



DUCKTOWN

SCARFO, ATLANTIC CITY &
THE PHILLY MOB

CREATED BY-GREG RUSSO

A black and white photograph of Nicodemo "Little Nicky" Scarfo, a prominent Philadelphia mobster. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark suit, a light-colored shirt, and a patterned tie. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a serious expression. In front of him is a vintage-style microphone on a stand. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting an indoor setting like a press conference or a public event. The overall tone is somber and historical.

LOGLINE

The series follows the rise and fall of Nicodemo "Little Nicky" Scarfo through the streets of Ducktown during the most unstable decade of the Philadelphia Mob.

BACKGROUND

The Philadelphia Crime Family is an Italian-American organized crime syndicate based in South Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It is one of the most active American Mafia families outside of the Five Families of New York. The family has been known to hold territory or influence in other nearby areas outside Philadelphia, including Atlantic City, South Jersey, Trenton, Camden, Delaware, and Newark. During the 1960's and 1970's the boss of the family was Angelo Bruno. He was known as "the Gentle Don" or "the Docile Don" and for more than twenty years he successfully avoided intense media and law enforcement scrutiny and outbursts of violence that plagued other crime families. During this time, Nicodemo "Little Nicky" Scarfo - a young, arrogant and stubborn soldier in the family - started creating friction. Before things escalated, Bruno thought it would be best to send Scarfo to Atlantic City to oversee operations there. Atlantic City at this time was experiencing its economic decline. However, with in the city was a small Italian enclave called Ducktown. It was Atlantic City's "Little Italy," stretching from Missouri Avenue to Texas Avenue and it was here where Scarfo would settle in with his immediate family. In his early years, Scarfo struggled to make money. He worked as a bartender, had interests in adult bookstores, and was involved in some gambling and loansharking. Then in 1976 Atlantic City legalized gambling and things would begin to change for Scarfo.



BACKGROUND



Shortly after this, things in South Philadelphia also started to change. Members of Bruno's family started to conspire against him due to his old-fashioned ways and some family policies they didn't agree with. On March 21, 1980, Bruno was killed by a shotgun blast in the back of his head. He was succeeded by Philip "the Chicken Man" Testa, but that was short lived and Scarfo with the backing of the NY families was appointed the new boss of Philadelphia. In the decade to follow both Bruno and Testa's death the Philadelphia family under Scarfo became notorious for extreme violence, brutality, and ruthlessness. They also became notorious for being a particularly dysfunctional family and for committing dozens of murders, committing countless murders within a short period of time, and committing unspeakable acts of violence to spread a tremendous amount of fear, intimidation, and terror. During Scarfo's regime, the Philadelphia Mafia was one of the deadliest criminal organizations, killing absolutely anyone who stood in his way of threatening his reign or his multi-million-dollar criminal empire. Scarfo ordered countless murders, dozens of people were murdered on his orders during his regime, making him one of the deadliest and most violent mob bosses in history. By the late 1980's, Scarfo's bloody reign came to an end when numerous members of his Borgata turned government witnesses and he was ultimately convicted of numerous conspiracy, racketeering, and murder charges. He was sentenced to consecutive prison terms that would keep him in prison for life.



