be offered projects rather than create the whole thing

yourself. It's a difficult position to be in because you really would like people to come to you.

"They do come to me. But — how can I say this? I'm not being clear. Suppose I want to do a comedy. I always want to do a comedy. But since I don't write a script or go around creating projects, I usually do a play.

"When you're starting as an actor, the plays are there and they want actors to go and do them. You join a repertory company, and you're told what plays and what parts you're in. That's your orientation and that's how you grow up.

"If you become successful, that suddenly changes. Nobody is telling you what to do. They're all looking at you and asking you what you want to do and you say, 'Well, wait a minute.' I miss the luxury of having no choice."

Unlike contemporaries such as Jon Voight and Robert Duvall, who often initiate projects rather than wait around for someone to come to them,

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**By Nancy Mills**

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