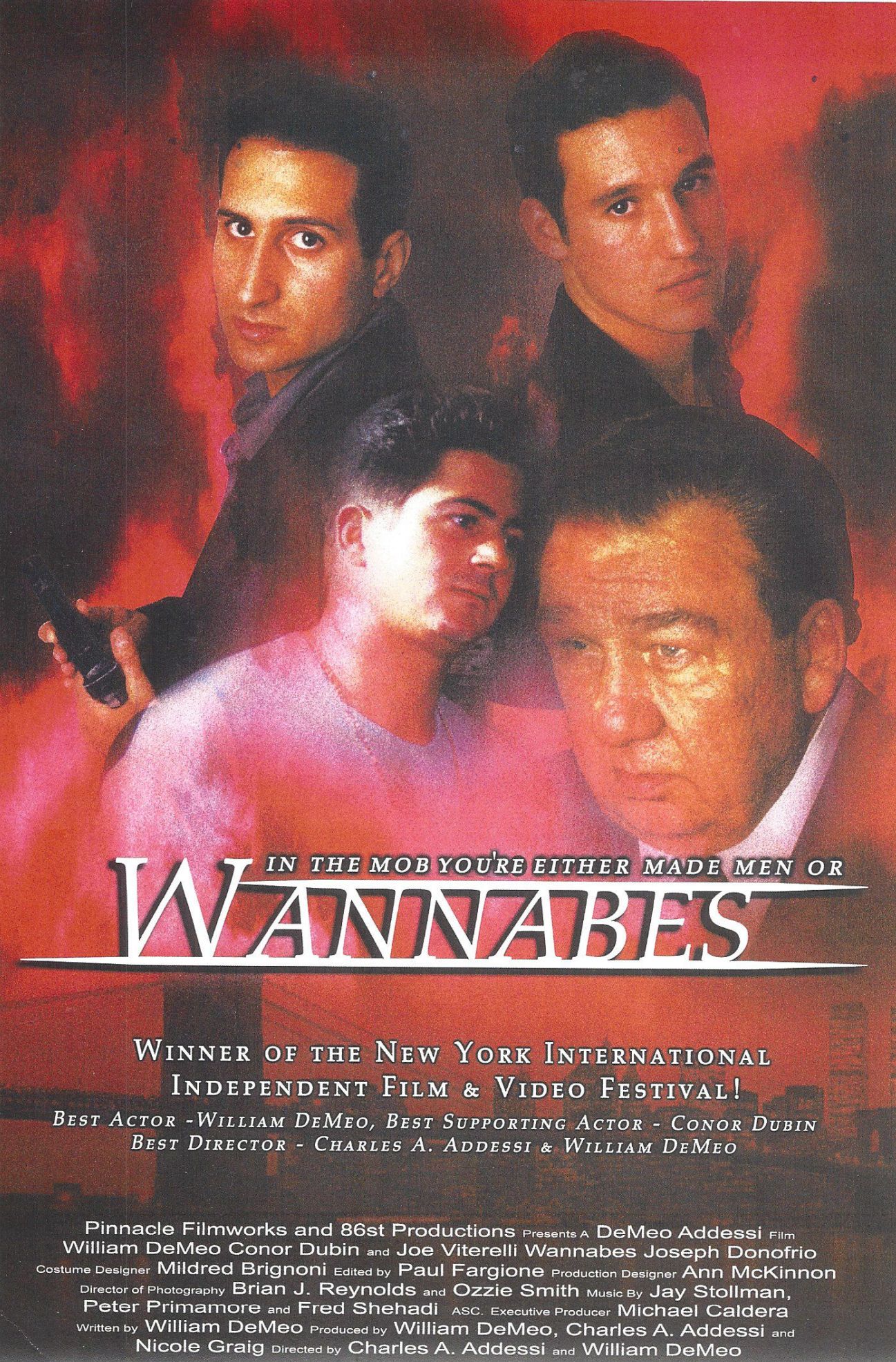




IN THE MOB YOU'RE EITHER MADE MEN OR

WANNABES

WINNER OF THE NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL
INDEPENDENT FILM & VIDEO FESTIVAL!

BEST ACTOR - WILLIAM DeMeo, BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR - CONOR DUBIN
BEST DIRECTOR - CHARLES A. ADDESSI & WILLIAM DeMeo

Pinnacle Filmworks and 86st Productions Presents A DeMeo Addressi Film
William DeMeo Conor Dubin and Joe Viterelli Wannabes Joseph Donofrio
Costume Designer Mildred Brignoni Edited by Paul Fargione Production Designer Ann McKinnon
Director of Photography Brian J. Reynolds and Ozzie Smith Music By Jay Stollman,
Peter Primamore and Fred Shehadi ASC. Executive Producer Michael Caldera
Written by William DeMeo Produced by William DeMeo, Charles A. Addressi and
Nicole Graig Directed by Charles A. Addressi and William DeMeo

WANNABES

Press Information

Critical Reviews

Channel 4 News Jeffrey Lyons Review

(On Jeffrey Lyons)

I like finding little movies that don't have a lot of fanfare about them and if they're rewarding it's worth the effort and such a picture is "Wannabes". In fact it's an independent movie which has a sense of our city and of some of the denizens of its lower social echelons. It has some familiar character types but its no-nonsense style has a starkness I like, despite the subject matter.

(Roll Stickball Scene)

That's Joe Viterelli in the middle there who played Billy Crystal's mentor in "Analyze This" and who usually portrays mobsters, upset, here, with a group of local punks who are too old to be playing stickball in the streets and getting into fights.

(Roll Uncle Tommy Scene)

Eventually the Wannabes, with dreams of becoming made men, decide to become bookies, but the uncle of one of them, played by Ray Serra, isn't about to give them seed money.

(Roll Santo and Angelo at the Pool Scene)

Soon, however, a bond ensues between the leader of the Wannabes, William DeMeo, and Viterelli's character fostered by the gangster's realization that his own son isn't quite the apple of his eye.

(Back to Jeffrey Lyons)

Boy, Viterelli is so good. Now William DeMeo who you saw there, also wrote and co-directed this movie and he has a keen sense of the character of the street punk and even though there's nobody to like here really you still get a sense of desperate lives headed inexorably in the wrong direction. In that sense "Wannabes" is a tragedy waiting to happen and well worth seeking out.

ON THE TOWN

Critic! Critic! Reviewers Choose Their Favorites

Every critic has favorites. A series called "New York, New York: Films Selected by the New York Film Critics Circle" will feature favorite films about the city nominated by more than two dozen New York movie critics. The series, at the American Museum of the Moving Image, begins Feb. 23 at 1 p.m. with Andy Warhol's eight-hour epic "Empire" (a scene is shown below), chosen by David Sterritt of The Christian Science Monitor, and runs through March.

