

# The Goodfellas Cast Their Unexpected Careers After Fame

**The Goodfellas cast their unexpected careers after fame** The iconic film Goodfellas, released in 1990, not only cemented its place as a classic in the crime genre but also launched the careers of several talented actors. While some members of the cast continued in Hollywood, others took surprising turns in their professional lives, exploring new passions and industries. This article delves into the unexpected careers of the Goodfellas cast after their rise to fame, revealing the diverse paths they have taken.

## Ray Liotta: From Hollywood Star to Producer and Voice Actor

### Hollywood Success and Transition

Ray Liotta's portrayal of Henry Hill in Goodfellas earned him widespread acclaim and established him as a leading man in Hollywood. Over the years, he appeared in numerous films such as Field of Dreams, Cop Land, and Hannibal. However, in recent years, Liotta shifted his focus away from acting, exploring roles behind the camera.

### Venturing into Production and Voice Work

In the late 2010s and early 2020s, Ray Liotta expanded his career to include producing and voice acting. Notably, he lent his voice to the character of the Narrator in the animated series Grand Theft Auto V, showcasing his versatility. Additionally, he became involved in producing independent films and documentary projects, emphasizing his interest in storytelling beyond acting.

### Unexpected Career Highlights

- Documentary Filmmaking: Liotta produced and narrated documentaries related to crime and law enforcement, reflecting his connection to the themes of Goodfellas. - Voice Acting: His work in video games and animated series brought him a new audience and demonstrated his adaptability.

## Robert De Niro: From Actor to Entrepreneur and Investor

### Continued Acting and Business Ventures

While Robert De Niro remained a prominent actor, known for Taxi Driver, Raging Bull, and The

Irishman, he also diversified his career through entrepreneurship. De Niro co-founded the Tribeca Film Festival, which became a major cultural event in New York City.

## **Investments Outside Hollywood**

De Niro's unexpected career turns include investments in various industries: - Restaurants: He co-founded the Nobu restaurant chain, which has expanded globally. - Real Estate: De Niro has invested in real estate projects, including hotels and luxury residences. - Vineyard and Wine: He launched a wine brand, De Niro Wines, diversifying his portfolio.

## **Philanthropic and Cultural Contributions**

De Niro also dedicated time to philanthropy, supporting arts education and social causes, which have become significant parts of his life beyond acting.

## **Joe Pesci: From Hollywood Actor to Musician and Private Investor**

### **Career Shift into Music**

Joe Pesci, known for his intense roles and Oscar-winning performance in Goodfellas, surprisingly shifted his focus from acting to music during the 2000s. He pursued a career as a jazz musician and released albums featuring jazz standards.

### **Private Investor and Businessman**

In addition to music, Pesci invested in various small businesses and real estate. His discreet lifestyle kept his post-acting endeavors relatively private, but he reportedly enjoyed investing in local businesses and property.

### **Musical Achievements**

- Released albums such as Pesci... Still Singing. - Performed live at jazz festivals, showcasing his talent beyond the screen.

## **Lorraine Bracco: From Actress to Writer and Producer**

### **Career Transition into Writing and Producing**

Lorraine Bracco, famous for her role as Karen Hill in Goodfellas and Dr. Melfi in The Sopranos, expanded her career into writing and producing. After years of acting, she focused on storytelling through other media.

## **Published Works and Production**

- Books: Bracco authored memoirs and cookbooks, sharing her personal journey and culinary passions. - Production: She has produced documentary projects centered around mental health and Italian-American culture.

## **New Creative Avenues**

Bracco's shift towards behind-the-scenes work and authorship exemplifies her pursuit of meaningful creative outlets beyond acting.

## **Paul Sorvino: From Film Actor to Artistic and Community Engagement**

### **Later Career and Artistic Pursuits**

Paul Sorvino, who played Paul Cicero in Goodfellas, continued acting into his later years but also engaged in other artistic pursuits.

### **Painting and Art**

In his retirement, Sorvino took up painting and sculpture, showcasing his talents in visual arts. His artwork has been exhibited in galleries, revealing a new dimension of his creativity.

### **Community and Cultural Involvement**

Sorvino was active in community outreach and education, often participating in charity events and cultural programs, which became a significant part of his life after fame.

