

Siblings...
Our First Friends
Our First Enemies
Our Present and Our Past



BEING BROTHERS

BASED ON THE AWARD-WINNING NOVEL BY
MIKE DELUCIA

Coming to Theaters
SPRING 2025

Introduction

Being Brothers is a 90-minute film based on the multi-award-winning novel that embodies the comedic elements of *Home Alone*, the friendships of *Stand By Me* or *The Sandlot*, and the heart of *Field of Dreams* or *The Natural*.



This much-craved film niche is one that audiences can watch together as a family due to its universal, uplifting themes... Additionally, summer sports films have a built-in audience.



The story is set in the Bronx in 1973, an era that captures the imagination of not only New Yorkers, but of the entire world.

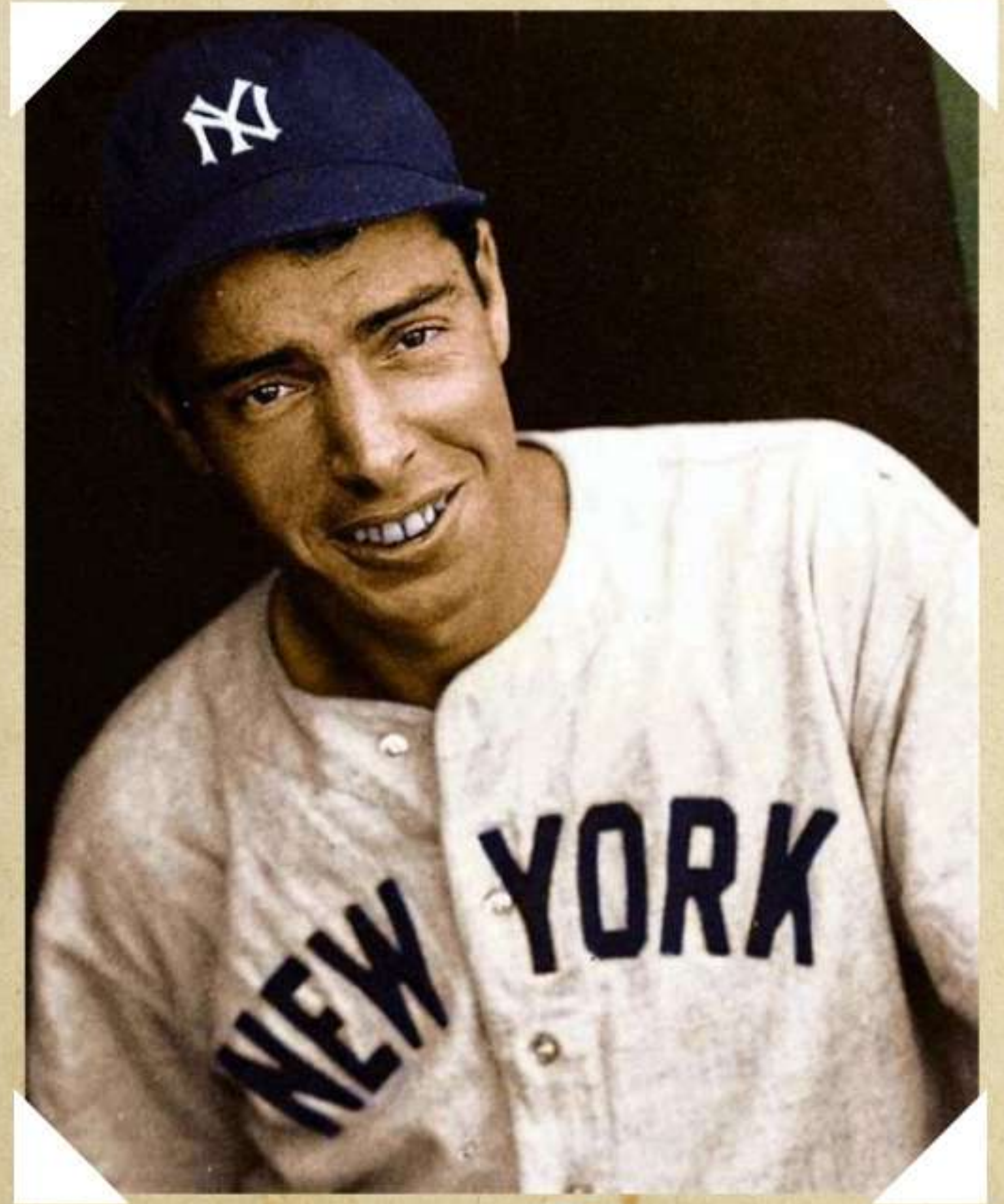


Being Brothers has been praised for its solid characters, retro New York setting, relatable themes, and realistic dialog.



