

Also at that time he was doing **Gotti**, Armand Asante gave an interview to **Mr. Showbiz** I found this at the internet **20th of may 1998**, He says about his work as an actor: "A profession, I don't recommend at all. I think you have to have some deep inner love of what you're doing that has no bounds----a love of embodying the story and a love of the adrenaline rush of performing. It's a blessing and a curse, and you can't live without it. But it's not always the best situation to be in!"

At a 22 sec. lasting recording at this very page, you could hear Armand's lovely voice say: "You study the life of other people and try to embody their ideals!"

Armand says he looks beyond the simple values of good and evil when he performs his villainous types, "Certainly more of the interesting roles I've had have been villains. The circumstances of how people enter the world--their socio-economic strata, their heredity and environment play a big, big part in how they live their lives. It does in all of us."

They talk about the upcoming role he will play as Gotti and Armand says: "The New York crime boss was a scapegoat convicted on dubious testimony by his underboss and purported hit man, Sammy Gravano. I have an objective light on this case because I've studied it enough, through lawyers, judges, federal officials, and people who knew him. Gravano---a self-confessed murderer of nineteen who walked away with millions, he extorted from those people--is being released in the population while John has been banished from human contact. I find that questionable. Millions of Americans do, by the way"

Armand Assante is not endorsing Gotti's criminal activities, but considers him something of a victim. (Note: Gotti was judged simply by the witness declaration of this Sammy Gravano, at Gotti's own homepage, was also a recording of his own voice from court, where Gotti said: "Judge me for being naive, that's all what I'm guilty of!")

Armand is grateful for the role he is giving to perform Gotti, because among others, this role provided him with the opportunity to work with **Anthony Quinn**. "He is such a tremendous soul. It has an incredible effect on everybody around him. He is truly one of the great actors I've ever played opposite. We became great friends; it was a great experience all around." Quinn was sympathetic to his own philosophy of acting.

In this interview Armand repeats: "***I've been a journeyman actor. That's all I've been for the past twenty-seven years.***"

He says he does not fit the stereotype of the glamorous Hollywood type, and he is nothing like the intense characters he plays:

"I live a very quiet life, although I'm very urban and a diehard New Yorker. I work from seven to ten months of the year straight, so by the end of the year, my brain is usually a form of dog meat. People get different impressions of a person from the characters they play, you know."

Armand's farm up-state New York is his sanctuary during the rare months he isn't working. "I have 7 horses. I'm known to go off on my horse for about six hours in the wilderness. You will find me wearing the same clothes whether I work or not. I'm wearing leathers, vests and fatigue-green (the background color of this page) hunting shirts, jeans and boots. Already here he talks of studying Greek history for a preparation to **Andrei Konchalovski's "The Odyssey"** Armand says he has never been formally introduced to God, but he is a Roman Catholic. "I've got the best deal on Earth. Where else can I sin and know that I'm forgiven for it?"