

GANGS OF NEW YORK

USA/Italy | 2002 | 167' | Crime, Drama, History | Rated R

Directed by

Martin Scorsese

Written by

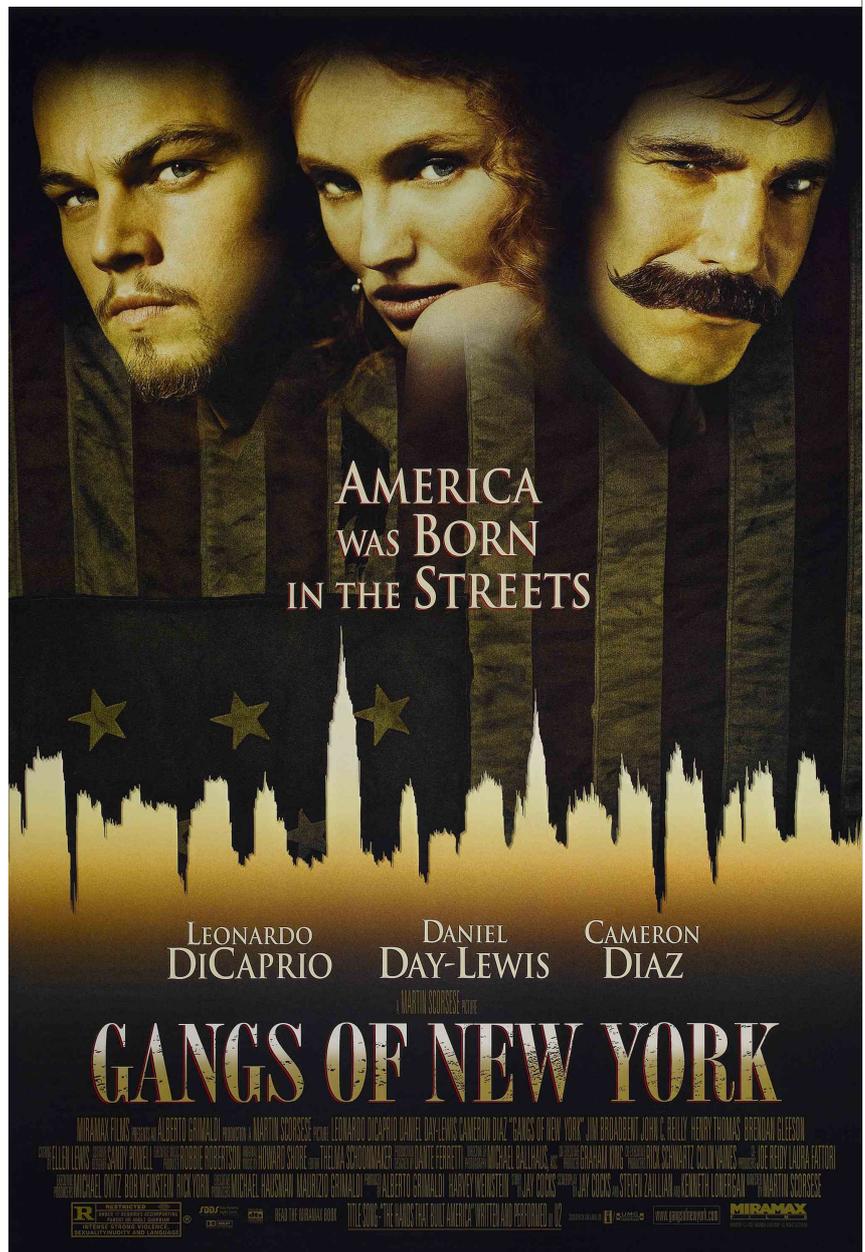
Jay Cocks
Steven Zaillian
Kenneth Lonergan

With

Leonardo DiCaprio
Daniel Day-Lewis
Cameron Diaz
Jim Broadbent
John C. Reilly
Liam Neeson
Brendan Gleeson

Original Music by

Howard Shore



Première:

09/12/2002 (New York)

Release:

20/12/2002

America was born in the streets.

Budget: \$97.000.000

Gross: \$194.000.000 ca

REVIEW

New York, 1846. The city is deeply divided into the different social classes and the multicultural poorest part is even more fragmented into different gangs, each referring to their origin. Irish and Americans fight to gain control of the Five Points, an important crossroad for legal and illegal commercial activities. Amsterdam, son of the priest leading the Irish 'Dead Rabbits' gang, watches his father die in a bloody battle; after years in the child-care system, he returns seeking vengeance on Bill the Butcher, head of the Americans and now in control of almost all the city thanks to his connections and blackmails. And his only chance to get near enough is to become his protege, while having an affair with the mysterious Jenny...

Martin Scorsese and his gangster movies are a resourceful couple. And this one is no exception. True, maybe the length is a bit overwhelming and the story gets a little too dragged, without serious plot twists, but a few inspired ideas and an overall good cast choice save this movie from the mediocrity it could have fallen into, though leaving it suspended between a failure and a success.

On the Italian set, New York seems to live again in its middle '800 splendor and squalor. A great change in colours bounces the viewer from the low classes to the top NY citizens, from one gang to the other, from a cultural level or origin to the other. As usual Scorsese likes giving a huge perspective of the setting the story is being developed in, maybe to give the just emphasis to the great sets built for the shooting, but also cutting to numerous close-ups, where the main characters get all their iconic appearance highlighted.

Talking about the characters. I much appreciated the great transformation that the screenwriters gave to Amsterdam, far from being a predictable young man driven by vengeance only. Maybe he's not portrayed by the best Leonardo DiCaprio, although this is one of the movies with which the talented actor grew and became the star he is today.

At the same time, Bill the Butcher is equally stationary, being the best counterpart Amsterdam could hope for: a true villain, sadistic and way past

redemption. Daniel Day-Lewis is truly remarkable in his role, with a perfect snigger and, in my opinion, the perfect voice.

A few words on the music. If it was difficult for the screenwriters and the director to keep the tension high for such a long time, the same is true for the composer. Some good melodies keep the spirit up during some dull moments, but the work as a whole is not as good as he got us used to.

The movie indeed is worth a shot, even if it's comprehensible if someone found it boring or simply too long. To tell the truth, it's a movie for the historical and gangster genre fans and not for the whole movie audience; above all, it is not suitable for children, as there is a great amount of violence especially in the final part, but even though the brutality might seem excessive, don't let yourself be put off by it, lest you miss the great and unexpected final shot.

ASSESSMENT

POSTER	84%
TAGLINE	78%
TRAILER	68%
SATISFACTION	81%
DIRECTING	84%
SCREENPLAY	81%
PRODUCTION DESIGN	90%
CINEMATOGRAPHY	85%
CAST	88%
MUSIC	82%
TOTAL	84% - B