

CLASSIC DRIVER

[Snapshot, 1971: Would you get in a taxi with Robert de Niro?](#)

Lead

It's 1971, and on the set of *Jennifer on my Mind* in New York, fledgling actor Robert de Niro is shooting his single scene, in which he plays a gypsy taxi driver. Little does he know that a similar role will, in five years' time, make him a certified Hollywood legend...

Michael Brandon, who's playing the lead character in the film, looks forlorn, and almost aware that *Jennifer on my Mind* is poised to be panned by the media and a commercial flop. De Niro's face, however, paints a different picture - one of discovery and hunger. While his career is just beginning, future roles in films such as *The Godfather Part II*, *Mean Streets* and, ironically, *Taxi Driver*, will define De Niro as one of the greatest actors in cinema history.

Photo: Michael Ochs Archives

Gallery

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