The Godfather

It dates from 1971 and was directed by Francis Ford Coppola. The Godfather won three Oscars.

The film lasts almost three hours and is Shakespearean in its scope and ambition. It is the story of a New York mafia family which is headed by Marlon Brando as ‘the Godfather’.

Although Brando has the title role it is Al Pacino, who plays his troubled son and heir Michael, who steals the show in a masterly performance. As he struggles to reconcile his distaste for crime and brutality with his sense of family honor and duty, Pacino’s character embodies the moral dilemma at the heart of the movie.

The director intersperses long scenes of family life with shorter sequences of extreme violence in order to achieve his aim of taking the audience on an emotional rollercoaster ride. Because it was shot in explicit detail, this violence may shock some viewers. However, anyone who is prepared to put up with this will enjoy a unique dramatic experience. In fact, for many people The Godfather is the greatest American film which had been made in the 1970s.

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