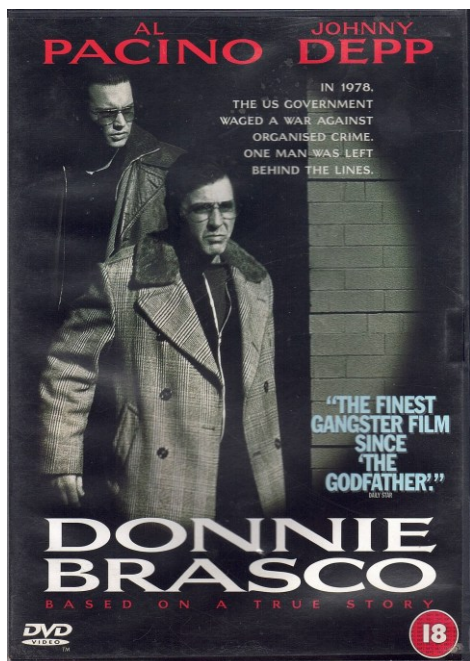


# The Paragon Multimedia DVD, VHS Collection

Title: **Donnie Brasco**



\*Based on True Events

Library Image

ISBN: 5017239190186

## Information

Release Title: Donnie Brasco 30<sup>th</sup> April 1997 (United Kingdom)

From:

AKA: Donnie Brasco: Ke Nam Vung

Release date: United States

Origin: USA.

Genre: Biography, Crime, Drama,

Disc Nos. - 1

Certification: 18

Duration: 2h 7m

Region Code:

Region: 2

Product Code:

MPN:

EAN:

UPC:

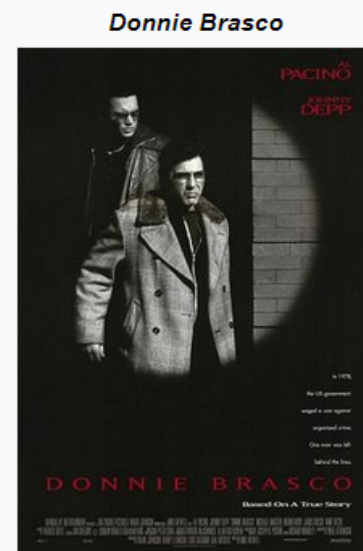
Languages: English, Italian, Japanese,

Filming Locations: Katz's Delicatessen - 205 East Houston Street, Lower East Side, Manhattan, New York City, New York, USA

Sound mix: SDDS, Dolby Digital

Aspect ratio: 2:35:1

Colour: PAL



Theatrical release poster

Directed by	Mike Newell
Screenplay by	Paul Attanasio
Based on	<i>Donnie Brasco: My Undercover Life in the Mafia</i> by Joseph D. Pistone Richard Woodley
Produced by	Mark Johnson Barry Levinson Louis DiGialmo Gail Mutrux
Starring	Al Pacino Johnny Depp Michael Madsen Bruno Kirby James Russo Anne Heche
Cinematography	Peter Sova
Edited by	Jon Gregory
Music by	Patrick Doyle
Production companies	TriStar Pictures Mandalay Entertainment Baltimore Pictures Mark Johnson Productions
Distributed by	Sony Pictures Releasing (United States) Summit Entertainment (International) <sup>[1]</sup>
Release dates	February 24, 1997 (Century City, California) February 28, 1997 (United States)
Running time	127 minutes
Country	United States
Language	English
Budget	\$35 million <sup>[2]</sup>
Box office	\$124.9 million <sup>[3]</sup>

## Storyline

In 1978 New York City, Lefty Ruggiero, an aging enforcer in the Bonanno crime family, meets Joe Pistone, a young undercover FBI agent posing as jewel thief "Donnie Brasco". Lefty asks Donnie to sell a diamond he acquired from a strip club owner, but Donnie insists that it's a fake. Insulted, Lefty takes Donnie to the man and demands an explanation. Donnie beats the owner and takes his Porsche as repayment. Lefty teaches Donnie the rules of the Mafia and introduces him to members of his crew, including Sonny Black, Nicky, Paulie, and rival crew leader Sonny Red. After the boss of the family is killed, Sonny receives a promotion, angering Lefty who feels his years of service make him more deserving. As the crew runs a series of successful shakedowns and hijackings in the city, Pistone exploits his position as Lefty's associate to gather information for the FBI via wiretap recordings. He also ends up forming a genuine bond with Lefty, who is struggling with family issues and a lifetime of debt.

