

# Sofia Coppola: Lost In Coppolation

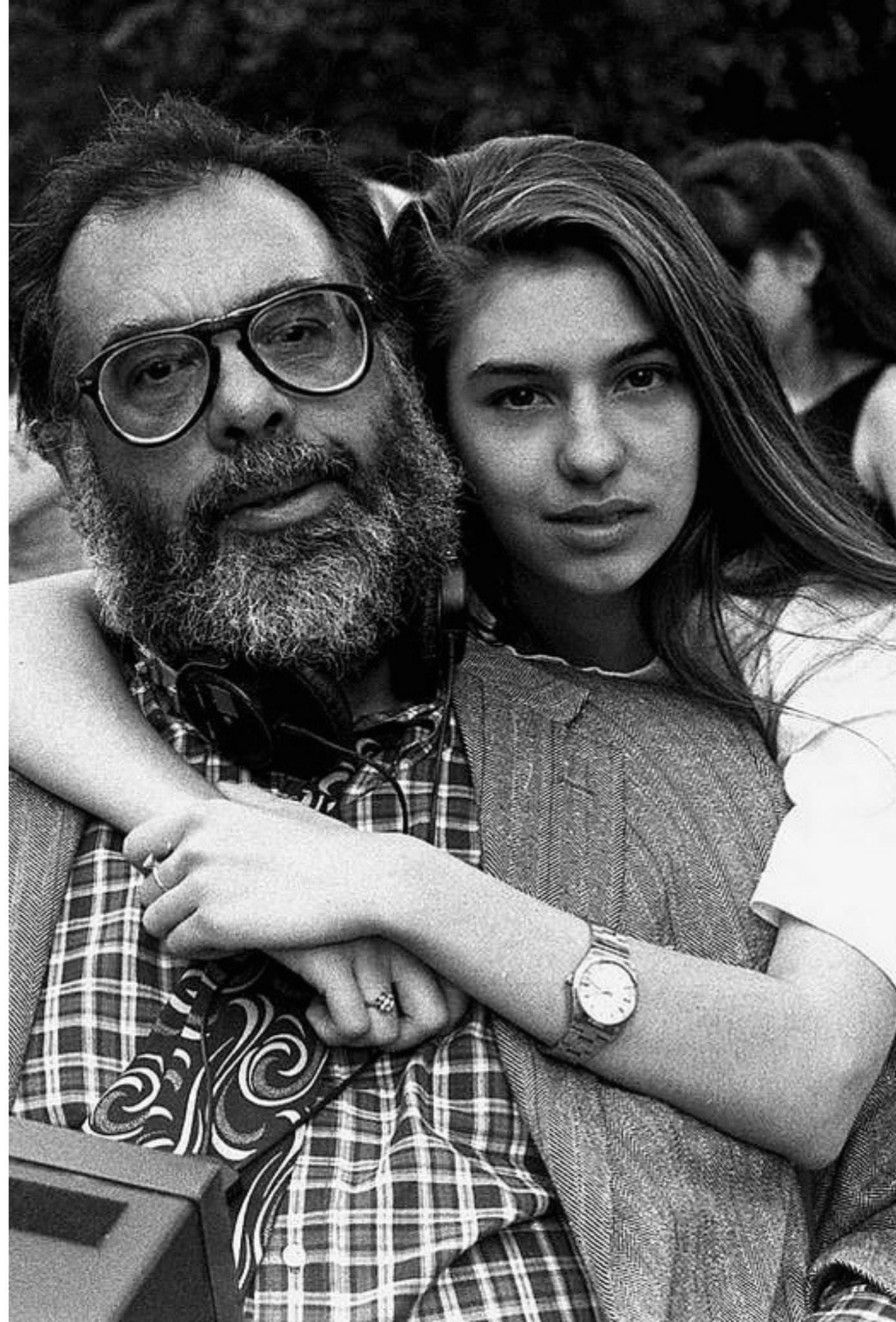


THE 403: Independent Film  
Shauna Evans

# Early Life

---

- Born on May 14, 1971 in New York City.
- Youngest and only daughter of Eleanor and Francis Ford Coppola.
- She has two older brothers Roman and Gian-Carlo Coppola.
  - Her brother Gian-Carlo died in a boating accident.
- Due to her father's influence, her first big break was her role as the child baptized in *The Godfather*.
- Briefly, she attended Mills College and California Fine Arts before dropping out.

