



Email this article
Print this article
Most popular pages

Click to send
Click to print
Today | This Week

Versatile Vincent

Kathy Cano-Murillo
 The Arizona Republic
 June 27, 2002 12:00:00

Devil horns were a perfect fit for Vincent D'Onofrio in *The Cell*. Then again, the priest robes he sports for his new film *The Dangerous Lives of Altar Boys* are just as appealing.

To him, it's perfect cinematic symmetry. Calling from the set of his NBC series *Law and Order: Criminal Intent*, the 42-year-old says he loves the dichotomy of his roles, even if sometimes his professional life eclipses his private one.

Although his turn as Father Casey in *Altar Boys* is a small one, the experience was one to remember for an eclectic actor, whose movie roles have ranged from a disturbed soldier in *Full Metal Jacket* to the alien with the shotgun in *Men in Black*.



www.imdb.com

Vincent D'Onofrio plays Father Casey in the indie film *The Dangerous Lives of Altar Boys*.

QUESTION: Did you have any qualms about playing a priest?

ANSWER: I've always wanted to play one. I wanted to play one with a little more depth than Father Casey, but it was great the way it turned out. The main focus was on the story of the boys. It was nice to represent a priest in a good way, especially with all the talk that has been going on in the church.

Q: In the film you have to watch over four mischievous boys. Did it bring back any personal memories of your childhood?

A: Well, I was never an altar boy, but I did grow up Catholic. And I can say I did have nuns as teachers the first two years of my education, but none of them was as mean as the nun that Jodie (Foster) plays. As far as the pranks, when I was a kid I used to hang around with a gang of kids, and we used to get into all sorts of nonsense, much like the kids in the movie.

Q: Was it difficult working with a cast of such young actors?

A: Kieran (Culkin) and Emile (Hirsch) - I was so impressed with them. Basically we hung out together all the time. I can't say how much they blew me away. When I was their age I wasn't connected to anything the way they are connected to acting. They're just so smart and in tune.

Q: In *Law and Order: Criminal Intent*, you're practically a walking encyclopedia. Does any of that knowledge come in handy in your everyday life?

A: I'd have to say in my personal life, I know a little bit about a lot of things because of the research I've had to do in all my years of acting. But honestly, I don't know a lot about very much. But I know a little about a lot.

Q: Name your top three guilty-pleasure movies.

A: *Midnight Cowboy*, *Arthur* and *Rocco and His Brothers* - it's an Italian film.

Q: If you could choose one of your films to be rereleased on the big screen, which would it be?

A: *The Whole Wide World*. That's one of my favorites. They would never rerelease it, though. I think they should. It just looks so nice in wide screen in a cinema.

Q: What is the biggest chance you've ever taken on a role?

A: *Men in Black*. I think I went pretty out there with that. I kept the character to myself. No one knew what I was going to do until I showed up that day for the first day of shooting. I knew I had to be totally confident and completely committed. I was nervous that they might not "get it." What you see on-screen was the only way I thought I could play it, so I gave it a go and it worked.

Reach Murillo at [Email](#) | [Bio](#)

Email this article
Print this article
Most popular pages

Click to send
Click to print
Today | This Week