CHARACTERS

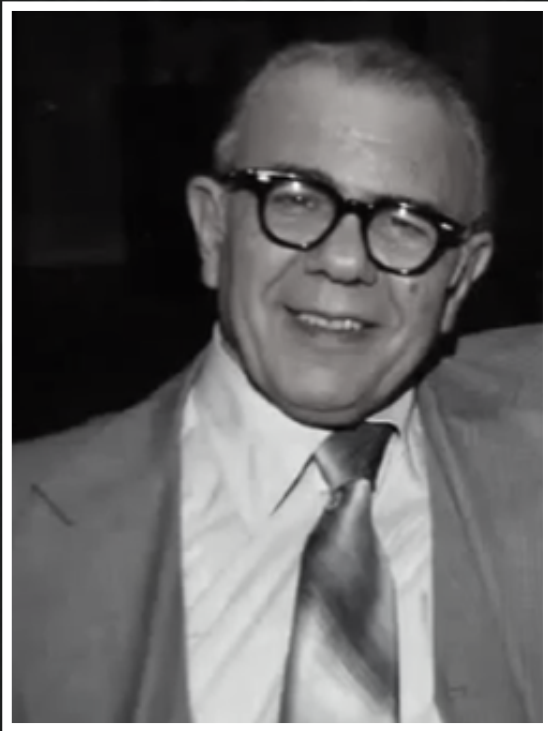
LITTLE NICKY

Nicodemo Scarfo was an Italian-American mobster who was a brutal and much-feared hitman who eventually became the boss of the Philadelphia Crime Family. It didn't take much for Scarfo to kill someone. He highly enjoyed killing people, and ordering murders. He ordered murders if he was just in a bad mood, and he loved and enjoyed it like it was his favorite hobby. As a teenager, Scarfo worked as a boxer. But after failing to become a success in the boxing world, Scarfo joined his uncle - a caporegime in the Philadelphia crime family, - in illegal activities in Philadelphia. During his regime, Scarfo ruled Philadelphia and Atlantic City with an iron fist, and thru fear and terror. Scarfo totally controlled all of the politicians and labor unions in these cities and all criminals, criminal gangs, street gangs, pimps, bookmakers, prostitutes, and businessmen. Drug dealers had to pay Scarfo a street tax to operate. Scarfo would go on to lead the family for a decade with a bloody rampage, fueled by paranoia and aggression.



NICODEMO SCARFO

THE GENTLE DON

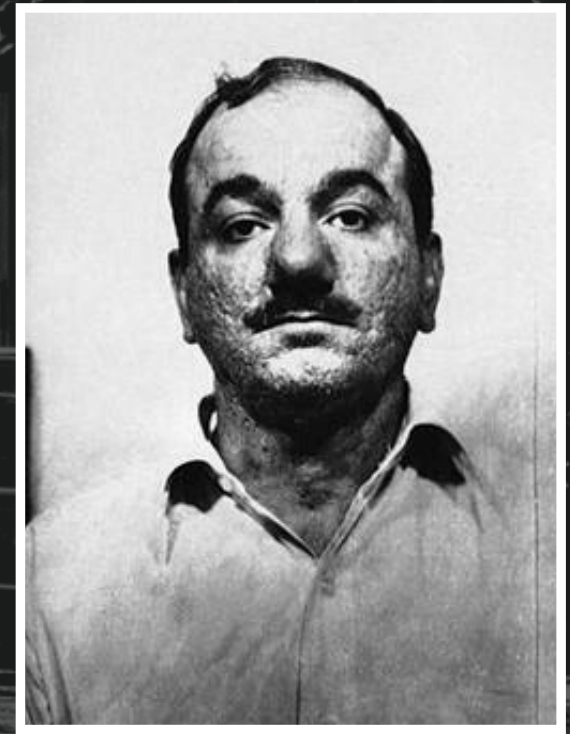


ANGELO BRUNO

Angelo Bruno was a Sicilian-American mobster & the boss of the Philadelphia Crime Family for over 20 years. Bruno gained his nickname and reputation due to his preference for conciliation over violence. He preferred to operate through bribery and peace-making rather than violence, brutality, and murder. Bruno did not allow his crime family to be involved in narcotics trafficking, preferring more traditional La Cosa Nostra operations such as extortion, illegal gambling, labor racketeering, prostitution, pornography, bookmaking, numbers game, and loan sharking. However, Bruno did allow other gangs and criminals to distribute narcotics in Philadelphia and Atlantic City for a very large share of the proceeds. This ultimately led to his downfall.