OTHER FILMS "Wannabes," directed by Charles A. Addessi and William DeMeo, about two Brooklyn brothers who dream of becoming big-shot gangsters; opened Friday... "Across 110th Street: Images of Harlem on Film," a series focusing on Harlem as a metaphor for the African-American experience; American Museum of the Moving Image, through Feb. 17.

EXHIBITIONS "Drawings by Charles Addams: Unreal Estate," Charles Addams Gallery, New York Public Library, opens Friday... "WTC: Monument," a Sky-scraper Museum exhibit on the trade center's rise and fall; New-York Historical Society, opens Feb. 5... "Pedestrian," large-scale projections offering bird's-eye views of pedestrian traffic; Studio Museum, 45 Rockefeller Plaza and Eyebeam, 540 West 21st Street... "Back in the Days," photos by Jamel Shabazz tracing the growth of hip-hop; SpaHa Cafe, 2270 First Avenue (near 116th Street), through Feb. 14... "Stapleton: A Community of Contrast and Change," Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences, opens Feb. 20.

LECTURES "Urban Genealogy: An Introduction to Researching Buildings in New York City," Municipal Art Society, Monday and Feb. 4, 11, 18 and 26, 6:30 p.m.... "Uptown Vaudeville," a song, dance and mime piece with tributes to Bert Williams and others; New-York Historical Society, Feb. 9, 11 a.m.... "The City Transformed: Beaux-Arts New York," by Barry Lewis, Cooper Union, Feb. 21, 6:30 p.m.... "Buried Treasures: the Archaeology of New York City," New-York Historical Society, Feb. 28, 6:30 p.m.

THEATER "House of Mirth/Heart of Fools," an adaptation of Edith Wharton's turn-of-the-century New York novel, Bank Street Theater, through Feb. 10... "Embers," inspired by the life of Louise Nevelson and the New York art world; Chelsea Playhouse, through Feb. 24... "Belly Up," a comedy about New York night life; Sanford Meisner Theater, through Feb. 23.

TELEVISION "Leap of Faith," a comedy about young New Yorkers, begins Feb. 28, 8:30 p.m., NBC.

FICTION "Claire Marvel," by John Burnham Schwartz, a romantic novel set partly in New York (Doubleday)... "Discretion," by Elizabeth Nunez, about a romantic triangle in the city (One World Publishing)... "A Fine Place," by Nicholas Montemarano, about



'Wannabes'

Directed by Charles A. Addessi and William A. DeMeo
Not rated, 110 minutes

There isn't a single image or vocal inflection in "Wannabes" — a blunt, profanity-strewn morality tale set in an Italian-American neighborhood of New York — that isn't familiar from "The Sopranos" or from countless movies about the mob. All the familiar stereotypes are on hand: the neighborhood boss, here named Santo (Joe Viterelli), squinting and coughing above his jowls in a smoke-filled room; his crew of beefy enforcers; his spoiled weaselly son, Vinny (Joseph D'Onofrio); and his eager-beaver protégé Angelo (William DeMeo).

This version of the standard fable follows the rise from nothing of a gang of four childhood friends, desperate to break out of their dead-end lives, who take up crime and discover how well it pays. That gang includes a bad older brother, Angelo, and a good younger one, Paulie (Conor Dubin), who as the story begins are both waiters in a neighborhood restaurant. Some of the best scenes detail the petty humiliations they endure at the hands of bullying patrons, the most obnoxious being Santo's rancid butterball of a son.

Sick and tired of such abuse, Angelo persuades Paulie and two of his friends to borrow \$20,000 from a loan shark and go into the bookie business. After a perilous start, the enterprise takes off, but not before the four learn some brutal lessons in debt collection. The business expands when they acquire a partner from Coney Island and add loan sharking and the selling of fireworks to their catalog of services. Venturing into the protection racket, they attract the attention of Santo, who to his son's fury adopts Angelo as a protégé. Sooner or later a showdown between the real son and the surrogate one is inevitable.

If there's nothing fresh about "Wannabes," which was written by Mr. DeMeo, who produced and directed the film with Charles A. Addessi, much of the time the movie feels authentic. The insular criminal world it portrays — a hothouse fief on the verge of implosion — couldn't be meaner, grubbier and less glamorous. Although the screenplay lapses into speechifying whenever the brothers' Uncle Tommy (Ray Serra), the movie's official conscience, appears, much of the dialogue has a pungently idiomatic tang.

Except for Mr. Dubin's Paulie, who narrates the movie rather stiffly, the performances are uniformly strong. Mr. D'Onofrio's lethally rage-oholic Vinny is especially impressive. "Wannabes" doesn't really know how to end. But if its melodramatic final moments are ludicrous, they don't seriously dilute the acidity of the sour little swatch of urban sociology that has come before.

STEPHEN HOLDEN

Time Out

New York

The essential guide to impulsive entertainment

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livelihood and a student (Li) who believes that a sharp set of wheels will land him the girl of his dreams. The question of who has wronged whom turns out to be thornier than it first appears; after a while, it begins to feel as if the plot's complications could be resolved satisfactorily only via the intervention of the *Times Magazine's* Ethicist. Even the basic class conflict—the courier's a noble country bumpkin who has trouble navigating a revolving door, while the student, though far from wealthy, wears a suit to class and expresses a strong sense of entitlement—winds up feeling



A BICYCLE BUILT FOR TWO Lin and Bin begrudgingly learn to share and share alike.

irrelevant, an obligatory subtextual adjunct to a tale of universally frustrated desires.

If only Wang's skill as a director

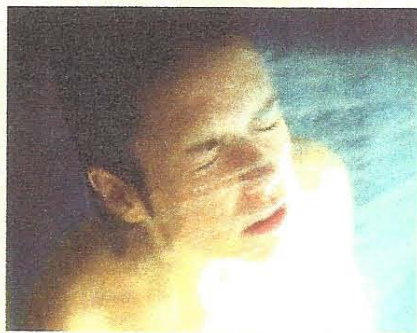
in *Pee-Wee's Big Adventure*. A lengthy two-way chase scene (admittedly well choreographed) and climactic act of violence, meanwhile, seem like a desperate, last-ditch attempt to pump dramatic air into a narrative that's gone utterly flat. *The Bicycle Thief* leaves you drained, distraught, reaching discreetly for a tissue; *Beijing Bicycle*, for all its good intentions, leaves you numb, indifferent, heading discreetly for the door. (Opens Fri; see Index for venues. See also "Wheels of fortune," page 75.)—Mike D'Angelo

Short takes

Maelström

Dir. Denis Villeneuve. 2000. N/R. 83mins. In French, with subtitles. Marie-Josée Croze, Jean Nicholas Verrault, Pierre Lebeau.

