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Anthony John "Tony" is a fictional character and the protagonist in the HBO television drama series *The* portrayed by James Gandolfini. The Italian-American character was conceived by creator and show runner David Chase, who was also largely responsible for the character's story arc throughout the show's six seasons. The character is loosely based on real-life New Jersey mobster Vincent "Vinny Ocean" Palermo (born 1944), a former caporegime (capo) and *de facto* boss of the DeCavalcante crime family of New Jersey. Considered to be the model for the DiMeo crime family, several incidents involving the DeCavalcantes were incorporated into scripts. Bobby Boriello portrayed as a child in one episode and Danny Petrillo played the character as a teenager in three episodes.

In the first season, Tony is a capo in the DiMeo crime family. Between the first and second seasons, he is promoted to street boss, a position he retains until the sixth season; his uncle Corrado "Junior" is the official boss up until early in the sixth season, but has little or no actual power. Throughout the series, Tony struggles to balance the conflicting requirements of his actual family— wife Carmela, daughter Meadow, son A. J., and mother Livia—with those of the Mafia family he controls. He often displays behavior traits characteristic of a violent sociopath, but also struggles with depression and is prone to panic attacks. He seeks treatment from Dr. Jennifer Melfi in the first episode and remains in therapy on and off up until the penultimate episode of the series.

Gandolfini garnered enormous praise for his portrayal of the character, winning three Emmy Awards for Best Lead Actor in a Drama Series, three Screen Actors Guild Awards for Best Male Actor in a Drama Series and a Golden Globe Award for Best Actor – Television Series Drama as well as two additional SAG Awards for Best Performance by an Ensemble in a Drama Series.

Contents

- 1 Fictional character biography
 - 1.1 Early life
 - 1.2 Narrated killings committed by Tony
 - 1.3 As a father



James Gandolfini as

First appearance	"Pilot" (<i>episode 1.01</i>)
Last appearance	"Made in America" (<i>episode 6.21</i>)
Created by	David Chase
Portrayed by	James Gandolfini Bobby Borriello (as a child) Danny Petrillo (as a teenager)
Information	
Aliases	Tony Uncle Johnny Ronald "Big Ron" F. Spears Don Antonio Kevin Finnerty Mr. Petraglia
Gender	Male
Occupation	Crime boss Waste management consultant for Barone Sanitation Co-owner of Satriale's Meat Market and Bada Bing
Title	Soldier (1982 – 1986) Capo (1986 – season 1) De Facto Boss (season 2 – season 6) Boss (season 6)