

Armand Assante—A Life
Actor/Writer/Director

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Armand Assante/ Ora Vivo

Armand Assante has distinguished himself as one of the most elusive and yet prolific Actors of his generation. Internationally he is sought in the Film sector as much as he has been the guest of leading industrialists and leaders around the world.

In Argentina in this year 2013, he is Co Producing and Acting in Diego Rafeca's "Ley Primera" (First Law) due for release later this year, a film focusing on the disappearance of the Chaco Indians from Latin America.

The Actor was awarded in 2012 Best Documentary Short at the Gasparilla International Film Festival, in Tampa, Florida for his film "Dialogue From the Steppes" written and directed by himself and is in his opinion is why Kazakhstan should be recognized as a nation who has been a significant leader in the Global Peace Initiative. (on YouTube and Vimeo.)

In Kazakhstan that same year 2012 Assante Co Produced and Starred in "Whole World at Our Feet" simultaneously. (YouTube-- Trailer --"Whole World At Our Feet" HD Movie Trailer.)

In Serbia in 2012 Armand joined the Dragan Bjelogrić's acclaimed Film "Montivideo Taste of a Dream" focusing on the historical birth of of the World Cup.

2013 mark's the birth of Assante's own brand of legacy products known as "Ora Vivo". Having been sought to be an iconic image for many international companies for years, he has finally created his own.

In 2010 he received both Lifetime Achievement Awards from the Long Island International Film Festival as well as the Italian Walk of Fame in Toronto, Canada.

In March of 2007 Armand received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Westchester Film Festival, in New York State, having spent the previous three years working almost entirely in Eastern Europe.

In Bulgaria in the Spring of 2006, Assante completed filming Irving Yalom's critically acclaimed novel "When Nietzsche Wept" in the role of the German philosopher Frederich Nietzsche, helmed by producer/director Pinchas Perry which received Five Stars at the Jerusalem Film Festival 2006.

In Romania of June 2006, he starred in Christy Nemescu's black comedy, 'California Dreamin', based on an incident during the Bosnian Conflict, which won the The Cannes Film Festival 2007 in Au Certain Regard category as well as 21 International Film Festivals in a cache of categories.

The consummate actor, with an obsession for rhythm and music since boyhood, emerged as a professional drummer and singer in his teens and considers himself a journeyman who has spent his life on the road. Every object or piece of art in his home has been collected from native indigenous peoples from literally all over the planet.

In September of 1997, Armand Assante received the Emmy Award in the category of Outstanding Lead Actor in a Special for his portrayal of notorious crime boss, John Gotti, in HBO Pictures biographical drama Gotti. Assante had previously garnered nominations for both a Golden Globe and SAG Award, also receiving the Capri Hollywood Award in Capri, Italy in December 1997, for the same performance.

Also during September of 1997, the country of Greece, in their premier of The Odyssey, Assante was honored at the Acropolis for his starring role of Odysseus in this Hallmark Entertainment/NBC four-hour miniseries. At the time it aired in the USA, this was the highest watched miniseries on any network since 1994 (and NBC's highest since 1991) attracting 50 million viewers. In January of 1998, Assante was nominated for a Golden Globe for this starring role.

Assante has earned consistent international recognition for work in many diverse feature films. His last completed film role in 2006 is in Ridley Scott's "American Gangster" in New York, opposite Denzel Washington. He starred as musician Cesar Castillo in Arne Glimcher's 'The Mambo Kings', was suspected in the death of Jimmy Hoffa in Danny DeVito's 'Hoffa' and played the chief advisor to Queen Isabel in Ridley Scott's epic '1492, Conquest of Paradise'. He received a Golden

Globe nomination for his work in Sidney Lumet's 'Q & A', in 1990 and in 1986 won a Special Jury Prize at the USA Film Festival for the title role in 'Belizaire, The Cajun'. Additional feature film credits include, 'Paradise Alley', 'Little Darlings', 'Private Benjamin', 'I, The Jury', 'Unfaithfully Yours', 'The Penitent', 'Fatal Instinct', 'Trial By Jury', 'Judge Dredd' and many independents.

Between 2000 and 2003 Armand completed six independent projects: 'Last Run' by Tony Hickox in Budapest, Hungary, Ernest Hemingway's 'After The Storm' by A.E. Hotchner, director Guy Ferland, Bobby Moresco's Hell's Kitchen thriller 'One Eyed King', 'Federal Protection' and 'Consequence' by Tony Hickox and 'Tough Luck' produced by Brian Etting.

