

Meet Al Pacino in Dublin? An offer you can't refuse...

But just 400 will see Godfather star

By Kate Chambré

HE'S best known for playing flawed men of greatness whose efforts to shake off a murky past are hampered at every turn.

So when it emerged that Al Pacino was due to hit Dublin, it came as no surprise to learn that our top politicians and celebrities were falling over themselves to meet him.

But with just 400 students receiving tickets to see the Godfather legend at Trinity College, Dublin, let's just say such aspirations sleep with the fishes.

The actor is due to fly into Dublin next Wednesday to accept honorary patronage of the university's Philosophical Society.

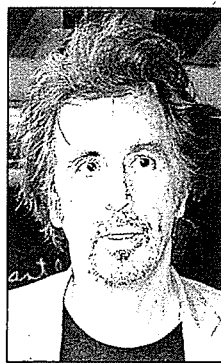
And just 400 students - selected by lottery - have been invited to witness the 66-year-old actor acknowledge the honour bestowed on him by 'The Phil'.

Not that that has stopped the great and the good trying to gain access to the event, according to TCD's debating club the Philosophical Society.

'People have literally been banging down the doors to get a ticket,' said society president Daire Hickey.

The unprecedented demand stems from a decision by the society to keep the event a low-key affair and resist the temptation to open their doors to the darlings of the society pages.

'We decided not to invite any celebrities or politicians,' Mr Hickey told the Daily Mail, adding that there had been



- ALFREDO James Pacino, left, was born on April 25, 1940 in Manhattan.
- His grandparents were from Corleone in Sicily - home of The Godfather's Don Vito Andolini 'Corleone'.
- Pacino's legendary acting coach Lee Strasberg - who also mentored Robert De Niro and Marilyn Monroe - appeared in The Godfather Part II as mobster Hyman Roth.
- Although both Pacino and De Niro were in The Godfather Part II, they didn't share any scenes. They didn't appear together until 1995's Heat.
- Despite being critically panned on its release, his 1983 movie Scarface made \$44million at the box office in the States.
- He won the Best Actor Oscar in 1992 for his role in Scent Of A Woman.
- He is due to star alongside George Clooney and Brad Pitt in the forthcoming Ocean's Thirteen.

an 'unbelievable' response to the anticipated arrival of the New York icon.

Pacino - who co-starred with Colin Farrell in 2003's The Recruit - follows in the footsteps of such prominent figures as Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Bob Geldof and Salman Rushdie.

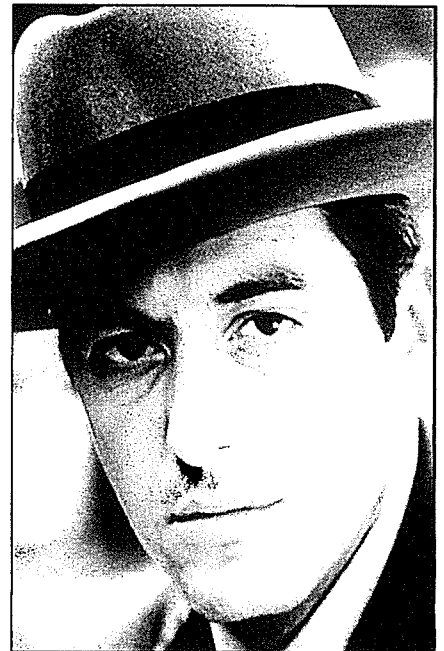
The society sent a letter to the Serpico star's agent in June, and received a response within a fortnight.

'One reason why he may have wanted to come is that he is a huge fan of Oscar Wilde who studied at Trinity,' speculated Mr Hickey. Pacino played Herod

in a production of Wilde's play Salome. Now 20-year-old Mr Hickey is putting in place the last-minute preparations ahead of the acting veteran's 48-hour visit to Dublin.

'Before the event he'll have dinner at Trinity College with the provost John Hegarty, myself and a couple of members from the Philosophical Society,' said the economics student.

'We're delighted he's taking the time to come here. It really is truly an honour. I'm not sure if he has visited Ireland before but I'm sure he'll enjoy his trip.'



Legend: Pacino as Michael Corleone in The Godfather

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