

The New York Times

American filmmaker Emile Ardolino spent much of his distinguished career making television documentaries about classical dance and designing innovative multi-media presentations for theatrical productions, but he is still best known for his commercial feature film debut, the hit sleeper, [Dirty Dancing](#). After this sweaty charmer, Ardolino helmed the lackadaisically fantastic "Chances Are" (1988) and the happy-face sequel "Three Men and A Little Lady" (1990). His last feature was a return to his pre-occupation, dance on film: "George Balanchine's The Nutcracker" (1993) starring Macaulay Culkin.



film some of the finest work of the world's premiere dancers and choreographers in the Dance in America and Live from Lincoln Center series, for which he won a total of 17 Emmy Awards. In 1983 he won an Oscar for Best Documentary for [He Makes Me Feel Like Dancin'](#).

After *Dirty Dancing*, Ardolino continued to find mainstream commercial success; in 1992 he scored another hit with the Whoopi Goldberg vehicle [Sister Act](#) (1992). His final features were the film adaptation of George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker* and the acclaimed TV movie *Gypsy* which was adapted from a famous Broadway musical. Ardolino died of AIDS in 1993.



The New York born Ardolino, began his career as an actor in an off-Broadway production of *The Fantasticks*. He then joined the film industry as an editor, producer and director of industrial films, documentaries, and multi-media productions. Among the latter, his best-known productions are the Joffrey Ballet's rendition of [Astarte, Jesus Christ Superstar](#), and [Oh! Calcutta!](#) for which he won an Obie award.

He then began directing and producing documentaries for public television. He worked for PBS from the '70s through the '80s and caught on



Awards

Independent Spirit Award Best 1st Feature
"Dirty Dancing" 1987

Directors Guild of America Award Musical/Variety
"A Lincoln Center Special:
NYC Ballet Tribute to George Ballanchine" 1983

Emmy Outstanding Children's Program
Emmy Outstanding Individual Achievement
Informational Programming
Oscar Best Documentary Feature
"He Makes Me Feel Like Dancin'" 1983 - 84

Directors Guild of America Award Musical/Variety
"The Spellbound Child" on "Dance in America" 1981

Special OBIE Award
"Oh! Calcutta!" 1969 - 70

~ Sara Feldman, *Movie Guide*

Ardolino Productions moves into the music video industry! Joseph Ardolino was born in Brooklyn, New York, where countless family members have been seen throughout Hollywood and Broadway, producing blockbuster movies and legendary plays.



Joseph began his career in his teens when he organized a band with his friends. For him music was a passion, for his friends a way to kill time. The group broke up after graduating High School, but the compelling pull of music made him focus on expanding both his passion and entrepreneurial skills. In 1984 Joseph organized a small disc jockey company *A Nu Sound Entertainers*. His small company soon soared from casual birthday parties and formal weddings to opening for *The Elegants*, *The Capris*, *Whitney Huston* and others. The company made appearances in Catskill, New York and Langley Air Force Base, Virginia. The group performed yearly for *The March of Dimes* and the *Jerry Lewis MDA Telethon*. He decided to solo for few years, weaving his musical talent at some of New York's largest nightclubs including: the *Lime Light* in New York City and at Cherry Grove, Fire Island's *Ice Palace*; the stomping ground for the Village People, David Bowie, Mick Jagger and Liza Minnelli.

Joseph's cousin, an Emmy-Award-Winning-Producer recognized his musical talent and introduced him into the field of film production. Although interesting, the theatrical world did not capture his creative interest. "You have to enjoy what you're doing. If you're not having fun, then it's time to try reaching for a new horizon." Joseph had a great interest along with the foresight of musical video production.. He started to work with various artist using his natural talent to become recognized in



the industry. At this time Joseph was in a relationship with a young man for the past seven years, Craig Baker. Together they expanded their talents in small businesses, but music, which inspired them, remained the focal point of their ambitions. Already established in the music industry for their audio and video productions, they continued producing music videos. At the turn-of-the-century they went public about their fourteen-year relationship. On August 12, 2000, they joined in a Civil Union in Bennington, Vermont. Seven months later, on March 24, 2001 they were officially married on Long Island by Archbishop Bruce J. Simpson, Craig assuming Joseph's legal name.

Joseph and Craig continued to produce music videos for some of the industries biggest stars, Joseph succeeded in becoming the President and assistant stage director of Ardolino Productions.

Joseph and Craig have become a dynamic team, and together, they are continuing to change the industry. Today Joe and Craig Ardolino, are world renowned for their contributions to the world of Music Video Production.

