

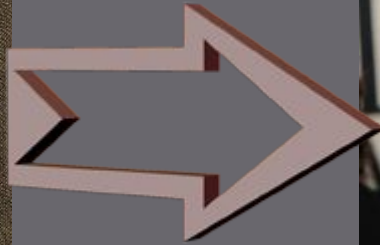
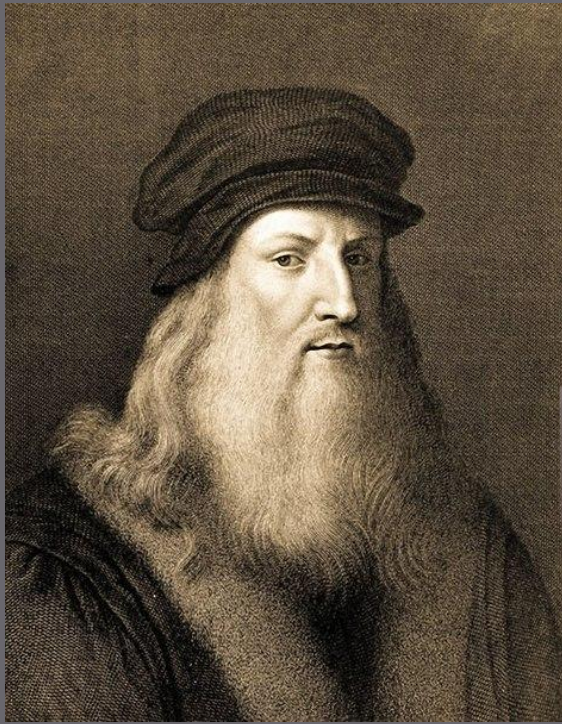
# ***LEONARDO DICAPRIO***

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Leonardo Wilhelm DiCaprio (born November 11, 1974) is an American actor and film producer.

DiCaprio was born in Los Angeles, California, the only child in the family. His parents divorced when he was a year old and he lived mostly with his mother, although his father was around intermittently. During his childhood, DiCaprio was interested in baseball cards, comic books, and frequently visited museums with his father.



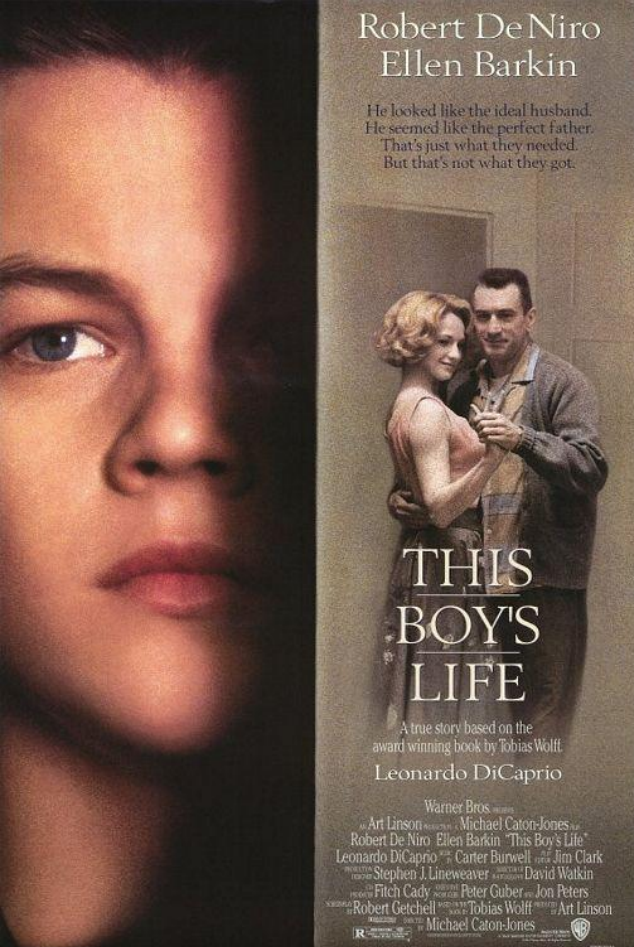
Leo's mother chose him such an unusual name, when not yet born son pushed against her when she viewed a picture of Leonardo da Vinci.





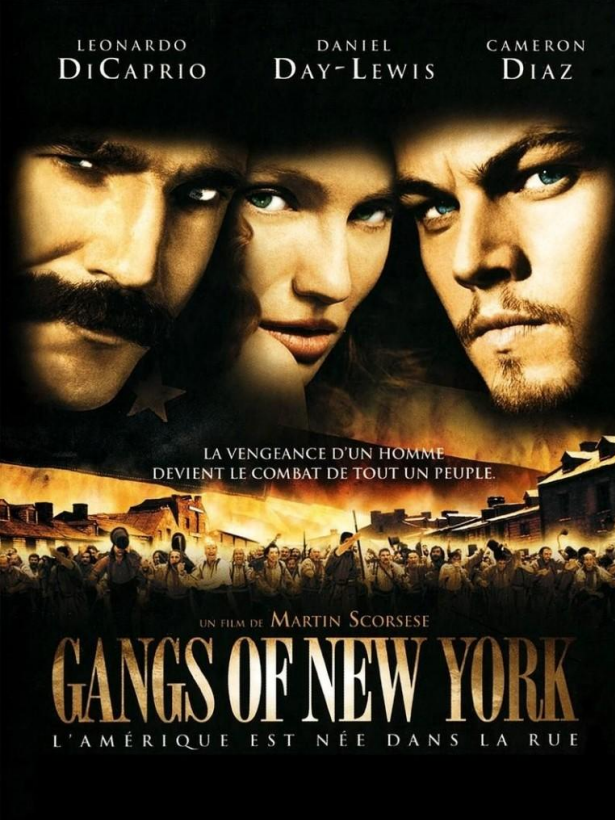
DiCaprio's career began with his appearing in several commercials and educational films. He got his break on television in 1990 when he was cast in the short-lived series based on the movie Parenthood. His debut film role was Critters 3, a B-grade horror film, which later went straight to video.





His breakthrough came in 1992, when he beat out hundreds of other boys for the role of Toby Wolff in *This Boy's Life*, co-starring Robert De Niro and Ellen Barkin. The move from "star" to "superstar" came when DiCaprio played Jack Dawson in the 1997 blockbuster *Titanic*, his popularity skyrocketed, with the media dubbing it "Leo-mania".





In 2002, DiCaprio starred in *Gangs of New York* (directed by Martin Scorsese) and *Catch Me If You Can* (directed by Steven Spielberg). Both films were very well received by critics. DiCaprio continued his run with Scorsese in the 2006 film *The Departed* as Billy Costigan, a smart undercover cop in Boston. His next film was *Blood Diamond*, released in December 2006.