THE CHICKEN MAN

Philip Testa was a Sicilian-born American Mafia figure known for his brief leadership of the Bruno crime family. His pockmarked face is thought to be one of the reasons behind his nickname, The Chicken Man, as the pockmarks are believed to have been caused by a horrible case of chicken pox with the scars never fully healing. After the murder of longtime family boss Angelo Bruno, Philip was unanimously made the next boss of the Philadelphia family. He tried to fill the shoes of his former boss which were in fact impossible to fill. Inspired by the philosophy of reconciliation over quarrel, he wanted to keep that Bruno-style going but it was not possible.



PHIL TESTA

CRAZY PHIL

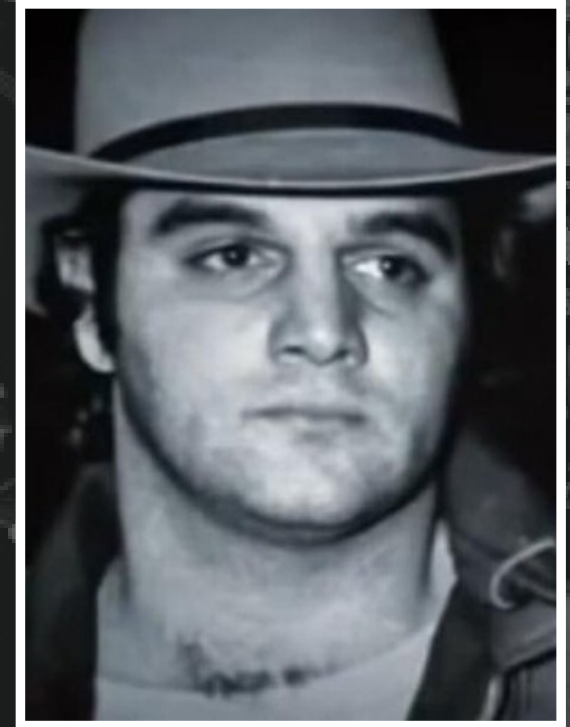


PHILIP LEONETTI

Phillip Leonetti is a Philadelphia mobster who became the underboss of the Philadelphia crime family under his uncle, boss Nicodemo Scarfo. Leonetti allegedly killed without hesitation for his uncle. He was convicted in 1988 for murder and sentenced to 45 years imprisonment: this caused Leonetti to turn informant. Phillip's father abandoned him when he was a baby and his mother Nancy Scarfo raised him. She was the sister of Nicodemo Scarfo. They moved to Ducktown, the Little Italy of Atlantic City, New Jersey shortly after Leonetti was born, where he was protected and supervised by his uncle in the ways of LCN. Leonetti joined the Philadelphia crime family in the early 1970's.

SALVIE

Salvatore Testa also known as "Salvie" was the son of former Philadelphia boss Philip "the Chicken Man" Testa. He was a Philadelphia gangster who served as a Hitman for the Philadelphia crime family during a period of internal gang conflict. He was dashing-handsome, and stood 6' 6" tall. Popular with the ladies, he wore wavy hair out over his ears in typical 1970s fashion. Salvie had a close relationship with his father & became involved with him in the rackets of drug trafficking, loansharking, and extortion. After his father's death, he served the next mafia boss Nicky Scarfo who was also his Godfather. In the early 1980's the wall street journal wrote an article about Salvie, claiming he was the fastest rising star in the American Mafia. They also nicknamed him "The Crowned Prince of the Philadelphia Mob." This did not sit well with Scarfo and would soon lead to his murder.



SALVATORE TESTA

PLOT

Angelo Bruno is the current boss of Philadelphia. He has gained much respect in the underworld and is now seen as the most powerful Mafia boss outside the New York and Chicago area. He has expanded the family's profit and operations in lucrative Atlantic City. As the story progresses, Angelo Bruno gets killed by a shotgun blast in his car. It is believed that Bruno's Consigliere, Antonio Caponigro, ordered his murder. Caponigro was apparently ready to step up, but he himself gets killed on orders of the Genovese family and stuffed in a body bag in New York with bills jammed in his mouth and anus. After Bruno's murder, Philip "the Chicken Man" Testa leads the family for about one year, but soon gets killed by a nail bomb at his home. In the aftermath of the Bruno and Testa murder, Nicodemo "Little Nicky" Scarfo takes over as the family boss.

