

review

Family guy

Photographer Steve Schapiro's story of *The Godfather* is as cinematic as the film

The *Godfather* is probably as close to high art as film gets. Poetic, tragic and violent, its story perfectly encapsulates the darker side of the American Dream. So it's fitting that every facet of this most revered of movies has been captured in a beautiful coffee table book, *The Godfather Family Album*.

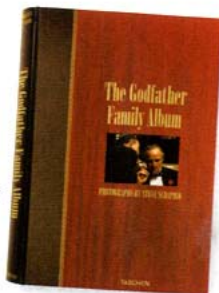
Sumptuously illustrated, the book is the work of photographer Steve Schapiro, who was allowed to document the making of *The Godfather* and its sequels over 20 years of filmmaking.

Not only did his pictures provide the series with its most iconic image – Marlon Brando's Don Corleone stroking a cat – but the photographs

capture perfectly the most intimate aspects of film-making. From Marlon Brando fooling about in make-up to a crowd of immaculately dressed extras being directed by a very hairy Francis Ford Coppola, the book tells a story as fascinating as Michael Corleone's doomed rise to power.

An epic book that befits an epic film.

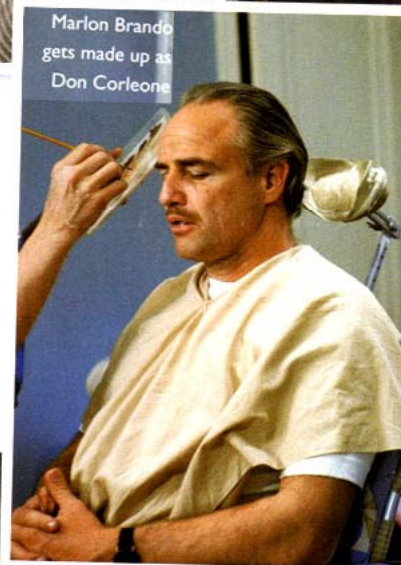
THE GODFATHER FAMILY ALBUM IS PUBLISHED BY TASCHEN, £400; WWW.TASCHEN.COM



Coppola marshalls cast and extras on the set of *The Godfather*



Marlon Brando gets made up as Don Corleone



Francis Ford Coppola poses with members of the cast



Embraces and applause at the end of a climactic take

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