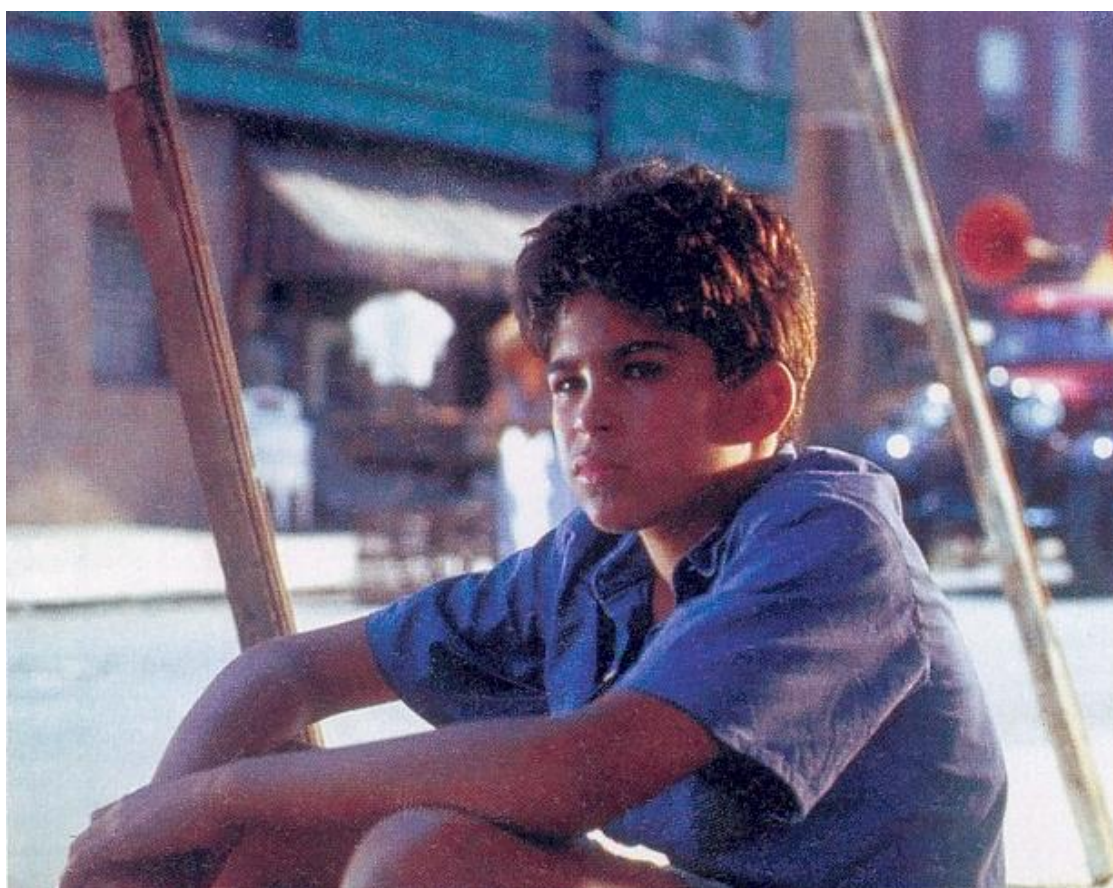


Two Bits

US : 1995 : dir. James Foley : : 93 min
 prod: Joseph Stefano : scr: Joseph Stefano : dir.ph.:
[Jerry Barone](#) [d]
 Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio; Al Pacino; Patrick Borriello; Andy Romano; Donna Mitchell;
 Mary Lou Rosato; Joe Grifasi; Joanna Merlin; narrator Alec Baldwin

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	≠	M	♀	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
3791a	1.5	2	1	515	3	-	-	-	-	No	unseen



Note the painstaking attention to period detail – that 1930s hairstyle, that Depression era short-sleeved shirt...

Source: Film Review

Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001 review:

“Poignant memoir of growing up in South Philadelphia during the Depression, as seen through the eyes of young Gennaro (Barrone, in his movie debut), who lives with his widowed mother and talkative grandfather (Pacino) – who insists he’s going to die any day now. Beautifully acted by the leads, written with feeling by producer Joseph

Stefano, but too slow and delicate to realise its full potential. Still worth seeing for a handful of crystalline moments. Shot in Panavision. ****1/2 ”**

Film Review – July '98 – reader's query:

“I thought I knew every one of Al Pacino's films but a friend has been on a computer and come up with a printout on Pacino

including a list of films and I see two that I have not heard of. They are "**JONAS IN THE DESERT**" (93) and "**TWO BITS**" (95). Have you any information about these, please? Were they perhaps made but never released? On video? "

– Mrs Margaret Stone, Penrith, Scotland

"...James Foley's "**TWO BITS**" is a Depression-era drama about a 12-year old boy (Jerry Barone) growing up in South Philadelphia, who shares a house with his widowed mother (Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio) and his dying grandfather

(Pacino). Pacino's role is a supporting one (he took second billing to Mastrantonio, his co-star from "**SCARFACE**"), and earned him good reviews. However, the film's poor box office in the US prevented it from securing a theatrical release in Britain. Neither titles are available on video in the UK. "

[no listing in "Film Review 1994-95" or "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995"]

No further information currently available. Presumably an autobiographical story, though Maltin doesn't say as much. The apocryphal famous last words of W.C.Fields were "On the whole, I'd rather be in Philadelphia" (it had long been the butt of his jokes). It must have been a fun sort of place in the thirties.

The UK still only sees perhaps 60-70% of the titles commercially released in the States, and barely 5% of the titles released on the continent. Are we getting a good deal?, I ask myself. Nothing else is known of Jerry Barone, but a Sal Barone featured on "**Sesame Street**" and as Tony in the soap "**As the World Turns**".

Kids and dying grandfathers is a deep mine for the cinema, but so are 1930s boyhood tales - "**KING OF THE HILL**" and "**LOST IN YONKERS**" (both made in 93) being just two recent examples. See subject index under **DEPRESSION ERA / 1930s SETTINGS** and **GRANDPARENTS** for more.