Stereotyping

For over 5 decades, Hollywood has written a script selling the Italian people as either criminals or an unrefined/uneducated ethnicity. Their movies have turned us into caricatures, and it's time to change the narrative.



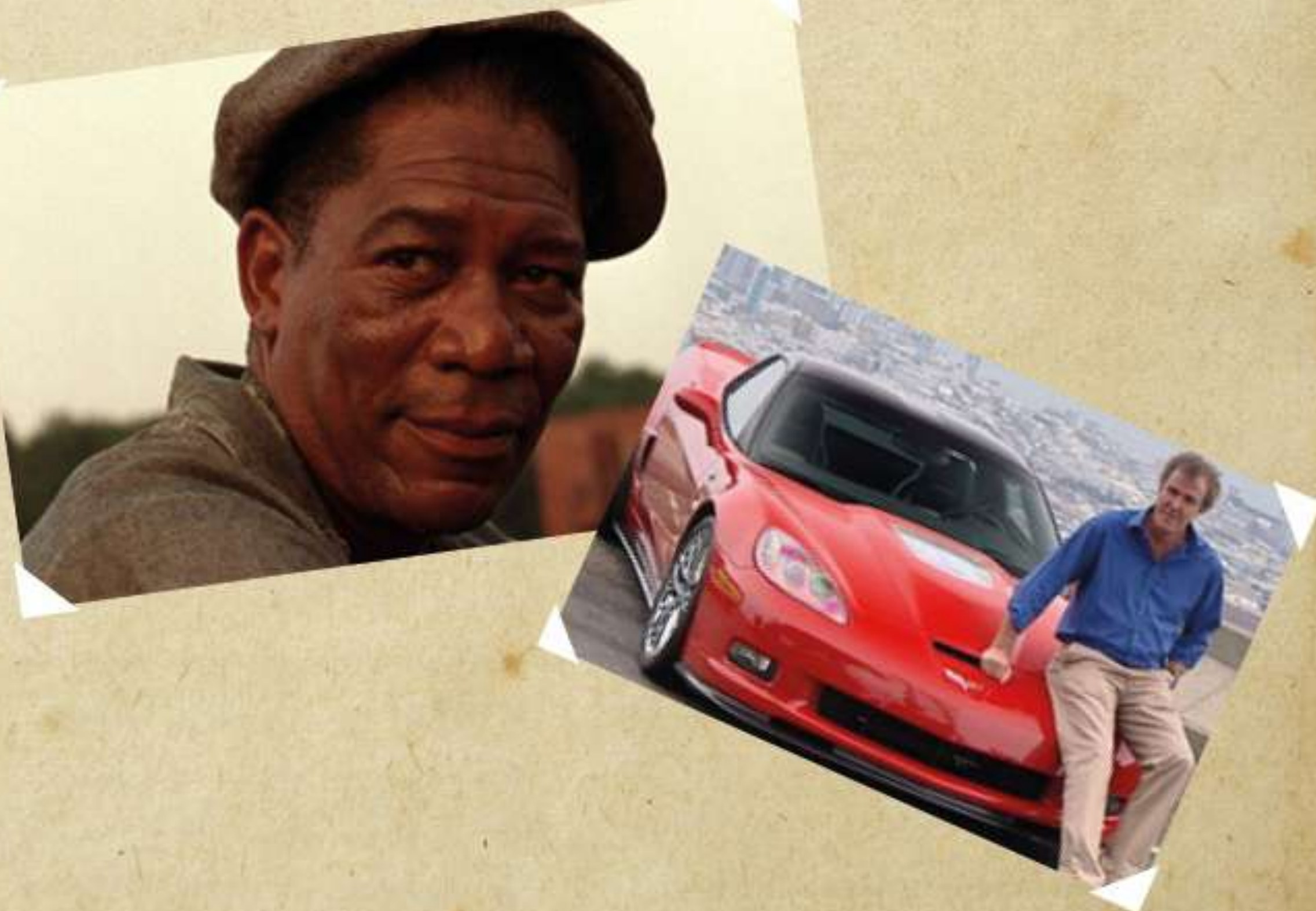
*Best of the
Best
Just Maggie*

Being Brothers is the first film since *Unbroken* that will represent Italian Americans in a realistic, organic, and positive way.



The Story

62-year-old LA Times sports reporter, Jack Amato, eases his Corvette through the Throggs Neck/Pelham Bay section of the Bronx. He refers to this terrain as "The Neighborhood" in his voice-over narration that speaks to the audience in the manner of Morgan Freeman during *The Shawshank Redemption*.



