

## ***Once Upon A Time In America* Locations**

by Malcolm Barber

*The Hoods* was set in Lower Manhattan on the East Side around Delancey Street but at the time of filming this location was not suitable. Leone had been offered the streets used in *The Godfather Part Two* but he wanted more depth of field - four blocks all the way down to the river - plus one of the great bridges.

Leone opted for the area to the south east of Williamsburg bridge - South 8th St, Bedford Ave and South 6th St. He loved it because it had the Williamsburg bridge in the background which he felt symbolised America and was the type of bridge which could not be found in Europe. Some of the houses in the area were owned by the city or boarded up or abandoned and Gabila's Knish Factory took up a substantial part of one side of South 8th St.

The following locations in and around New York were used.

### **Williamsburg**

South 8th St

Exterior of Gelly's Bar/Fat Moe's, Synagogue & Cemetery  
Noodles', Peggy's & Patsy's House, Max's House, Feather Factory

Bedford Ave

Deborah walking home

South 6th St

Rolling a drunk attempt - Max & Noodles first meet

Broadway & Dunham Pl

Noodles' journey in rental car from station to cemetery & Fat Moe's

### **Brooklyn**

Water St, Front St, Adams St

The walk from the station and the death of Dominic

Chambers Paper Fibres, Plymouth St

Capuano's secret distillery

Main St & Plymouth St

Max & Co looking on whilst Noodles is taken to prison  
(the doors of the prison are in Montreal)

## **Queens**

Court Square next to Long Island City Court  
Noodles leaves prison and is met by Max

## **NYC**

Brooklyn Bridge North  
Frisbee scene

McSorley's Old Ale House 15 East 7th St  
Noodles picks a drunk to roll

The Lackawanna Railroad and Ferry terminal in Hoboken  
Suitcase/Locker scenes

North of 401 Broadway, near junction of Broome St & Mercer St  
Rooftops scene (Fartface Peggy Max Noodles & Patsy)

Woodlawn Cemetery, Bronx  
Mausoleum and Riverdale cemetery

## **New Jersey**

Warren Ave, Passaic Ave & Ocean Ave, Spring Lake  
Noodles gets out of car after his date with Deborah

Not in the film but Leone first met Harry Grey in a bar in Manhattan near the New Cavalary Cemetery, just off Greenpoint Avenue. It is thought by some to be the model for the 1968 version of Fat Moe's bar.

Parts of South 8th St were duplicated in Montreal and Rome and the remaining locations were as follows:

## **FLORIDA**

Don CeSar Beach Resort, St Pete Beach, St Petersburg  
Max, Carol, Noodles & Eve on beach

## **MONTREAL**

Dead bodies scene following Noodles' betrayal  
Setting fire to Newsstand  
Noodles goes to prison  
Shooting of Crowning's men (Chicken Joe & Willie the Ape)  
Federal Reserve bank  
Possibly a 3rd Fat Moe's set

## **Trois Rivieres, near Quebec**

Shooting of Joe - car swimming

## **ROME**

### **A set near Prietralata**

Fat Moe's Diner & Speakeasy  
Gelly's Deli  
Back room of Gelly's Bar - Deborah's dance routines  
Alleyway  
Burnt out car being extinguished by foam on TV

### **Teatro la Cometa**

Shadow Puppet Theater

### **Cinecitta Studio**

Opium Den above Shadow Puppet Theater  
Reginald Marsh/Big Apple murals  
Van Linden's Office - Diamond robbery  
Hospital - changing baby  
Hospital - Jimmy getting treatment  
Peggy's whore house

### **Mattadoyo di Roma (old abattoir)**

Jimmy in tank of gasolene

### **Pratica di Mare**

Garbage Truck scene

## **Belaggio, Lake Como**

David and friends with cars  
Secretary Bailey's mansion

## **VENICE**

Porto Marghera  
The kids rescue a shipment using salt

The Hotel Excelsior, The Lido  
Noodles date with Deborah & lying on the beach

## **PARIS**

Brasserie Julien, Rue St Denis  
Deborah waits for train (deleted scene)

Gare du Nord railway station  
Deborah departs for Hollywood