

Why Michael Caine's Chest Size Mattered

English actor Sir Michael Caine – one of only two actors nominated for an Academy Award for acting in every decade from the 1960s to the 2000s – has appeared in more than 115 films and is regarded as a British film icon. He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in 2000 in recognition of his contribution to cinema.

He is quite humble when he tells about how he got his first break. As a struggling unknown, Caine once went to the last resort of starving actors – a casting agency run by a man named Ronnie Curtis. Here's how Caine tells it:

Ronnie was very cross-eyed, so when he came out, pointed at one of us and said, "You" – three of us stood up. This did not seem to throw him at all; I suppose he was used to it. Then he asked, "What size is your chest?" Each of us still thought he was addressing us alone, so we answered in unison with our chest sizes.

"Who said 40?" he asked, and I put my hand up. Now I knew how Marilyn Monroe felt. "What's your inside leg measurement?" he demanded. "Thirty-two," I replied. His eyes lit up. "Perfect. Come on," he said, beckoning me into his small office.

When I got inside, he explained that I would be playing a policeman in a small film the next day. I had been cast because I fit the uniform that the company already had in their wardrobe.

What can we draw from the story Caine tells?

It's impossible to know why God casts you for the roles you get in life. Is it because of all the potential He sees in you – your latent talent – or did you simply fit the need of the moment?



In the end, it didn't really matter for Michael Caine. Fitting the need of the moment led to the discovery of his great talent. And so it is for us.

Don't concern yourself with the honors you imagine you deserve. Instead, make yourself a servant. Allow yourself to be the one who fills the need of the moment, and God will see to it that you fulfill all of your wonderful potential.

The greatest among you will be your servant (Matthew 23:11 NIV).

– Beecher Hunter