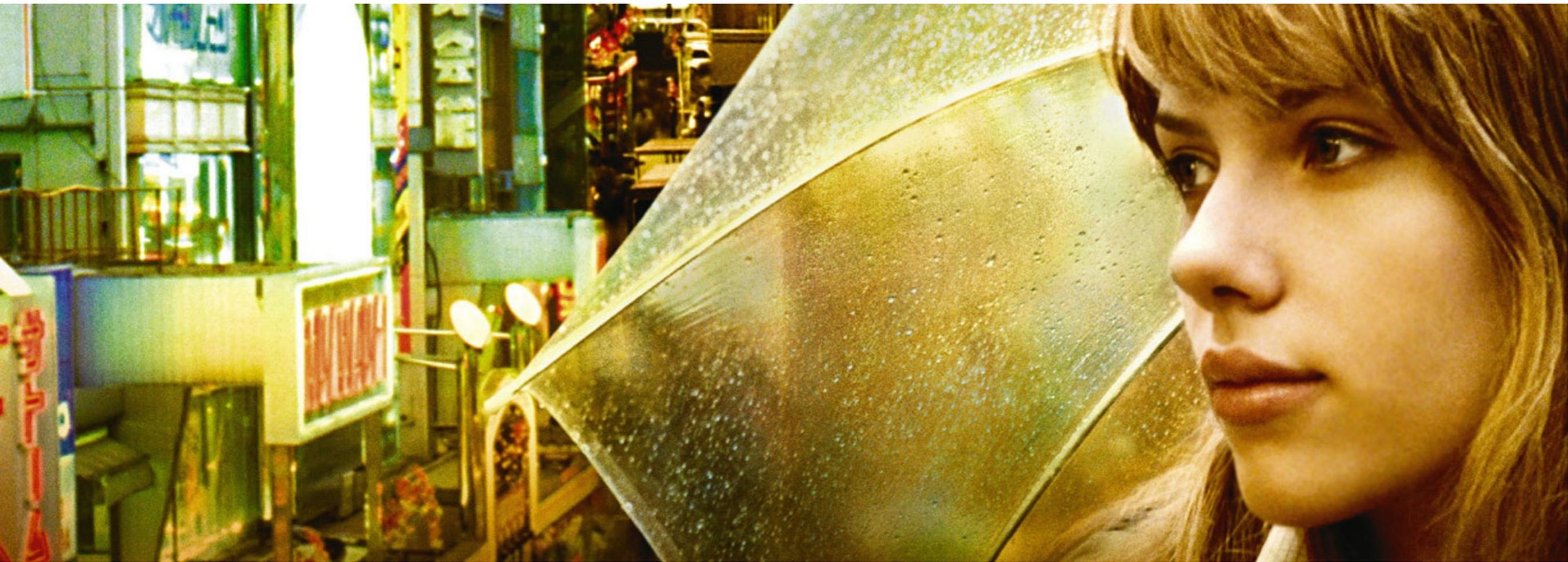


# Actor/Model/Designer/Director



- Sofia Coppola was granted multiple small roles in her father's movies.
  - She was in *The Outsiders*, *Rumble Fish* and *Peggy Sue Got Married* to name a few.
- She interned with Chanel and eventually became a model for the teen magazines *YM* and *Seventeen*.
- In the late 90's she started the clothing company Milkfed with friends Stephaney Hayman and Kim Gordon, from the band Sonic Youth.
  - Today, sold exclusively in Japan.
- She directed various music videos for musicians such as Madonna, The Flaming Lips, and The Chemical Brothers.
- Also, directed a popular Christian Dior fragrance commercial called Miss Dior Chérie.

# Pivotal Moments



- After the *The Godfather: Part III* she declared she would no longer pursue acting.
- *Lick the Star*(1998) first film that lasted 14 mins.
- *The Virgin Suicides*(1999) was her first feature film inspired by Jeffrey Eugenides's novel.
  - Almost did not get made due to:
    - Another production company owning the rights to the novel.
    - There was many inexperienced workers on set.
    - Production budget fell through 2 weeks before shooting.
- *Lost In Translation*(2003) won her an Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay.
  - She became the third woman to nominated for an Academy Award for Best Director and the second woman to win the Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay.
  - Earned her an invitation to join the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

# Film Style

---

- Sofia Coppola's films all center around moments of sheer intimacy from following two adults as they journey through Tokyo in *Lost In Translation* to peering into the exquisite life of a queen in *Marie Antoinette*.
- Over time she was able to establish a signature shot using a dolly or a handheld in order to follow behind the character.
- Also, do to her choice in music along with her high-paced, fast cutting it adds another unique dimension to her films.
- She also explores more adult-based themes in her films that express the need for rebellion and self actualization.



# Lesson Learned

---

- Experience is key
- The destination is the journey
- It does not matter who you are but it matters where you're going.
- Rebel against the social norms and stick to your own personal style.
- Think of your films having their own unique life.

“I don't want my movies to feel like movies, I want them to feel like life.”

- Sofia Coppola



And Always Remember...



“It seems that the greatest difficulty is to find the end. Don't try to find it, it's there already.”

– **Sofia Coppola**