Narrated by a fish repaying its karmic debt by having its head chopped off repeatedly, *Maelström* cleverly provides a dash of the *Bhagavad Gita* to what otherwise seems like a Quebecois version of Krzysztof Kieslowski's *Blue* (if it starred a coked-up fashion whore). Bibiane (Croze), already depressed by a lifetime of living in the shadow of her famous mother, is in a downward spiral following an abortion. On a drinking binge, she runs down a fishmonger in her BMW, but finds redemption when she falls in love with his son. Moral of the story: Maybe there's hope yet for Lizzie Grubman. (Opens Fri; Quad.) —Richard Baimbridge



THE PAUSE THAT REFRESHES Glum Croze tries to clean up her act in the philosophical *Maelström*.

the feeling that the cast of relative unknowns isn't acting—they're simply *being*. Only in its last bits does *Wannabe\$* descend into Hollywood clichés, abruptly reminding the audience that they've been watching a work of fiction after all. (Opens Fri; see Index for venues.)—RT

Snow Dogs

Dir. Brian Levant. 2002. PG. 99mins. Cuba

Gooding Jr., James Coburn, Sisqo, M. Emmet Walsh.

"No movie featuring either Harry Dean Stanton or M. Emmet Walsh in a supporting role can be altogether bad," Roger Ebert once wrote, and apparently somebody took that as a challenge. (You know a movie's in big trouble when its high point is a cameo appearance by Michael Bolton.) Children under five may respond to this witlessly formulaic live-

action Disney adventure, in which Gooding plays a Miami dentist who inherits a team of Alaskan sled mutts, but the actor's incessant mugging will soon have adults longing to show him the muzzle. (Now playing; see Index for venues.)—Mike D'Angelo

State Property

Dir. Abdul Malik Abbott. 2001. R. 92mins. Beanie Sigel, Memphis Bleek.

Rap fans may thrill to see Jay Z and his Roc-A-Fella crew in this seen-it-all-before crime drama (be warned: Jigga himself has little more than a cameo). But many will marvel at the film's other achievements—like having a script with nothing but *shit*, *muthafuckah* and the omnipresent *niggah*. Sigel stars as Beans, an ultra-violent Philly thug bent on taking over the street drug trade by any means necessary. The only dramatic tension comes from wondering whether Beans will wind up dead or in prison...and the title already gives that away. (Now playing; see Index for venues.)—RT



SHADOWY DEEDS Bad boy Jay Z keeps an eye out for serious trouble in *State Property*.

woman, sailor Edmund Dantes (Caviezel) finds himself betrayed by his jealous best friend, Fernand Mondego (Pearce), and languishes for 13 years in an island prison before finally escaping. With the help of a treasure map, Dantes returns to society seeking vengeance by using his sudden fortune to transform himself into the titular count.



RAPIER FIT Dagmara Dominczyk is ready for some swordplay from Caviezel.

As the swashbuckling lead, Caviezel has a quiet and serious manner (he doesn't speak his part so much as croon it) and the requisite physical grace and high cheekbones for movie heroism. But this naturally recessive actor may be too earnest and good-mannered to carry a film. Pearce, on the other hand, gives a hilariously florid, flouncey, nostril-flaring camp performance, well aware that audiences shouldn't take films with swordplay too seriously. Too bad the rest of the film isn't up to his parodic pitch: During the half hour or so that Dantes is in prison, the picture suffers sorely from its villain's absence.

The Count of Monte Cristo is the smoothest of entertainments—yet shouldn't a tale of passion and vengeance feel more ravaged and urgent? But the picture does hit its marks. Within its own middlebrow limitations, *The Count of Monte Cristo* is a completely enjoyable success. It also features the year's best entrance by hot-air balloon. (Opens Fri; see Index for venues.) —Andrew Lewis Conn

FILM



By William Wolf



WANNABES [Send This Review to a Friend](#)

Writer, co-director, producer and star William DeMeo proves that he has talent to spare with "Wannabees," a pulsating, unusual crime drama about wannabe Brooklyn brothers. The film is sometimes funny, sometimes violent but always well-acted, entertaining and involving.

Filmmaker Charles A. Addessi, who also co-produced along with DeMeo and Nicole Craig, shares director billing with DeMeo, who has the motivating role of Angelo, a frustrated nobody who thinks he can become somebody by figuring out ways to make money illegally and thereby gain the stature of the mobsters he sees all around him. Why struggle along working in a restaurant when there are big bucks to be made by running a bookie operation? His younger brother Paulie, less aggressively portrayed by Conor Dubin, is skeptical but impressionable enough to go along with Angelo, as do two of their restless pals, Dom (John Palumbo) and Pete (Daniel Margotta).

In a way this is a coming of age story, as the bothers seem never to have grown up. They are over-grown kids who still play stickball in the streets and are lured by illusions that big time means walking around with dough and the prestige that comes with being a powerful local hood, like the Mafia big-shot Santo (Joe Viterelli). Santo has a boorish son named Vinny (Joseph D'Onofrio), who thinks he can act tough merely because of who he is. Vinny is a nasty piece of work and resents the liking his father takes to Angelo.

"Wannabees" is a cautionary tale of dreams gone awry. There is something pathetic and even funny about the characters, unlikely ever amount to much. What gives the film its strength is the realism of the acting, the accuracy of the dialogue and the Brooklyn atmosphere, as well as the nervy but almost casual manner in which these misfits with a skewed sense of values navigate. The film starts with off-putting violence, then slides into the story of how the brothers maneuver into their world of crime and what happens to them.

There are some amusing scenes, including Angelo vengefully spiking Vinny's soft drink with urine. There are also good character portrayals, particularly by Viterelli and by Raymond Serra as Uncle Tommy, to whom the brothers go for help to extricate themselves from trouble. Always lurking is the potential for violence.

"Wannabees" may make you think of other stories about guys in rough neighborhoods but this one stands on its own, thanks to the particular vision of its independent creators and their effort to get it just right. You can spot the cliches but you can also spot the truths. A Pinnacle Filmworks release.

Filmmakers hope 'Wannabes' the real deal



Joe Viterelli, left, stars in "Wannabes" opposite, from left, William DeMeo, John Palumbo, Vinny Vella, Conor Dubin and John and Glenn Hoyt.

Sections of the award-winning film were shot here on Staten Island

By DOUG AUER
ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

William DeMeo and Charles A. Adessi are no "wannabes," no matter what their film title says. The two share the honor of winning the award for best director at the 2000 New York International Independent Film and Video Festival for their motion picture, "Wannabes."

