

## One Of The Best Gangster Films Ever Made

Henry Hill and his friends work their way up through the mob hierarchy. If there was one word that I could use to describe Martin Scorsese's "Goodfellas" it'd be priceless. And of all the "gangster" movies that I have reviewed I would say that "Goodfellas" is one of the best gangster films ever made.

Directed by Martin Scorsese and written by wiseguy Nicholas Pileggi, it is the true story of mob informer Henry Hill. It was released in the U.S. on September 19th, 1990. The film stars Ray Liotta as Henry Hill, Robert De Niro as Jimmy Conway (based on Jimmy Burke), Joe Pesci as the sociopath Tommy DeVito (based on Tommy DeSimone), Lorraine Bracco as Hill's wife (Karen Hill), and Paul Sorvino as Paulie Cicero (based on Paul Vario).

The blue-collar side of New York's Italian mafia is explored in this crime biopic of wiseguy Henry Hill. As he makes his way from strapping young petty criminal, to big-time thief, to middle-aged cocaine addict and dealer, the film explores in detail the rules and traditions of organized crime.

Although Henry had an Italian mother, because his father was Irish, he could never be made or inducted into the mob, desperate as he was for the opportunity. He grew up in the Brooklyn area dominated by Paul Vario's enterprises, and eventually became a kind of second son to Vario. Through him, he came into contact with Burke, who also more or less adopted him, teaching him and showing him the finer points of criminal life. Hill repaid their generosity and affection by helping to send them both to jail. This film is based on a true story.

[Based on available figures, in the first ten months of 1967, there were forty-five major robberies at the airport of goods and cargo valued at \$2.2 million and \$2.5 million in nonnegotiable stocks were stolen within the perimeter. There is no recorded figure for the thefts that occurred outside the airport, which originated from inside the complex.

Actually Henry comes off as a very likable person in this film. Maybe it has something to do with the fascination that Hollywood has created about gangsters, or the fact that the average person seems to enjoy the basic theme of this movie. But this is not your ordinary gangster movie. I think that a good script and directing, along with the great performances by these actors, make this one of the best gangster films ever made.

### About the Author

Andrew Conway is an avid author, writer and a classic movie buff. If you love watching movies or just listening to great music, then visit:

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