Together with his two longtime friends the Merlino brothers, his nephew Phil Leonetti, and his godson Salvie Testa they start reorganizing "the family."

In the early 80's they kill the real conspirators, Frank Narducci and Rocco Marinucci, for the unsanctioned hit on Testa. Scarfo implements and enforces a street tax on anyone involved in illegal activity. They go to war with the Riccobene faction of the family who decided to give them pushback and were heavily involved with the labor unions and redevelopment projects throughout Atlantic City and Philadelphia.

By the mid 80's Scarfo's surge to power had led him to become extremely irrational, paranoid, and disloyal to the highest members of his administration. He became jealous and paranoid of Salvie Testa - his own godson who was 110% loyal to Scarfo and looked up to him like a father. It

started after Salvie got engaged to his Underboss's daughter and then escalated when an article came out in the Wall Street Journal that said he was the fastest rising star in the American Mafia and gave him the title "The Crown Prince of the Philadelphia Mob." Shortly after this, Scarfo orders a hit on Salvie. It was after this hit that many members of the family started to question Scarfo's own loyalty to his own gang. He followed the Salvie hit with stripping Salvatore Merlino and his brother Lawrence of their ranks, reducing them back to soldiers. He felt that Merlino's drunken behavior had gone too far and he was an embarrassment to the family. He appoints his nephew, Phil Leonetti as the new underboss.

By the late 80's, most of Scarfo's organization feared him and their next move. No one thought they were safe, so when they were arrested on various crimes many turned state's evidence, including his nephew Phil Leonetti. By the start of the 1990's, Scarfo was sentenced to life in prison.



TONE & STYLE

The setting of the series takes place in the Ducktown neighborhood of Atlantic City and various areas of South Philly from the 1960's, 1970's and ending in the 1980's. The series will take an unapologetic look at the Philadelphia Mob in a stunning, vivid style & depict the real truth behind the culture that's been glamorized, sanitized, and romanticized in countless other films. The TONE is serious and conflicted & the STYLE is cinematic, bold, capturing the glitz of Philly mob-life.

SHOW CROSS



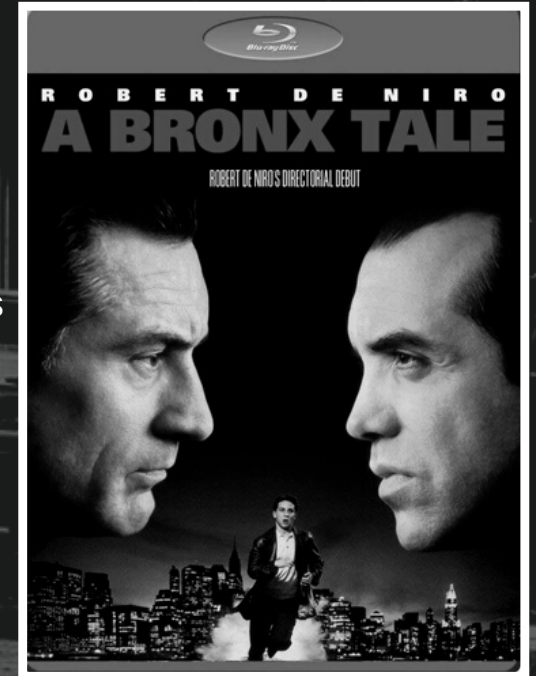
FORMAT: TV SERIES
NETWORK: HBO

meets



FORMAT: FEATURE FILM
DISTRIBUTED BY:
WARNER BROS.