The movie also won honors for best actor and best supporting actor, those awards going to DeMeo and Conor Dubin.

The film also stars Joe Viterelli, a recognizable character actor who gained recognition for his roles in "Analyze This" and "Mickey Blue Eyes," and Staten Island actor Raymond Serra, who has had memorable performances in "Sugar Hill," "Pritzi's Honor" and the first two installments of the "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" trilogy.

"Wannabes" is the story of two brothers, Angelo (DeMeo) and Paulie (Dubin), who work in a Brooklyn restaurant frequented by the neighborhood crime boss, Santo (Viterelli). The two brothers have strived to move up in social standing, but to no avail, so they and their two childhood friends take to crime to make money and names for themselves.

Eventually their efforts impress Santo, and they are enlisted in the crime organization. What ensues is the struggle between power and hunger, jealousy and respect, good

Brotherhood of the Wolf, a fascinating, bizarre, tedious and ridiculous movie that proves the French can be just as unashamedly silly as anybody in Hollywood.

Given its audacious originality, this genre-busting film may be destined for instant cult status, if it can find enough proponents with enough patience to sit through it more than once. That won't include us. We enjoyed the picture, even given (or perhaps because of) its deliberate outlandishness, but only for about the first hour and a half. The next hour left us wanting to bang our head against the wall.

"Brotherhood of the Wolf," set in the French countryside of 1765, begins with two shadowy figures in three-corner hats happening across a gaggle of blood-thirsty peasant types attacking one of their own on a muddy hillside in the pouring rain. They break it up with some nifty martial arts moves, we're not sure why, and shortly thereafter an unseen monster shreds to bits a fair maiden with abject terror in her eyes.

Or maybe the monster comes before the peasants, we can't remember. Believe me, it doesn't really matter.

The monster is none other than the legendary Beast of Gévaudan, and the high-kicking gents in the triangle hats later emerge as hunky blond scientist Grégoire de Fronsac (Samuel Le Bihan) and his Inquisitor blood brother Mani (Mark Dacascos), a strong, silent type who communes with things like trees and, of course, wolves.

The pair have been sent by the king to find and kill the monster so the region's populace can go out at night again, and the two are given a fair chance of succeeding given their prowess in the martial arts. But somebody in the area doesn't want them to succeed.

Rating note: Rated R for violence, gore, and nudity. In French with English subtitles. 142 mins.

ing a screening and watching the audience cry, laugh and react to the actions of the characters.

So where does Serra fit into the picture?

Serra plays Uncle Tommy, the father figure to Angelo and Paulie, who does not want them to get mixed up with gangsters, and considers the real tough guy to be the working man. Throughout the film, he provides guidance and assistance to the brothers.

Adessi credits Serra with bringing "fresh material to the screen that played wonderfully off DeMeo's character."

Serra returns the compliment, saying, "With this movie, within 30 minutes, the viewer is interested with the lives and emotions of the characters."

Serra, a resident of Richmond and a 30-year veteran of the movie business, who has appeared in more than 30 motion pictures, 50 plays — including six Broadway productions — and countless TV productions, believes the film will be a hit. But he feels its biggest promotion will come by "word of mouth from people who like the film."

Adessi cited how casting sessions were highly scrutinized because he and DeMeo wanted the

and evil, and the thin line in between.

According to Adessi, the movie started with a budget estimated at \$3.1 million, but due to troubles finding financial backing, he and DeMeo, both of Brooklyn, decided to direct and produce the movie themselves, cutting costs down to approximately half a million dollars.

"There are a lot of risks involved when making an independent film, the biggest hardship being raising money," said Adessi. "We had no intention to direct, but after considering our options, a friend in the industry suggested the idea and it took off from there."

DeMeo, who also wrote the screenplay and has had roles in "A Bronx Tale" and "Hackers," jokes that for the price of a big studio movie luncheon he and Adessi managed to produce an entire film.

And what about the awards? "We had no thoughts of winning anything at the festival, we were just excited to be in the festival to begin with. But when I found out about winning I was floored," said a smiling DeMeo.

He said that what gets him truly pumped about his film is attend-

right people to fit the role. Both admit to being fans of Serra's work, and when he chose to come aboard they knew they had a perfect fit for Uncle Tommy.

Not only does "Wannabes" star an Island actor, but it contains footage from the borough as well. All scenes concerning the interior of Uncle Tommy's home were shot in an Island home, and a flashback scene dealing with an exchange of fireworks was also filmed here.

The majority of the filming, took place during the summer and fall of 2000 and was done in the Brooklyn neighborhoods of Park Slope, Sheepshead Bay and Carol Gardens.

Beyond what Adessi and DeMeo agree is an "incredible cast," they consider themselves blessed to have had Brian J. Reynolds and Roland (Ozzie) Smith as directors of photography. When Reynolds, who shot the first four seasons of "NYPD Blue," left due to a prior commitment, Smith, who won an Emmy for "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman," stepped in to finish the job.

The movie arrives in theaters today, and Adessi and DeMeo are enthusiastic about the upcoming date.

While the film does portray aspects of mob life, a topic often explored on the big screen, DeMeo is quick to point out, "Above everything this is about the struggle to be successful. It's about two young men on a quest for a better life and where that quest takes them."

Both hope that the success experienced at the 2000 New York International Independent Film and Video Festival will carry over to larger viewing success and that the movie won't be just another wannabe, but a breakthrough sensation. So far, they are on the right track to becoming made men.

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Charles A. Addressi & William Demeo

IN

WANNABES

December 11th, 2000

Stuart Alson
Executive Director

WANNABES

Synopsis

Two brothers, Angelo (**William DeMeo**) and the younger Paulie (**Conor Dubin**), have lived in the same Brooklyn neighborhood all their lives. They still play stickball in the street with their friends and rivals, but the stakes are higher than when they were children. It's a tough neighborhood and you have to put up a mean front to survive. When they get into a fight it's broken up by the local mafia don, the much feared and respected Santo (**Joe Viterelli**). He has the lifestyle Angelo can only dream about, for he and Paulie are waiters in a local restaurant where their boss treats them like dirt and some of the customers treat them worse.

Among the customers is Santo and his vicious son, Vinny (**Joseph D'Onofrio**). Santo appreciates the special treatment he gets from Angelo, though Vinny shows his true colors.

Fed up with his dead-end job, Angelo quits and persuades his brother and their two friends, Dom (**John Palumbo**) and Pete (**Daniel Margotta**) to go into the book-making business where they can make some real money. First they have to come up with \$20,000 to get the business started. Angelo and Paulie ask their only close relative, Uncle Tommy (**Raymond Serra**), for the money, but Tommy, an honest, hard-working man, refuses to help them. Desperate, they go to a loan shark in Spanish Harlem who does lend them the money.

