



Leonardo DiCaprio

Leonardo DiCaprio was born in Los Angeles, California, in 1974. Five years later he made his first television appearance as one of the children on the popular Romper Room show. His television career began and ended that same day. He yelled, he ran around, he disrupted the cast and crew, and no one could control him. He was told not to return the next day.

Raised by very easy-going but loving parents, Leonardo spent his childhood in what he calls the “ghetto” of Hollywood. It was a rough neighborhood. Just getting from one end of a block to another was a trial. Leonardo could easily have ended up in a gang with a criminal record, but his parents sent him to a school some distance away. Not only was he assured a good education, but his friends were boys from better neighborhoods.

His first acting job was a commercial for Matchbox Cars®. He was a popular choice for commercials aimed at children since he looked much younger than his actual age and could learn lines and follow directions more easily than a younger actor.

Leonardo moved from doing more than 30 commercials to being a cast member on various television shows and finally to movies. In The Quick and the Dead, This Boys’ Life, and What’s Eating Gilbert Grape he played a troubled teen. His big break came with his role as Jack Dawson in Titanic. Many fans saw the movie six or more times. “Leomania” broke out everywhere. The little boy who was sent home from Romper Room had truly become a star!