## **Additional Cast Members and Their Unexpected Careers**

### **Frank Sivero: From Actor to Voice Artist and Writer**

Frank Sivero, who played Frankie Carbone, later pursued voice acting for animated series and video games. He also became involved in writing and producing smaller independent projects.

### **Yolanda A. Ross: From Supporting Role to Producer and Activist**

Yolanda A. Ross, who appeared briefly in Goodfellas, transitioned into producing films that highlight social issues and became an advocate for diversity in Hollywood.

### **Others in the Cast**

Many supporting actors from Goodfellas found fulfilling careers outside of acting, including: - Entrepreneurship in fashion, hospitality, and art. - Advocacy and social activism. - Careers in education and community service.

# Conclusion: The Diverse Paths of the Goodfellas Cast

The careers of the Goodfellas cast after their rise to fame showcase a wide array of pursuits—ranging from entrepreneurship and artistic endeavors to activism and behind-the-scenes roles. Their journeys reflect how fame can serve as a springboard into new ventures, passions, and industries, often leading to unexpectedly fulfilling careers outside the spotlight. Whether through business investments, artistic pursuits, or community work, these actors have demonstrated resilience and versatility beyond their iconic performances on screen.

Key Takeaways:

- The Goodfellas cast members have successfully transitioned into diverse careers.
- Many pursued entrepreneurial ventures, including restaurants, real estate, and investments.
- Several expanded into creative fields like music, writing, and visual arts.
- Their post-fame endeavors highlight the importance of adaptability and lifelong passions.

This inspiring spectrum of career paths underscores that fame can open doors to new opportunities, encouraging aspiring professionals to explore multiple interests beyond their initial success.

## The Goodfellas cast their unexpected careers after fame

When Martin Scorsese's 1990 classic Goodfellas hit theaters, it not only captivated audiences with its gritty portrayal of mob life but also catapulted its ensemble cast into the cultural spotlight. Many fans were curious about what paths these talented actors took following their breakthrough roles. While some transitioned seamlessly into big Hollywood projects, others ventured into entirely different fields, surprising critics and viewers alike. This article explores the unexpected careers of the Goodfellas cast after their rise to fame, shedding light on the diverse trajectories that unfolded behind the scenes.

## The Goodfellas Cast: A Brief Overview

Before diving into their subsequent careers, it's important to recognize the key players:

1. Ray Liotta as Henry Hill
2. Robert De Niro as Jimmy Conway
3. Joe Pesci as Tommy DeVito
4. Lorraine Bracco as Karen Hill
5. Paul Sorvino as Paul Cicero
6. Frank Sivero as Frankie Carbone

Each actor brought a unique presence to the film, and many of their careers were shaped by their performances in Goodfellas. Let's examine how their lives unfolded after the film's success.

## Ray Liotta: From Mobster to Auteur and Beyond

### Early Career and Breakthrough in Goodfellas

Ray Liotta's portrayal of Henry Hill remains one of his most iconic roles. Prior to Goodfellas, Liotta had appeared in various TV shows and films, but his role in Scorsese's film truly showcased his talent on a wide scale.

### Unexpected Career Paths Post-Goodfellas

While many expected Liotta to continue landing leading roles in Hollywood, his career took an eclectic turn:

1. Independent Films and Artistic Pursuits: Liotta became a favorite in indie cinema, starring in films like *Unlawful Entry* and *Something Wild*. His willingness to explore diverse characters kept him relevant.
2. Voice Acting and Narration: Liotta lent his distinctive voice to documentaries and commercials, including narrating the popular TV series *Love, Death & Robots*.
3. Producers and Mentorship: Later in his career, Liotta took on producing roles and mentored younger actors, emphasizing a desire to shape storytelling from behind the scenes.
4. Unexpected forays: In 2022, Liotta starred in *Marriage Story* and *No Sudden Move*, demonstrating his sustained versatility.

### Personal Life and Legacy

Beyond acting, Liotta was known for his passion for music and art, often sharing his paintings and musical interests publicly. His unexpected career trajectory reflected an artist eager to explore multiple facets of creativity.