Their first week as bookies is a disaster. All their customers win. They lose their \$20,000 stake and more. Unwillingly, Uncle Tommy helps them out. The over-confident customers double their bets the second time around—and lose. When one customer refuses to pay, they rough him up. Word gets out. Everyone pays. Finally the guys are making a profit. They pay back the loan-shark and Uncle Tommy. The business grows and expands into other areas such as the numbers game. However, when they try to get into the protection racket, the watchful Santo sends his enforcer, Carmine (**Vinny Vella**) to bring them in for a meeting. He warns them that they have crossed the line into his

territory. Santo is, however, impressed by Angelo's rapid rise and the respect with which the young man treats him. He agrees to make them part of his own organization, for a small fee. Angelo and his friends are delighted. They're in! With their money they can buy new cars, fancy clothes and lead the lifestyle they have craved. For Paulie it's the chance to get together with the beautiful Tammy (**Sascha Knopf**) who is equally attracted to him.

As Angelo becomes more successful he gets closer to Santo, much to the fury of the jealous Vinny. It doesn't help that Angelo saves Vinny's life in a bar brawl, making Angelo even more of a hero. Then Santo tells his son that Angelo will become a "made man" before he does.

Angelo is now running Santo's successful nightclub while his crew continues the original business. All is good. But Angelo tells Paulie that he has to get out and go legitimate, perhaps settle down with Tammy. The younger brother had never really wanted to be part of the mob world and Angelo feels guilty for luring him into it.

When Santo has a heart attack, he is helped along his way by Vinny, who plans to take over the mob himself and get rid of everyone who stands in his way.

In a climactic blood bath we learn who is the real thing and who is the wannabe; who is left standing and whose body will be riddled with bullets.

Cast

Angelo.....	William DeMeo
Paulie.....	Conor Dubin
Uncle Tommy	Ray Serra
Pete.....	Daniel Margotta
Dom.....	John Palumbo
Santo	Joe Viterelli
Vinny.....	Joseph D'Onofrio
Eddie	John Glenn Hoyt
Carmine.....	Vinny Vella
Lenny	Joseph Daleo, Jr.
Pino	Joseph Carl Dibitto
Matty	Michael Caldera
Mr. Letto	Robert Constanzo
Mario.....	Billy Knight
Carlos	Anthony T. Donofrio III
Caesar.....	Raymond Cassar
Tammy	Sascha Knopf
Tammy's boyfriend.....	Mario Macalus
Obnoxious customer	Lenny N. Rizzo
Mario's friend's girlfriend	Madonna Guzzardo
Freddie	Lenny Ligotti
Loretta.....	Leslie Cottle
Hector.....	Nelson Vasquez
Hector's girl	Nicola Diamond
Bruno.....	Richard Maldone
Kid in store.....	Joe D'Alessio
Harry the Bird	Angelo DeRossi
Harry's friend.....	Barry Gold
Lisa.....	Michelle Otto
Yuppie #1	Daniel Baker
Monica	Dyanne Mercante
Lace Club owner	Danny Frank Depasquale
Touchy customer.....	Patrick Cooley
Lace waitress.....	Desiree Russo
Frankie	Frank Morano
Stephanie.....	Aesha Waks
Bar patron.....	Carson Grant
Bar patron.....	Oleg Ferdman
Bouncer	Anthony Assente
Vinny's assailant.....	John Sbrigato
Enigma bartender	Robert Daleo
Card player.....	Phil Faicco
Card player.....	Charles LaPlaca

Victor	Philip Ligotte
Angelo, 10 years old	Joseph Daleo III
Angelo, 5 years old	Anthony Prianti, Jr.
Paulie, 7 years old	Charles Addressi II
Paulie, 3 years old	Eric Dryer
Pete, 7 years old	Daniel Dryer
Dom, 7 years old	Andrew Marchisello
Angelo and Paulie's father	Michael Salvatore
Angelo and Paulie's mother	Barbara Teti
Singh	Ranjit Bhogal
Bouncers	Rels Douglas
	Angelo Soprano
	Anthony Assante
Stickball players	Thomas Kurtulus
	Richard Mannarino
	Michael Sciaraffo
Stunt players	David Shumbris
	Keith Siglinger

Credits

Directors..... **Charles A. Addressi**
William A. DeMeo
Executive producers..... **Michael Caldera**
Nicola Shapiro
Stephen Cohen
Producers..... **Charles A. Addressi**
Nicole Craig
William DeMeo
Co-producers..... **John Glenn Hoyt**
Judith Courtade
Associate producers **Donna McKenna**
Sal Scala
Writer **William DeMeo**
Editor..... **Paul Fargione**
Directors of photography **Brian J. Reynolds**
Ozzie Smith, A.S.C.
Production designer **Ann McKenna**
Costume designer..... **Mildred Brignoni**
Casting **Kim Matuka**
Stunt coordinator..... **Manny Siverio**
Unit production manager **Erika Connors**
First assistant director **Patrick D. Gibbons**
Second a.d. **Brian Wray**
Script supervisor **Holly Unterberger**
Assistant to the producers **Michael Franklin**
Production manager **Ed Dessisso**
Production coordinator..... **Danielle Teicher**
Location manager..... **Jermaine "Mr. Suki" Cox**
Sound Mixer..... **Jose Torres**
Gaffer **Leo Alvarez**
Key grip **Chris Scarafile**
Property master **Michele Catalano**
Key makeup artist **Cassandra Mucha**
Key hair stylist **Barry Gold**
Wardrobe Supervisor **Erika Goyzueta**
Additional casting **Donna McKenna**

Production Notes

When two brothers and their friends decide to get out of their dead end jobs and into the glamorous, easy money world of the mob, they learn that this is also a world of treachery, revenge and sudden, brutal death. We learn who are the wannabes and who are the real thing.

Wannabes was shot entirely in the streets of Brooklyn—in Park Slope, Bensonhurst, Sheepshead Bay and Carol Gardens. Filming took place in the summer and fall of 2000. The locations give the film a sense of gritty realism. When the climactic gun battle sequences were filmed, locals lined up to watch and, this being Brooklyn, they all had their comments about the realism and accuracy of the scenes.

“They were pretty impressed,” says director/producer Charles Addessi. Local people were hired as background and they may or may not have been gang members themselves. “I can only assume that they might have been, but they don’t exactly wear tags that say ‘Hello, I’m a member of the mob!’”

