

Andy Garcia is one of today's most talented and versatile actors. He has been honored for his work not only as an actor, but also as a producer, director and composer/musician.

In 2006, he made his feature film directorial debut with "The Lost City," a project he had been developing for 17 years. It was produced in association with Garcia's production company, CineSon Productions. Garcia composed the original score for the film and also produced the soundtrack, which features several legends from the Cuban music world.

"The Lost City" earned Garcia Best Director and Best Film Awards at the 2006 Imagen Awards. He also just received a Best Director Award nomination at the 2007 Alma Awards.

Garcia is now filming the Columbia Pictures / MGM sequel "The Pink Panther 2." He also stars in the independent crime drama "The Air I Breathe," which premiered at the 2007 Tribeca Film Festival and is to open in 2008.

It was recently announced that he'll be the voice of a German Shepherd in the Walt Disney animated comedy "South of the Border," co-starring with Drew Barrymore and Salma Hayek. He will also be seen in James Cotton's "La Linea," shooting in October, and Todd Robinson's "The Last Full Measure," filming in December.

Earlier this year, he starred in Joe Carnahan's "Smokin' Aces." His recent film credits also include the title role in the biographical drama "Modigliani," of which he was also executive producer; and Philip Kaufman's thriller "Twisted," with Ashley Judd and Samuel L. Jackson. In addition, Garcia joined the all-star ensemble cast of Steven Soderbergh's hit remake of "Ocean's Eleven," "Ocean's Twelve" and "Ocean's Thirteen."

Garcia earlier garnered Academy Award and Golden Globe Award nominations for Best Supporting Actor for his performance in Francis Ford Coppola's "The Godfather: Part III in 1990." He later received an Emmy Award nomination and his second Golden Globe Award nomination for his portrayal of legendary Cuban trumpeter Arturo Sandoval in HBO's 2000 biopic "For Love or Country: The Arturo Sandoval Story." As the executive producer of the telefilm, Garcia also earned an Emmy nomination for Outstanding Made for Television Movie.

The film was Golden Globe-nominated for Best Miniseries or Made for Television Movie. In addition, Garcia produced the movie's soundtrack and the Emmy-winning score, featuring the music of Arturo Sandoval. The film won two ALMA Awards as Best Made For TV Movie or Miniseries and as Outstanding Latin Cast in a Made for TV Movie or Miniseries.

Garcia formed the production company CineSon Productions in 1991. Under the CineSon banner, he made his directorial debut with the documentary concert film "Cachao...ComoSu Ritmo No Hay Dos (Like His Rhythm There Is No Other)," about the legendary co-creator of the Mambo, Israel López "Cachao."

On the music side, Garcia produced and performed on Volumes I and II of "Cachao -- Master Sessions" (Crescent Moon/Sony), the first a 1994 Grammy Award winner, and the latter a 1995 Grammy Award nominee. The CD "Cachao - Cuba Linda" (EMI Latin), produced by Garcia's CineSon record label, was nominated for a 2001 Grammy and a 2000 Latin Grammy Award. Garcia won both Grammy and Latin Grammy awards for his latest collaboration with Israel Lopez "Cachao," "¡Ahora Sí!" (Univision), their fourth record on the CineSon label, released in 2004. Additionally, Garcia composed four songs for the soundtrack of the film "Steal Big, Steal Little," in which he also starred. He produced and performed several songs for the soundtrack of "Just The Ticket," a film he starred in and produced.

Born in Havana, Garcia was only 5 when his family fled to Florida after Fidel Castro's takeover of Cuba. He began acting in regional theatre before moving to Los Angeles to pursue a film career. He first gained attention in Hal Ashby's "8 Million Ways to Die" and later appeared in such films as Brian De Palma's "The Untouchables," Ridley Scott's "Black Rain," Mike Figgis' "Internal Affairs," Kenneth Branagh's "Dead Again," Stephen Frears' "Hero," Luis Mandoki's "When A Man Loves A Woman," Gary Fleder's "Things to Do in Denver When You're Dead," Sidney Lumet's "Night Falls on Manhattan" and Barbet Schroeder's "Desperate Measures."

Garcia has been honored with a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, a Star of the Year Award from the National Association of Theater Owners, a PRISM Award, a Harvard University Foundation Award and Hispanic Heritage Award for the Arts. He is also the recipient of an Oscar de la Hoya Foundation Champion Award, Father's Day Council Father of the Year Award and an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts Degree from St. John's University. In 2005, the UCLA Johnson Cancer Center Foundation honored Garcia with the Gil Nickel Humanitarian Award. Garcia also received the Indie Producer's highest honor for "Outstanding Contribution to Film," and the ALMA Awards honored him with the "Anthony Quinn Award for Excellence in Motion Pictures." In June 2006, the Karlovy Vary Film Festival honored Garcia with the Crystal Globe award for artistic contribution. Garcia received the Moet-Hennessey Privilege Award at the Imagen Awards in Beverly Hills. The Covenant House honored him with the prestigious Dove Award which recognizes role models who have found the time to give back to their communities and to at-risk youth. In June 2007, Garcia was honored as "Entertainer of the Year" at the Vision Awards, and served as an honorary co-chair and host opening night at the Los Angeles Film Festival.

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