meets



FORMAT: FEATURE FILM
DISTRIBUTED BY:
SAVOY PICTURES

FULL SEASON

PILOT EPISODE #1 - DUCKTOWN

The pilot episode starts out in a South Philadelphia church. It's the communion of Salvie Testa. We are introduced to the hierarchy of the Philly Mob. All the higher ups are there, Boss Angelo Bruno and his wife Sue, Underboss Phil Testa and his wife Alfia, Capo Nicky Scarfo and his wife Domenica along with Scarfo's sister Nancy and her son Philip Leonetti. It's here where we learn that Scarfo is Salvie's godfather. At a post dinner party Angelo Bruno addresses Scarfo for his aggressive behavior on the streets and presses him about a rumor that one of Scarfo's crew members disrespected Bruno's underboss's daughter. He tells him to get in line and tone it down.

That doesn't last long. While in a South Philly diner, Scarfo gets into an argument and kills a Longshoreman. The scene is followed with a sit down between Angelo Bruno and top members of the administration. We learn this isn't the first sit down regarding Scarfos behavior. As things get heated Scarfo's uncle Nicholas Piccolo - a high-ranking member of the organization comes to his defense. Ultimately Bruno doesn't think it warrants death, but he decides to send Scarfo to Atlantic City and oversee the families interests there.

Scarfo packs his bags, hops on the Black Horse Pike, and takes the hour-long road trip to Atlantic City. As he drives through the distressed areas of Atlantic City, it's in the well-kept neighborhood of Ducktown, Atlantic City's "Little Italy" where he settles down with his family. The episode ends with Scarfo clearly scrambling and struggling to figure out how he is going to earn to provide for his immediate family in Atlantic City AND his "other" family back in South Philly.

EPISODE #2 – LITTLE NICKY

The focus: Scarfo through his early years trying to get things going in the rackets of the underbelly of the Atlantic City Boardwalk.

EPISODE # 4 – THE CASINOS

The focus: It's 1976 and Atlantic City legalizes gambling. The timing is perfect for "Little Nicky" to strategically place himself in the middle of it all.

EPISODE #6 – THE CHICKEN MAN

The focus: Phil Testa becomes the next boss. He brings his son Salvie into the family and schools him on the ways of La Cosa Nostra. However, his term is short lived.

EPISODE #3 – THE YARDVILLE 9

The focus: Scarfo's time spent in Yardville with Angelo Bruno and forges relationships with 7 other various members of the New York families.

EPISODE #5 – THE DOCILE DON

The focus: Angelo Bruno is slain. He's the last of a dying breed. Things in the Philly Mob will never be the same.

EPISODE # 7 – THE NEW BOSS

The focus: With the backing of the New York families Nicodemo "Little Nicky" Scarfo full fills his life-long dream and becomes the boss of the Philadelphia La Cosa Nostra.

EPISODE # 8 – THE ELBOW

The focus: Scarfo implements a street tax on anyone involved in illegal activity in Philadelphia. It's enforced by Salvie Testa and his crew "The Young Executioners".

EPISODE #10 – THE CROWNED PRINCE

The focus: Salvie is becoming a legend in South Philly. The WSJ prints an article labeling him "The Crowned Prince of the Philly Mob." The jealousy and paranoia begin.

EPISODE #9 – THE RICCOBENE WAR

The focus: Harry Riccobene denies tribute to Scarfo so he declares war. The Riccobene's strike first by killing Frank Monte Scarfo's Consigliere. For the next two years, the streets of South Philly are filled with bloodshed as the two factions go to war.

EPISODE #11 – CASABLANCA SOUTH

The focus: Scarfo and his Philly Mob are living large and in charge on his boat "The Usual Suspects" in south Florida. The FBI join the party from a distance they are all in store for a rude awakening.

EPISODE #12 – THE RATS

The focus: It starts with "Tommy D" then "Nick the Crow" and then a handful of others, but it ends with Scarfo's own nephew "Crazy Phil" who becomes the highest-ranking member of the mafia (at the time) to become a government witness. The Scarfo era is over!