Although Addessi shares director credits with his partner, William DeMeo, Addessi handled all the actual physical directing, while DeMeo became involved in the casting, music selection and editing. He had enough on his plate as the star of the movie, being in virtually every scene. He also produced the film with Addessi and wrote the script.

“Willie and I functioned as a filmmaking team. We get along really well together and very rarely step on each other’s toes, which is kind of bizarre for a co-directorship,” says Addessi.

William DeMeo set his story in the streets of his own youth. “There’s a lot of people who wanna be somebody and they can’t a lot of the times. That’s what this is about.” His own childhood in Brooklyn did not involve any Mafia characters though it did mean stickball in the summer and the occasional broken window.

Brian Reynolds, who shared director of photography credit with Roland “Ozzie” Smith, brings a new style of cinematography to *Wannabes*—“classic strokes of golden color with a hint of modern rawness.”

Costume designer Mildred Brignoni, has carefully used color and fit to define each character's personality. She dressed the ambitious older brother, Angelo in strong blues and greens while younger brother Paulie, wears whites and neutrals to symbolize his innocence. As their luck changes, so do their clothes, with high fashion labels such as Byblos.

At the New York International Independent Film and Video Festival, held in December, 2000, *Wannabes* garnered three awards. Addressi and DeMeo were named Best Directors. The Best Actor Award went to DeMeo, while Conor Dubin garnered the Best Supporting Actor Award.

About the cast... **William DeMeo** not only stars in the film. He also wrote the screenplay, produced and co-directed. His debut film role was in *A Bronx Tale*. He wrote, produced and starred in *One Deadly Road*. Other film credits include *Hackers* and *Layin' Low*. He portrayed Carlo Gambino in the TV movie *Boss of Bosses*. **Conor Dubin** has appeared on the TV soap *All My Children* and was a guest on the comedy series *Spin City*. He played the lead in his first feature film *Tea Cakes or Cannolis*. A Lee Strasberg student, **John Palumbo** had roles in the movies *Wedding Band* and Spike Lee's *Bamboozled* and is a regular on the HBO series *Oz*. **Daniel Margotta** has had roles in such films as *Godfather III*, *The Hardway*, *One Good Cop*, *Carlito's Way* and *The Scout*. **Joseph D'Onofrio** claims that he owes his success to his strong resemblance to Joe Pesci. He has appeared in such notable films as *Goodfellas*, *A Bronx Tale* and the Spike Lee movies, *Jungle Fever* and *Astoria*. **Joe Viterelli** is an accomplished actor with more than 30 film and television credits. These include *Mobsters*, *Bullets over Broadway*, *Crossing Guard*, *Eraser*, *Analyze This* and *Mickey Blue Eyes*. Like many of the actors in *Wannabes* **John Glenn Hoyt** appeared in *A Bronx Tale*. He also had roles in *Carlito's Way*, *Basketball Diaries*, *Die Hard with a Vengeance*, *The Funeral* and *Hot Ice*. He is also one of the co-producers on *Wannabes*. **Vinny Vella**, who has been acting for about 30 years, has an extensive credit list including *Donnie Brasco*, *Casino*, *Copland*, *Rounders* and *Ghost Dog*. He also has a very successful career in commercials. **Robert Costanzo** has guested in a number of top television shows such as *NYPD Blue* and *Friends*. Among his many movie credits are *Forget Paris*, *Honeymoon in Vegas* and *Saturday Night Fever*. **Sascha Knopf** is an accomplished film actress who has appeared

in such films as *BlackMale*, *Fishes Outta Water*, *Domain* and, most recently, *What's the Worst Thing Can Happen?* **Nelson Vasquez** broke on to the scene as the lead dancer in Michael Jackson's *Bad* video. Following this he toured with Aretha Franklin and Luther Vandross. He co-starred in such films as *Do the Right Thing*, *Girl 6*, *Carlito's Way*, *Money Train* and *Summer of Sam*. He stars in the upcoming independent features *Home Invaders*, *R-Xmas* and *Pinero*, in which he co-stars with Benjamin Bratt. **Raymond Serra** has appeared in such notable films as *Sugar Hill*, *Prizzi's Honor* and Woody Allen's *Purple Rose of Cairo*. He also starred in the HBO hit *Gotti* and was recognized by children everywhere for his role of Chief Stearns in *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*.

About the filmmakers... Director/producer **Charles A. Addessi** won many honors on the festival circuit for his first motion picture, *The Clouds of Magellan*, dealing with heroin addiction and rehabilitation. His second film was *One Deadly Road*. He has also produced, written and directed numerous short subjects, commercials, industrials and live entertainment. Producer **Nicole Craig**'s main career has been in producing television specials for which she has received numerous awards, including the Time Warner/Warner Bros. Pictures Film Production Award. Ventura Entertainment, Inc., which she co-founded, has produced music videos for the likes of Warner Bros. Records, Sony Records and C2/Columbia. **Donna McKenna**, who served as associate producer and was also responsible for additional casting, started out as an actress, but turned to talent management. Her clients have appeared in many of today's top television series and numerous motion pictures, including *Carlito's Way*, *Independence Day*, *Private Parts* and *Godzilla*. More recently she has worked as a casting director on a number of independent films. Director of photography, **Brian J. Reynolds** was nominated for an Emmy for his break-out work on the first four seasons of *NYPD Blue* and was nominated four times for A.S.C.'s Outstanding Achievement in Cinematography for a Regular Series. He received a similar nomination for his work on ABC's *Civil Wars*. **Roland "Ozzie" Smith** stepped in as director of photography when a prior commitment prevented Brian Reynolds from completing the film. Smith won the Emmy and A.S.C. Award for his work on *Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman*. His other credits include *Alien Nation*, *Hunter* and *The Fall Guy*. His feature film credits include *Savage Land* and *The New Adventures of Pippi Longstocking*. Production designer **Ann McKinnon** started her

career in Chicago. Since moving to New York she has continued to work on television, print, commercial and feature film projects as a property master and set decorator. *Wannabes* is her first production design credit. Costume designer **Mildred Brignoni** has worked with the biggest. She styled Claudia Schiffer and Helena Christensen for Victoria's Secret; pop divas, Whitney Houston and CeCe Winan, and the Emmy Award winning *Chris Rock Show* on HBO. She has also been costume designer on a number of feature films, including *Tears of a Clown*, *Home Invaders* and *TAR*..

Wannabes is a Pinnacle Filmworks and 86th Street Productions presentation of an Addressi DeMeo film starring William DeMeo, Conor Dubin and Joe Viterelli.