Jack parks on a fully inhabited but desolate street. He looks furtively around before jogging to a parked car and leaping for an imaginary ball. A Spalden lands in the hands of 11-year-old Giacomo "Jackie" Amato as the scene transforms to 1973 and the street is packed with pods of kids running, jumping, and bike-riding. Jackie is the story's lovable protagonist who serendipitously winds up on the same Little League team as his older brother, Sal, the most feared hitter in the league.



Giacomo & Salvatore
Easter 1970



The movie pivots around the brothers' intense rivalry which brews over the course of the season and ends in a riveting championship game that both changes the course of the brothers' lives and transports us back in time to the present. The film concludes with Jack arriving at his final destination and the story's heartfelt conclusion.



Another of the film's storylines illustrates what it was like to be a kid in the days before cellphones. I wanted to preserve that camaraderie, innocence, and splendor because it became extinct the moment kids bonded with technology.



The Style



The color palette will have 2 different textures. The film opens in the present, so it will have the look of today's movies, but it will revert to a 1970's look when it transforms to 1973, and then back to the modern aspect when it returns to the present. This echoes the shift in *The Wizard of Oz* when it goes from Kansas to Oz to Kansas again.



The hues will be bright and colorful during the transition to 1973. Those scenes will be a burst of green grass, brown dirt, black asphalt, and rich blues in denims and the colorful clothing of the 1970's.



Bright, natural light will wash over the screen and accent the days we cherished during those first weeks of summer.

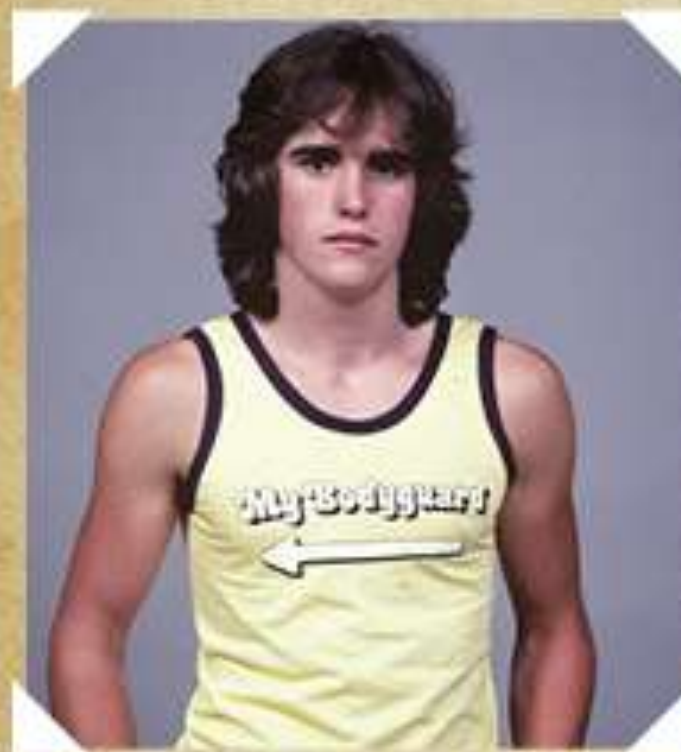


Main Characters

The Amatos are the story's centerpiece. Their closeness and interaction represent a realistic Italian American family.



Jackie is a gifted athlete who loses confidence after being mistakenly placed on his older brother's team. He fights to gain Sal's approval, but Sal is intent on keeping Jackie in his place. Think Ralph Macchio as a kid.



Sal is the older brother who is the most popular kid in the neighborhood and the best athlete in the league. He has the aura of Kevin Dillon and the skills of Benny Rodriguez from *The Sandlot*.

Big Sal is a man's man, yet loving and dedicated to his wife and children. His father-son talks with Jackie demonstrate both wisdom and care for his family. A Jon Bernthal type.



Angela is an attractive, stay-at-home, cool mom who is Catholic and protective of her boys. A Liv Tyler type.





Skin is one of Jackie's best friends. He's that kid in the neighborhood who makes everyone laugh.



Fuji is Jackie's other best friend who plays the straight man to Skin's antics.



Iggy is the neighborhood tough guy who likes Sara and is jealous of her friendship with Jackie.



Sara is Jackie's friend and lifelong crush, but she's intrigued by the bad boys. Sara confides in Jackie that she wants to play baseball. Brooke would have been perfect.



Nostalgia

People who lived in this era will relish seeing the products that both they and their parents used in those days. Also, today's youth find retro hip and *Being Brothers* has the potential to begin new trends such as the rebirth of vinyl records over the past few years.



Rebooting is in fashion and companies may seize the opportunity to cash in on limited-release packaging.