In 2002 Armand Assante completed 'Citizen Verdict', a satire on the death penalty in which he co-starred with Jerry Springer, and in 2003, a film on the subject of computer terrorism entitled 'Dotkill' with director John Irvin which premiered at the Capri Hollywood Film Festival in Italy on the New Year of 2005.

'Two for the Money' with Al Pacino and the comedy 'Funny Money' based on Ray Cooney's hit London stage play with comedian Chevy Chase won the Sarasota Film Festival and placed second at the Aspen Comedy Film Festival shot in Romania in the fall of 2004.

He filmed 'Lost' a psychological thriller set in Spain, produced by Drimtim Entertainment., Barcelona in 2004.

Armand has been nominated for an Annie Award for his voice performance in the animated feature 'The Road to El Dorado'. He tries to do at least 1 project within each two-year period for children.

For his work in television, Assante was nominated for both an Emmy and a Golden Globe for Jack The Ripper. He has also starred in such notable telefilms as 'Kidnapped', 'Blind Justice', 'Fever', 'Napoleon and Josephine', 'Hands Of A Stranger', 'Evergreen', 'Why Me?' and 'Rage of Angels'.

During 1998 Assante filmed two projects. The first, Looking for an Echo, examining the relationship between Assante as a musician father and his son; and in the Ted Turner film historical docudrama C.S.S. 'Hunley', Assante played the commander of the first submarine launched in the American Civil War by the Confederacy.

In January 2000 Assante returned from Australia where he completed Showtime's remake of the 1959 Stanley Kramer film, 'On The Beach', starring again as the commander of a submarine. 'On The Beach' received Golden Globe nomination for Best Mini Series 2000 and received the IFA Award in Australia for Best Mini Series 2000.

Hemingway's 'After The Storm' directed by Guy Ferland, in which Assante also stars, has garnered Angel City Award and Best Picture Award at New York International Film Festival.

A native of New York City and presently Orange County, New York, he is the son of an Italian American Artist and and Irish American Musician and Poet. Born on Manhattan's upper west side in Washington Heights he is still close to his family in Naples and Rome, Italy.

At seventeen Assante entered the American Academy of Dramatic Arts where he won the Jehlinger Award for Best Actor in 1969, making his professional theatre debut that same year opposite Imogene Coca in 'Why I Went Crazy' under the direction of Joshua Logan.

He spent ten years in the theater before his film debut in 1977, remaining a devoted student of Mira Rostova in New York for twenty five years. He mentored with Cliff Osmond with whom he developed projects for twenty years as well.

Playing the main stage of almost every regional theatre on the East Coast since he was nineteen years of age, his additional stage credits include the Broadway productions of 'Boccaccio', 'Comedians', 'Romeo and Juliet' and 'Kingdoms', as Napoleon Bonaparte as well as 'Yanks 3, Detroit 0, Rubbers', 'The Beauty Part' and 'Lake Of The Woods'.

When not working...

Armand Assante is a landmine removal activist. He is an active member of Landmine Survivors Network, which is a data based communications group that specializes in the immediate rehabilitation and medical assistance for landmine victims globally. LSN is based in Washington, D.C. and was founded by landmine survivors Jerry White and Ken Rutherford.

On his second trip to Croatia after before and post 9/11 Assante contributed personally and raised financing for Doking Engineering, a firm specializing in the

removal and detonation of landmines. He has actually been on landmine sites in Croatia with Slavko Majetic, the head of Doking Engineering, twice in 2000 and 2001.. His contribution created international assistance that addressed the landmine sweep in Croatia dramatically.

His website includes information on how contributions can be made to these two outstanding organizations.

During the production of 'Blind Dragon', a documentary he has written and directed on the global landmine crisis, Armand in the winter of 2003 in Africa, was forced to stop filming, before entering Angola, the budget threatened by embezzlement in that country.

His daughter, Anya, 30, is a graduate of the University of Michigan and has been a marketing associate for Louis Vuitton and David Yurman and is the Event Planner for 'Christies' in Manhattan.

Alesandra, 25, attended Hunter College in Manhattan and is pursuing a career in Music and Film. They live there, as well as on their farm in the Hudson Valley.

Armand's outdoor passion has seen him raise horses, champion bloodline German Shepherds, Bulls and Trees.

His home has been photographed and documented internationally.