Charles A. Addessi

Director/Producer

Wannabes has added to Charles Addessi's rapidly growing reputation as a filmmaker. The film garnered him the Best Director Award at the 2000 New York International Film and Video Festival. The film was unusual in that there were two directors, with William DeMeo also serving in that capacity as well as starring in the film, producing and writing the screenplay. But the bulk of the actual directing such as camera angles, shot selection as well as the direction of the actors was handled by Addessi.

Says Addessi, "Willie and I functioned as a filmmaking team and we get along really well together. We very rarely step on each other's toes, which is kind of bizarre for a co-directorship."

This is Charles' fourth film. He began his career with the motion picture *The Clouds of Magellan*, based on a true story dealing with heroin addiction and rehabilitation. It was heralded by the internationally renowned Daytop Organization as one of the best films they had seen on the subject in over thirty years. The film has won many accolades on the festival circuit and is now in worldwide video distribution.

His second film, *One Deadly Road*, starring Burt Young, captures the true essence of organized crime in Brooklyn. It was successfully shown on pay-per-view and gained national video distribution through the major chains.

Addessi has also produced a number of short films including *Beyond Reason* which is currently being developed as a full-length feature film.

He has produced and directed successful runs of *The Fantastics*, *The Wizard of Oz* and *Grease* in New York regional theater and directed, produced and wrote the stage play *Dreamcaster*.

Charles Addessi's production background extends into radio and television. He produced a Latin American music video show titled *Salsero USA* which aired in five cities on the East Coast. He has also been the voice behind hundreds of commercials and industrials for 15 years.

Addessi graduated from St. John's University in 1982 with a B.S. in marketing, finance and communications. His clients have included HBO, the American Cancer Society, the American Stock Exchange and Merrill Lynch.

Conor Dubin

Paulie

Born and raised in Connecticut, Dubin found his passion for acting at an early age. He was 11. He has appeared on the ABC soap opera, *All My Children* and guest starred on the hit television show *Spin City*. In his first feature movie, *Tea Cakes or Cannolis*, he played the lead opposite veteran actor Abe Vigoda. The film has been screened at many prestigious festivals, including Cannes.

Conor received the Best Supporting Actor Award at the 2000 New York International Independent Film Festival for his role in *Wannabes*.

John Palumbo

(Dom)

John Palumbo, who is a New York City native, studied acting with the famed Lee Strasberg. Shortly after completing his studies he landed a role in the feature film *Wedding Band*. He spent two years working as an extra in the highly acclaimed HBO series *Oz*. Tom Fontana, creator and producer of the show, saw the great potential and acting ability in Palumbo and decided to write him the role of Don Zanghi, which made John a member of the regular cast. He can also be seen in Spike Lee's *Bamboozled*.

Daniel Margotta

(Pete)

Margotta has been acting for eleven years, starting his career with roles in such films as *Godfather III*, *The Hardway*, *One Good Cop*, *Carlito's Way* and *The Scout*. He also had a co-starring role in the CBS Television series pilot *True Detectives* and the NBC series *Law and Order*. He has gained nationwide recognition for his "got milk" television commercial.

Joseph D'Onofrio

(Vinny)

D'Onofrio creates a memorable persona out of the loathsome character of Vinny, the son of a Mafia don who is ready to betray anyone if it gives him an edge.

Joseph started acting in various TV commercials at the age of 15. He made his film debut in the now classic movie *Goodfellas*. He bears a striking resemblance to Joe Pesci and reckons that he got his break because of that.

He co-starred in Robert DeNiro's *A Bronx Tale*, in the role of Slick. Joseph also appeared in Spike Lee's *Jungle Fever* and *Astoria*, and in two of John Gallagher's movies, *The Deli* and *Blue Moon*. His latest role was in the feature film *Crooked Lines*.

Joe Viterelli

(Santo)

Viterelli is an accomplished actor with more than 30 film and television credits. He made his motion picture debut in *State of Grace*. Other film credits include *Mobsters*, Woody Allen's *Bullets over Broadway*, *Crossing Guard*, *Eraser* and *Jane Austen's Mafia*.

Before all this he played classical guitar—"but I never told the guys in the neighborhood about it. They'd have thought I was a sissy." Just one look at Viterelli's craggy face will tell you that sissy he is not. An admirer of George Gershwin, he thinks of himself as a cross between the famed composer and Edward G. Robinson.

When he was still in his twenties he inherited four music schools and taught classical guitar. Business wasn't good. He opened a few bars, drove a truck, owned a cleaning service. He even had a job drilling holes in bowling bowls, anything to keep food on the table for his five children.

He moved to Los Angeles in the seventies, living next door to director Leo Penn, father of Sean. When Sean asked him to appear in *State of Grace* as a favor, Joe agreed and thus was born a new career, one that lasted.

He gained worldwide recognition for his memorable role as Jelly in *Analyze This*, working alongside Robert DeNiro. He can also be seen as Vinny in the motion picture *Mickey Blue Eyes*.

John Glenn Hoyt

(Eddie)

Co-producer

Born and raised in the Bronx, John started his acting career in 1991. He studied his craft at Carnegie Hall under the wing of Robert X. Mortica.

He made his debut in *Carlito's Way* and since then has appeared in a dozen movies. He had prominent roles in *Basketball Diaries*, *A Bronx Tale*, *Die Hard with a Vengeance* and Abel Ferrara's *The Funeral*. His most recent film was *Hot Ice*.

Sascha Knopf

(Tammy)

Raised in New York, Sascha is an accomplished film actress who has appeared in such films as *BlackMale*, *Fishes Outta Water*, *Domain* and, most recently, *What's the Worst Thing Can Happen?* In which she co-stars with Danny Devito.

Vinny Vella

(Carmin)

Vinny Vella has been acting professionally since 1970. Born and raised in New York City, this accomplished actor has more than 30 film and television roles under his belt.

He has appeared in such notable films as *Donnie Brasco*, *Casino*, *Copland*, *Rounders* and, most recently, in *Ghost Dog*. He has gained nationwide recognition for his many commercials, including Nokia phones.

Robert Costanzo

(Mr. Letto)

Costanzo has many film and television credits to his name, including the TV series *NYPD Blue*, *Friends* and *Falcone*. Among the films in which he has appeared are *Forget Paris*, *Honeymoon in Vegas* and *Saturday Night Fever*.

Nelson Vasquez

(Hector)

Vasquez broke onto the entertainment scene as the lead dancer in Michael Jackson's seminal video, *Bad*. He toured with Aretha Franklin and Luther Vandross. Shortly after the tour he landed co-starring roles in such high profile features as *Do The Right Thing*, *Girl 6*, *Carlito's Way*, *Money Train* and *Summer of Sam*.

He recently completed the independent feature films *Home Invaders*, in which he stars alongside Luis Guzman and Keith David, and *R-Xmas*, directed by Abel Ferrara.

