



# BIG DREAMS

LEONARDO DICAPRIO ACHIEVES HIS DREAM WITH *INCEPTION*

**For Leonardo DiCaprio**, *Inception* offered a chance for the three-time Oscar nominee to explore a darker and more complicated type of character in a setting he's unfamiliar with himself. In the film directed and written by Christopher Nolan (*The Dark Knight*), DiCaprio plays Dom Cobb, a thief and fugitive who steals secrets deep within the subconscious of others when they are in a dream state. Offered a chance to get his personal life back, DiCaprio's character must take on "one last job" that requires him to plant an idea in someone's head. It's an intense and complex sci-fi/action film with a stellar cast that includes a wealth of talent that the 35-year-old actor couldn't turn down.

**944:** Besides the obvious of wanting to work with Christopher Nolan and the rest of the cast, have you always been fascinated by dreams?

**LEONARDO DICAPRIO:** I'm not a big dreamer, never have been. I remember fragments of my dream. I try to take a traditional sort of approach to researching this project and doing preparation for it. I read books on dream analysis, Freud's book on the analysis of dreams.

**944:** Do you view dreams in a different way now?

**LD:** The only thing I've sort of obviously extracted from the research of dreams is that I don't think there's a specific science you can put on dream psychology. Obviously we suppress things, emotions, things during the day — thoughts that we obviously haven't thought

through enough. In that state of sleep, our mind just sort of randomly fires off different surreal story structures, and when we wake up we should pay attention to these things.

**944:** Were you ever thrown off by the complicated nature of the story and did you always know what dream layer you were in?

**LD:** This story structure was extremely ambitious in the fact that simultaneously you had four different states of the human subconscious that represented different dream states, and each one affected the other. Seeing it in a visual format — that's the magic of moviemaking.

**944:** So you instantly got his vision?

**LD:** There's very few directors I think in this industry that would pitch to a studio that they wanted to do a multi-layered almost at times existential high action, high drama, surreal film that's sort of locked in his mind.

**944:** With *Shutter Island* and *Inception* this year, you've had a chance to explore some very different and complicated characters.

**LD:** I'm a very fortunate person. I get to choose the movies that I want to do. I have a lot of friends in this industry that don't get to do that. I grew up in L.A. A lot of my friends are actors so I realize every day how lucky I am to have this opportunity. While I'm here, I'm going to try to do exactly what I want.

*Inception is in theaters now*  
[inceptionmovie.com](http://inceptionmovie.com)