## Robert De Niro: From Mob Movies to Entrepreneurial Ventures

### Establishing a Hollywood Legend

Robert De Niro's role as Jimmy Conway in *Goodfellas* was a bridge to his already stellar career, which included *Taxi Driver*, *Raging Bull*, and *The Godfather Part II*. Post-*Goodfellas*, De Niro's reputation soared further.

### Unexpected Turns and Business Endeavors

While De Niro remained a Hollywood icon, his career expanded into surprising territories:

1. Restaurant Business: De Niro co-founded Tribeca Grill and the Bobby Flay Steakhouse, blending his love for food and entrepreneurship.
2. Film Production: He founded Tribeca Productions, nurturing films beyond acting. Notably, he produced *The Irishman*, which garnered critical acclaim.
3. Philanthropy and Advocacy: De Niro became a vocal supporter of arts education and veteran causes, using his fame for social impact.
4. Shift to Directing and Writing: Though primarily known as an actor, De Niro directed a handful of projects and authored a memoir, revealing a reflective side.

### De Niro's Enduring Influence

His multifaceted career, combining acting, entrepreneurship, and philanthropy, illustrates how a Hollywood legend diversifies his impact beyond the screen.

## Joe Pesci: The Short, Intense Career Shift

### From Goodfellas to a Hollywood Mainstay

Joe Pesci's portrayal of Tommy DeVito earned him an Oscar for Best Supporting Actor. His intense presence in *Goodfellas* cemented his reputation.

## Unexpected Career After Fame

Contrary to many actors who continue on acting paths, Pesci surprised the entertainment world:

1. Retirement from Acting: After *The Good Shepherd* (2006), Pesci largely stepped away from acting, citing personal reasons.
2. Music and Business Ventures: Pesci, a talented musician, pursued a career in music, releasing jazz albums and performing live.
3. Environmental and Charitable Work: Pesci became involved in various charitable activities, particularly those focused on environmental causes.
4. Occasional Comebacks: Despite his retirement, Pesci returned briefly for *The Irishman* (2019), demonstrating his selective approach.

## The Mystery of the Quiet Life

Pesci's choice to retreat from the limelight remains a fascinating divergence from typical Hollywood trajectories, emphasizing a desire for privacy and personal fulfillment.

## Lorraine Bracco: From Goodfellas to Mental Health Advocacy

### Breakout Role and Critical Acclaim

Lorraine Bracco's portrayal of Karen Hill garnered widespread praise, earning her multiple Emmy nominations.

### Unexpected Careers and Advocacy

Post-*Goodfellas*, Bracco's career took an unexpected turn:

1. Television Stardom: She starred in the hit series *The Sopranos* as Dr. Melfi, a role that redefined her career.
2. Authorship: Bracco authored memoirs and health guides, sharing her insights on mental health and wellness.
3. Advocacy for Mental Health: Struggling publicly with her own mental health, she became an advocate for awareness and destigmatization, working with nonprofits.
4. Author and Producer: She produced and starred in various projects, focusing on stories about healing and resilience.

### Personal Growth and Public Service

Bracco's journey from actress to mental health advocate exemplifies how unexpected passions can emerge from personal experiences, shaping a meaningful second act.

## Paul Sorvino: From Mob Films to Artistic Renaissance

### Career Highlights and Goodfellas

Paul Sorvino's commanding presence made him a memorable figure in *Goodfellas* and beyond.

### Unexpected Artistic Pursuits

Following his prime acting years, Sorvino embraced:

1. Opera and Classical Music: An avid lover of the arts, he pursued training in opera singing,

- even performing on stage.
2. **Painting and Visual Arts:** Sorvino took up painting, showcasing his work in galleries and exhibitions.
  3. **Teaching and Mentorship:** Later in life, he dedicated time to teaching acting and inspiring younger generations.
  4. **Activism and Public Engagement:** Sorvino was outspoken on political issues and used his platform for activism.

### Legacy of Artistic Diversity

His willingness to explore multiple artistic avenues post-fame highlights a desire for continual self-expression beyond his film roles.

### Frank Sivero and Others: Lesser-Known Paths

While not as globally recognized as some of his *Goodfellas* co-stars, Frank Sivero's post-fame journey included:

1. **Typecasting and Television Work:** He continued working in TV and film, often in character roles.
2. **Business Ventures:** Some reports indicate involvement in small business enterprises.
3. **Personal Pursuits:** Like many actors, Sivero explored personal hobbies and local theater projects.