Nelson's most recent film is *Pinero*, in which he co-stars with Benjamin Bratt.

Raymond Serra

(Uncle Tommy)

Ray started his career in the early '70s and he has amassed a long list of acting credits in feature films, television and on Broadway.

His many memorable films include *Sugar Hill*, *Prizzi's Honor* and *Purple Rose of Cairo*. He earned rave reviews for his role in the HBO hit, *Gotti*. Children the world over recognize him from his role of Chief Stearns in *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*.

William DeMeo

Producer/Director/Writer

Along with the above-named triple hyphenate William DeMeo is one of the stars of *Wannabes*. Throw in a liberal dash of charisma and his Italian good looks and you have one very talented person.

William was born and raised in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn, graduating from high school in the late eighties. After spending a year and a half at Staten Island College he hung around for a few years, trying to figure out what he wanted to do with his life. That decision was made when, at the age of 22, he made his acting debut in Robert DeNiro's *A Bronx Tale*. Additional roles came quickly. He appeared in the TV shows *New York Undercover* and *NYPD Blue* and the movies *Hackers* and *Loose Women*. He did a short film, *Revolving Doors*.

He realized that the Hollywood writers were missing the realism of the Brooklyn streets and started writing his own scripts. "They were over-emphasizing the accents and missing the real situation," he says.

Some five years after his acting debut he wrote and co-produced *One Deadly Road* which has a theme familiar to the young writer—a young man, portrayed by DeMeo, wants to leave his home in Bensonhurst and become an actor. The character, however, has connections to the mob, something that is far from William's own life. In this film, as in *Wannabes*, it was important for him to make the film as close to reality as he could.

He won the Best Actor Award at the New York International Independent Film Festival, held in December 2000, for his portrayal of Angelo in *Wannabes*. He also shared the Best Director Award with Charles Addessi.

DeMeo also appeared in *Layin' Low*. He portrayed Carlo Gambino in the TV movie *Boss of Bosses*.

Nicole Craig

Producer

Nicole Craig began her career producing television specials and music videos. She received numerous awards, including the Time Warner/Warner Bros. Pictures Film Production Award and the Thomas William Gidro-Frank Film Production Award. She co-produced a music television special, *Keeping the Music Alive*, for the multi-Emmy and Grammy award winning Ginger Group Productions. Heading up production for the Ginger Group, specializing in entertainment and musical programming, concerts, cds and records, as well as electronic press kits, she continued to produce and lens several television productions.

In 1999 she co-founded Ventura Entertainment, Inc. for which she executive produced and produced several music videos. Her clients included Warner Bros. Records, Sony Records and C2/Columbia.

Most recently she was associate producer on the Samsara *Tuning Out* music video and the Jacky et Benji's music video *FierfNegmarrons*. She completed similar chores for the DJ Hurricane music video *Connect* featuring Xhibit, Pharaoh Monch and Big Gipp. This was in the rap single top ten for three months. Her short films have been shown at numerous festivals.

Donna McKenna

Associate producer and additional casting

Donna started out as an actor, earning a scholarship to the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. However, she soon found her niche in talent management, working in that capacity for five years. Her clients have appeared on numerous television shows, such as *Law and Order*, *Central Park West*, *Spin City* and *New York Undercover* plus many soap operas and music videos.

She moved into the motion picture arena, joining L.C.A. Performing Arts and working with many New York based talent agencies. Her talent appeared in many feature films, including *Carlito's Way*, *Ransom*, *One Fine Day*, *Eraser*, *Independence Day*, *Private Parts* and *Godzilla*.

Donna opened the doors of her own casting agency in 1997 and has since cast five independent films. This included an "additional casting" credit for the film *Judy Berlin* which won the 1999 Golden Starfish Award at the International Film Festival and the 1999 Best Director Award at the Sundance Film Festival.

She followed this up with *A Packing Suburbia* where she served as producer and casting director. This film went on to win the Best Director Award at the International Film Expo and the 2000 Best Feature Film and Best Director awards at the New York International Film Festival. She was also casting director and co-producer on *The Home Invaders*. She is a member of the Long Island Filmmaker's Network.

Brian J. Reynolds

Director of Photography

Brian Reynolds started out as a still photographer for fashion and product. He traveled all over the world lensing commercials and music videos for such people as Boyz to Men and Stevie Wonder.

He came into his own with his ground-breaking cinematic vision, shooting the first four seasons of *NYPD Blue*. This earned him an Emmy nomination for Outstanding Cinematography for a Series plus four similarly named nominations from the A.S.C. He also garnered an A.S.C. nomination for his work on ABC's *Civil Wars*.

Reynolds' work can also be seen in the highly acclaimed *With Friends Like These*, which won the Santa Barbara Film Festival Audience Award for Best Feature; *Guarding Tess* for Columbia TriStar, and *Gang Related* for Orion/MGM. He was additional photographer on *Big Daddy*.

His television credits are outstanding and include the ABC miniseries *The Beach Boys: An American Family*, *Boss of Bosses*, *The Price of a Broken Heart*, *What We Did That Night* and *Brooklyn South*.

Reynolds describes the new style that he brings to *Wannabes* as "classic strokes of golden color with a hint of modern rawness."

Roland “Ozzie” Smith, A.S.C.

Director of Photography

When Brian Reynolds had to leave his work on *Wannabes* because of a prior commitment, Roland “Ozzie” Smith was brought in to complete the project.

Smith is both an Emmy and A.S.C. Award winner. He has lensed more than 20 episodic television shows and several movies of the week and feature films. He received both his awards for *Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman*. Other television credits include *Alien Nation*, *Hunter*, *The Fall Guy*, *The D.R.E.A.M. T.E.A.M.*, and *Little Men*.

Among the many features that Smith has shot are *Savage Land* for director Dean Hamilton, *The New Adventures of Pippi Longstocking* for Ken Annakin, and Frank Q. Dobbs’ *Uphill All the Way*.

Smith’s m.o.w.s include *Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman*, *Side by Side*, *Murder in the Mirror* and *Mardi Gras Weekend*.

Ann McKinnon

Production designer

Ann McKinnon is an artist at heart. While at the University of Illinois she loved to spend hours taking drawing and painting classes. From painting classes to a photography class that led to a film class, an interest in a film career solidified. After college she stayed in Chicago and worked as a property master and set designer.

She moved to New York in 1998 where she found work in television, print, commercial and feature film projects. She worked with such publications as *L’Uomo Vogue* and *Time Out*, New York. She served as art director on the forthcoming film *Series 7: The Contenders*.

Wannabes marks the first production design credit for Ann.
