

In **May 1997** Armand gives an interview to **The New Times** with the title: **Armand Assante tired of Hollywood glitter** By Luainee Lee Knight-Ridder/tribune Information Services.

Armand talks bittersweet and somehow morbid about his career and says: " I was a good journeyman actor. I'm a jobber. I never pursued a career relentlessly. I was always the guy they called, when somebody dropped out. " He is caught right before filming his leading role as **Odysseus** and comment this:" He represents real values that I think people want to return to, especially today, especially in my generation where we were destroyed about every value there was."

"Homer was writing about primitive man for the first time, the very first time, dealing with real issues; issues of fidelity, of the moral choice of war, of holding on to who and what you are...He's a man like many me in my own generation who have gone through an enormous revolution in their life and find out - at the heart of it - are your children. All that really matters is your home and the life you have established " **Armand was filming then 96 days in Turkey, Malta** and England and missed his then, 8 and 13 years old daughter a lot. Divorced from Karen (94) he declares it's slowly begins to dawn on him how damaging his profession was to his family.

Armand finds Hollywood's tinsel is more than a little tarnished.

"I miss the reality of doing a play where the only thing that's at stake is the work and the story and the excitement of doing that in a matinee for 1.000 children or whatever it is !"

"I miss the innocence of that, the sheer passion of that. This whole industry is so screwed up by economics it's disgusting to me. Honestly, I don't champion the idea of being in a Hollywood movie. I never had fun in one of them. I don't like the idea of 100 people standing around, 50 of which are not doing enough. I don't like that "

"I was performing since I was a kid, in some ways, and I think it comes down to something physical. It's the use of your entire instrument as opposed to just playing an instrument, which I did as a kid a lot. I explored a lot of ways to express myself - wrote a lot, still write a lot - but the acting is a total physical, emotional sensation and you're using your own instrument "

"It's curious, at the heart of all this adventure and the magic **Homer** was, is outrageousness....He's like a lyric poet, a folks hero poet, a Walt Disney. He has amazing and phenomenal imagination "

Armand says he is particular about what he does and adds: "I'm really at that point in my life now, I do want to act unless I have great relationship and great intimacy with the people I'm working with,.... Otherwise, I don't feel I'm using my instrument, really experiencing something"

He says about his talent and career that started with him 17 years old at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts: "I had no choice, I was cursed, I graduated at the top of my class and had a lot of fun - the rest has been hell " and he laughs.