*NOTE: Ducktown can also run over 8 episode and 3 seasons.



MOODBOARD





MULTIPLE SEASONS

SEASON 1

Episode #1 – “Pilot” Ducktown

Scarfo gets shipped to Atlantic City. He settles in “DUCKTOWN.” Atlantic City’s “Little Italy.”

Episode #2 – Little Nicky

Little Nicky tries to get some rackets going in the underbelly of the Atlantic City boardwalk.

Episode #3 – The Testa’s

In South Philly Phil Testa becomes Underboss.

Episode #4 – Salvie and Crazy Phil

A young Salvie Testa and Phil Leonetti become schooled in the ways of LCN.

Episode #5 – South Philly

Angelo Bruno has his crime family running smooth and under control in South Philly.

Episode #6 – The Yardville 9

Little Nicky spends time in Yardville with Angelo Bruno. He forges relationships with members of the New York families.

Episode #7 – The Casinos

Atlantic City legalizes gambling. Scarfo is about to hit the jackpot.

Episode #8 – The Docile Don

Angelo Bruno is slain. Things in the Philadelphia underworld will never be the same.

SEASON 2

Episode #1 – The Chicken Man

Phil Testa becomes the new Boss. Scarfo the Consiglieri.

Episode #2 – Made Men

Testa inducts Salvie, Crazy Phil and a few others. The new breed.

Episode #3 – Father and Son

Salvie and his father become really close.

Episode #4 – Short lived

Testa is assassinated by a nail bomb.

Episode #5 – The new Boss

Nicky Scarfo becomes Boss.

Episode #6 – The Elbow

Scarfo implements a street tax.

Episode #7 – The Young Executioners

Salvie Testa's has a crew of up-and-coming killers.

Episode #8 – Revenge

Salvie gets revenge on his fathers killers.

SEASON 3

Episode #1 – The Riccobene War

The bloody Riccobene War has started. Scarfo spends 18 months in a Texas prison. Salvie is running the streets.

Episode #2 – La Tuna

Scarfo spends 18 months in a Texas prison. Salvie is fighting the war on the streets.

Episode #3 – The Crowned Prince

Salvie's star is on the rise. WSJ labels him "The Crowned Prince of the Philly Mob."

Episode #4 – Treachery

Scarfo's paranoia begins. It starts with Salvie.

Episode #5 – Casablanca South

Scarfo and his Philly Mob are living large and in charge on his boat "The Usual Suspects" in south Florida. The FBI join the party from a distance they are all in store for a rude awakening.

Episode #6 – Demoted

Scarfo takes down the Merlino brothers.

Episode #7 – Unstable

Without Salvie and the Merlino's the Scarfo gang is wilting away.

Episode #8 – The rats

"Tommy D", "Nick the Crow" and Scarfo's own nephew "Crazy Phil" become government witnesses. The Scarfo era is over!

PRODUCER/ WRITER/ DIRECTOR

A native to New Jersey, Mr. Russo started Jersey Bred Productions in 2000. In the same year he Produced and co-wrote his first feature film, Ghetto Dawg. The film went on to win Best Picture at the Atlantic City Film Festival. Soon after, it was picked up by Lions Gate for nationwide distribution. Inspired by mob genre films and shows like Goodfellas, The Sopranos, and Jersey Boys – Greg decided it was time for the next current day mob dramedy to shoot on location throughout NJ. So, he took his love of New Jersey, Italian culture and life experiences, and incorporated them into a feature film entitled “Jersey Bred.” The film in which he wrote, will produce and direct is in preproduction. Mr. Russo is also currently developing the feature film project “Salvie.” a biopic about Salvatore “Salvie” Testa - the crowned prince of the Philadelphia Mob. A film he also wrote, and will direct and produce.

Ducktown will be a spinoff of Salvie. It will be series based, and take a more in depth look at Nicodemo “Little Nicky” Scarfo’s life in the Philadelphia Mob.



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