Pistone is asked by his FBI supervisor to incorporate Miami-based undercover FBI Agent Richie Gazzo into the Donnie Brasco operation. He convinces Lefty to meet with Richie and set up an illegal gambling racket in a long-closed tavern he owns. Lefty hopes to impress the local mob boss, Santo Trafficante Jr., by throwing a yacht party and convincing him to support his new business. Sonny finds out about Lefty's plan and intercedes by ingratiating himself to Trafficante and officially taking Donnie under his wing. Lefty believes Donnie betrayed him and cuts ties with him until Lefty's son nearly dies of an overdose and Donnie is the only one who comes to comfort him. Pistone's marriage with his wife Maggie continues to worsen due to long absences while undercover, leaving her alone to look after their three daughters. Pistone's behaviour increasingly becomes more like that of the criminal he pretends to be, even hitting Maggie when she talks back to him.

On its opening day, Sonny's club is raided by corrupt Miami Police officers on Trafficante's payroll as a favor for Sonny Red. Suspecting a setup, Sonny Black and his crew return to New York and gun down Sonny Red and two other mobsters in an ambush. Sonny Black also orders Lefty to kill Nicky for lying about a drug deal and suspecting he snitched on the crew in Florida. Donnie is brought in to help clean up and dispose of the bodies. Sonny Black becomes the new boss and orders Donnie to kill Sonny Red's son, Bruno, so that Donnie can officially become a member of their family. Lefty finds Bruno's hideout and takes Donnie there. Donnie tries to offer Lefty a bag of money so he can leave the Mafia, but Lefty begins questioning his loyalty at gunpoint. The FBI intercedes before Donnie is forced to do anything, and the investigation ends.

FBI agents visit Sonny Black's hangout and reveal Donnie's true identity to the crew. Knowing the fatal consequences that await him for unknowingly letting an FBI agent infiltrate the crime family, Lefty leaves behind his valuables and tells his wife that if Donnie calls to tell him "if it was going to be anyone, I'm glad it was him", before he is called to a meeting with his crew. With his family in attendance, Pistone attends a small private ceremony for his service, being awarded a medal and a \$500 check.

The end title cards state that the evidence collected by Pistone in the Donnie Brasco operation led to over 200 indictments and over 100 convictions. Pistone lives with his wife under an assumed name in an undisclosed location, with a \$500,000 open contract on his head.

## Cast

Al Pacino as Lefty Ruggiero

Johnny Depp as Joseph D. Pistone / Donnie Brasco

Michael Madsen as Sonny Black

Bruno Kirby as Nicky Santora

James Russo as Paulie (John "Boobie" Cersani)

Anne Heche as Maggie Pistone  
Željko Ivanek as Tim Curley  
Gerry Becker as Dean Blandford FBI  
Robert Miano as Sonny Red  
Brian Tarantina as Bruno Indelicato  
Rocco Sisto as Richie Gazzo  
Zach Grenier as Dr. Berger  
Walt MacPherson as Sheriff  
Ronnie Farer as Annette  
Terry Serpico as Strip club owner  
Gretchen Mol as Sonny's girlfriend  
Tony Lip as Philly Lucky  
George Angelica as Big Trin  
Val Avery as Trafficante  
Madison Arnold as Jilly  
Tim Blake Nelson as FBI Technician  
Paul Giamatti as FBI Technician

### **Certification**

Argentina:16 Australia:MA Belgium:KT/EA Brazil:16 Canada:18A Canada:16+ (original rating, Quebec) Canada:13+ (2007, re-rating, Quebec) Denmark:15 Ecuador:Sin Calificación (self-applied) Egypt:R (self-applied) Finland:K-15/13 Finland:K-16/13 Finland:K-16 (original rating) France:Tous publics Germany:16 (bw) Hong Kong:IIB Hungary:18 Iceland:16 India:A Ireland:18 Israel:16 (self-applied) Italy:T Japan:16+ (self-applied) Mexico:B Netherlands:16 New Zealand:R16 Nigeria:18 Norway:18 Peru:18 Poland:16 (self-applied) Portugal:M/16 Russia:0+ Saudi Arabia:R18 Singapore:M18 South Korea:15 South Korea:18 (theatrical) Spain:18 Sweden:15 Turkey:18+ United Kingdom:18 United States:R (certificate #34334) United Arab Emirates:Not Rated (self-applied)

Sex & Nudity

Mild

Violence & Gore

Severe

Profanity

Severe

Alcohol, Drugs & Smoking

Moderate

Frightening & Intense Scenes

Moderate

MPAA Rated R for some strong graphic violence, pervasive strong language and brief nudity and sexuality