Anthony Beltucci, *Milestones*



Dirty Dancing



Dirty Dancing (1987)

Directed by:
Emile Ardolino

Written By:
Eleanor Bergstein

Genre:
Drama / Music / Romance

Tagline:
I've Had The Time Of My Life

Frances (Baby) is becoming a young woman in the summer where she meets Johnny Castle who teaches dance at a family Summer Camp and in his off hours Dirty Dances with the other dancers. She learns a routine so that one of the women can recover from an abortion and becomes Johnny's lover. As the summer winds down, Each must come to grips with responsibility and love and others' expectations.

Cast overview:

Jennifer Grey.... Frances 'Baby' Houseman
Patrick Swayze.... Johnny Castle
Jerry Orbach.... Dr. Jake Houseman
Cynthia Rhodes.... Penny Johnson
Jack Weston.... Max Kellerman
Jane Brucker.... Lisa Houseman
Kelly Bishop.... Marjorie Houseman
Lonny Price.... Neil Kellerman
Max Cantor.... Robbie Gould
Charles 'Honi' Coles.... Tito Suarez (as Charles Honi Coles)
Neal Jones.... Billy Kostecki
'Cousin Brucie' Morrow.... Magician
Wayne Knight.... Stan
Paula Trueman.... Mrs. Schumacher
Alvin Myerovich.... Mr. Schumacher

Awards: Won Oscar. Another 8 wins & 5 nominations





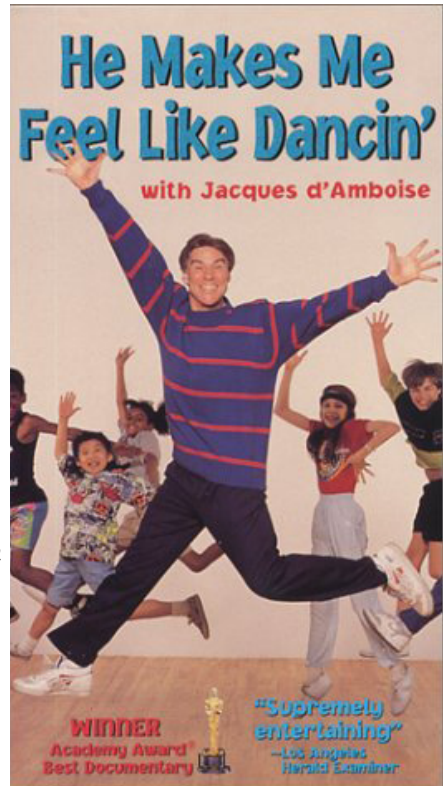
He Makes Me Feel Like Dancin' (1983)

Directed by:
Emile Ardolino

Genre:
Documentary

Awards
Academy Awards, USA
1984 Oscar for Best Documentary
1984 Christopher Award for Best Documentary
1984 Emmy for Outstanding Children's Program

Outstanding Individual Achievement
Informational Programming
Emile Ardolino (director)



This documentary shows Jacques D'Amboise teaching school children in New York City to dance - both at school and at the National Dance Institute (of which Jacques D'Amboise was the founder). The lessons culminate in "The Event of the Year", which is danced by the children - and which has been especially created and choreographed, for the occasion, by Jacques D'Amboise. Kevin Kline narrates the ballet.

Credited cast:

Jacques d'Amboise.... Himself
rest of cast listed alphabetically:
Judy Collins.... Herself
Carolyn d'Amboise.... Herself
Christopher d'Amboise.... Himself
Janet Eilber.... Herself
Joshua Feinman.... Joshua Feinman
Todd Fredericks.... Todd Fredericks
Peter Gennaro.... Himself
Kevin Kline.... Himself
Chita Rivera.... Herself





Sister Act (1992)

Directed by:
Emile Ardolino

Written By:
Joseph Howard

Genre:
Comedy / Crime / Music

Tagline:
No booze! No sex!
No drugs! No way!

Awards:
1993 ASCAP Award
1993 American Comedy Award

Sister Act is about a Reno lounge singer named Deloris Van Carter who witnesses her mobster boyfriend killing an employer. She is then hidden in a convent under a witness protection program. She soon makes friends with the nuns especially Sister Mary Robert, Sister Mary Lazarus and Sister Mary Patrick. After the Mother Superior catches Deloris going out to a bar in the night time followed by Mary Robert and Mary Patrick she orders her to join the church choir. Only to find her coaching the choir and turning them into swingin' singin' sisters. The choir proves to be a big success with the surrounding neighborhood, but will Deloris' boyfriend track her down...

Cast: Whoopi Goldberg.... Deloris Van Cartier/Sister Mary Clarence
Maggie Smith.... Mother Superior
Kathy Najimy.... Sister Mary Patrick
Wendy Makkena.... Sister Mary Robert
Mary Wickes.... Sister Mary Lazarus
Harvey Keitel.... Vince LaRocca
Bill Nunn.... Lt. Eddie Souther
Robert Miranda.... Joey
Richard Portnow.... Willy
Ellen Albertini Dow.... Choir nun
Carmen Zapata.... Choir nun