### The Broader Picture: Unanticipated Careers of *Goodfellas* Cast

The careers of the *Goodfellas* cast reflect a broader trend among actors who experience early fame: a willingness to pivot, explore passions, and redefine their identities beyond Hollywood.

### Common Themes in Their Transitions

1. **Pursuit of Artistic Passions:** Many actors turned to music, painting, or writing.
2. **Entrepreneurship:** Several involved themselves in business ventures, especially in food, arts, or media.
3. **Advocacy and Philanthropy:** Personal experiences prompted activism, particularly around mental health and social issues.
4. **Selective Acting:** Some chose to retire early or limit their roles, focusing instead on other pursuits.

### Impact of Fame on Personal Journeys

Their stories underscore that fame is often a catalyst rather than a destination. Many actors leverage their platforms to explore other facets of life, find personal fulfillment, or give back to their communities.

### Conclusion

The *Goodfellas* cast's unexpected careers after their iconic roles are testament to the multifaceted lives of actors. From Ray Liotta's artistic ventures to Robert De Niro's entrepreneurial spirit, and Joe Pesci's musical pursuits, each journey demonstrates that fame can serve as a springboard for diverse endeavors. Their stories inspire aspiring artists and fans

alike to pursue their passions, embrace change, and redefine success on their own terms. Ultimately, these actors' lives reflect a rich tapestry of creativity, resilience, and personal growth—well beyond the confines of their famous roles.

## Questions & Answers About the goodfellas cast their unexpected careers after fame

| N<br>o | Question                                                                                   | Answer                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1      | What did Ray Liotta do after his role in Goodfellas?                                       | Ray Liotta continued to have a successful acting career, starring in films like Hannibal, Narc, and the TV series Shades of Blue, while also working as a producer and voice actor.                                  |
| 2      | Did Robert De Niro pursue any ventures outside of acting after Goodfellas?                 | Yes, Robert De Niro co-founded the Tribeca Film Festival and invested in restaurants, hotels, and real estate, establishing himself as a successful entrepreneur off-screen.                                         |
| 3      | How did Joe Pesci's career change after Goodfellas?                                        | Joe Pesci took a hiatus from acting after his Oscar-winning performance, but later returned with roles in movies like The Irishman and appeared in television projects, maintaining his status as a versatile actor. |
| 4      | What unexpected career paths did Lorraine Bracco pursue after Goodfellas?                  | Lorraine Bracco expanded her career into television, starring in The Sopranos, and also worked as a mental health advocate and author.                                                                               |
| 5      | Did any cast members transition into music or other entertainment fields after Goodfellas? | While most remained in acting, some cast members, like Frank Sivero, explored voice-over work and small roles in various entertainment projects, though none pursued major careers in music.                         |
| 6      | What career did Paul Sorvino pursue after his portrayal in Goodfellas?                     | Paul Sorvino continued acting in film and television, and he also became a passionate opera singer and acting teacher.                                                                                               |
| 7      | Have any of the Goodfellas cast members become involved in criminal justice or advocacy?   | Some cast members, such as Lorraine Bracco, have become involved in advocacy work related to mental health, while others have focused on their acting careers.                                                       |
| 8      | Did any cast member of Goodfellas become a director or producer?                           | While most remained actors, Robert De Niro and others have taken on directing and producing roles in various film projects after Goodfellas.                                                                         |
| 9      | How did the fame from Goodfellas influence the personal lives of the cast members?         | Fame brought increased public attention, which sometimes led to personal challenges, but it also opened doors for diverse career opportunities beyond acting.                                                        |
| 10     | Are there any recent projects from the Goodfellas cast that gained popularity?             | Yes, Robert De Niro's role in The Irishman and Lorraine Bracco's appearances in various TV series have kept the cast in the public eye, demonstrating their enduring relevance in entertainment.                     |

Goodfellas cast, actors' careers, Hollywood transitions, movie fame, career changes, celebrity paths, film actors' trajectories, post-movie careers, Hollywood alumni, acting careers after fame