There is also the possibility to obtain product-placement money, since corporations are looking for reasons to support ethnic equality and social justice. This film is a PR win and corporations have finances budgeted for this purpose.



Readers love Being Brothers!

If you grew up in New York City or just wished that you had, Being Brothers is as refreshing for the kids of the 1970's, as Grease was for the fifties. Amazon 5-Star Review

Grand Slam!
Amazon 5-Star Review

I am NOT a fan of baseball, but I enjoyed this read very much!
Good Reads 5-Star Review

DeLucia's work is always great but this one is the perfect slice of 1973. The struggle of a younger brother to find his way in the shadow of the older brother has never been sweeter or more originally presented. Loved. Amazon 5-Star Review



Take a stroll down memory lane. This book is reminiscent of Stephen King's Stand By Me. Would recommend to all including young adult readers. Good Reads 5-Star Review

It always comes down to friendships, loyalty and most importantly, family. This book encompasses all three in a "coming-of-age" story, no doubt, based on some real-life incidents in the author's youth. The characters, sights, sounds and smells came to life in a well-written, heartfelt, thoughtful and endearing story that I didn't want to see end. This needs to be a movie. Just saying... Amazon 5-Star Review

I just finished BEING BROTHERS written by a fellow Bronxite, Mike DeLucia. I'm not usually one to sit & read a book from cover-to-cover, but I was totally captured by this literary gem. This book took me back to growing up in the Bronx in the 70s where life was wholesome & simplicity was just a way of life. It was my honor to read this book! Amazon Review

Summary

Jack Amato, 62, cruises his Corvette Stingray through the Pelham Bay section of the Bronx before parking on a fully occupied yet deserted street. He looks around furtively before jogging toward a parked car with his eyes fixed on an imaginary Spaldeen. He jumps to catch it and when he lands, it's 1973, he's 11 years old, and the street is alive and pulsing with kids in the midst of street games. Jackie catches the last out in a stickball game and jogs home. His brother Sal, 13, standing in the living room shuffling through 45's, is a supreme athlete and the most popular kid in the neighborhood. His mother Angela is cooking dinner when the phone rings. Jackie's new coach, Charlie, informs Angela that Jackie has been selected for the Panthers, a Little League team made up of boys older than Jackie. Jackie and Angela are elated, but Sal berates him claiming a mistake was made. Jackie argues that a boy from his grade, Big Tommy Caine – a Boston transplant – made it to the majors as well. Jackie walks on air for 24 hours until another call from Coach Charlie informs Angela that Sal is also on the Panthers and that he mistakenly drafted Jackie thinking he was drafting Sal. Coach Charlie spoke with Jackie's former coach who assured him that Jackie is a gifted athlete and would be up to the challenge.

Jackie is taken aback at how small he is compared to his new teammates. This intimidation affects his play and reduces Jackie to his season-long role as both team bench warmer and the butt of jokes, mostly initiated by Sal. Jackie earns the nickname Jock Strap after Sal announces that Jackie's real name is Giacomo. Playing in a division with older boys along with the added weight of living beneath Sal's heavy shadow drags on Jackie throughout the season. Jackie's dad, "Big Sal," a strong but loving man, gently guides Jackie towards his inner compass as life tests the boy's integrity. As Jackie's tribulations mount, we bear witness to the aphorism of baseball as a metaphor for life.

Threading throughout the baseball-and-Amato-family-sequences is the environment of a city-born childhood at the end of an era without cell phones or computers. This brings in a colorful cast of characters including Jackie's two best friends, Skin, a hilarious, portly youth and Fuji, a Japanese American boy who is the straight-man to Skin's antics. Serafina... or Sara Capriano, is a girl at the center of the story's subplot—a "love" triangle between Sara, Jackie, and the neighborhood psycho Iggy Becker, a bad boy, foster kid who is rumored to have been thrown out of his previous school for hitting a teacher with a chair. Iggy's contempt for Jackie peaks when he threatens to destroy Jackie in an after-school fight. With the support of Fuji and Skin, we see Jackie's true character emerge when he is faced with a daunting challenge.

The Panthers, meanwhile, become the Pelham Bay champions and will face the two-time defending Community Champions, the Throggs Neck Cardinals. Coach Charlie benches Jackie during this emotional battle until the final inning when Coach Faust of the Cardinals challenges the umpire regarding a rule demanding that every team member must play at least one inning. Jackie is thrown into the crux of a battle with much more at stake than a baseball game, as its serendipitous finale will change the course of the brothers' lives.

After the game, we return to the present and the film's heartfelt conclusion where Jack approaches a tombstone holding a paper bag, but who lies there and what will the audience learn about Jack's visit home?



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