

make **ME**

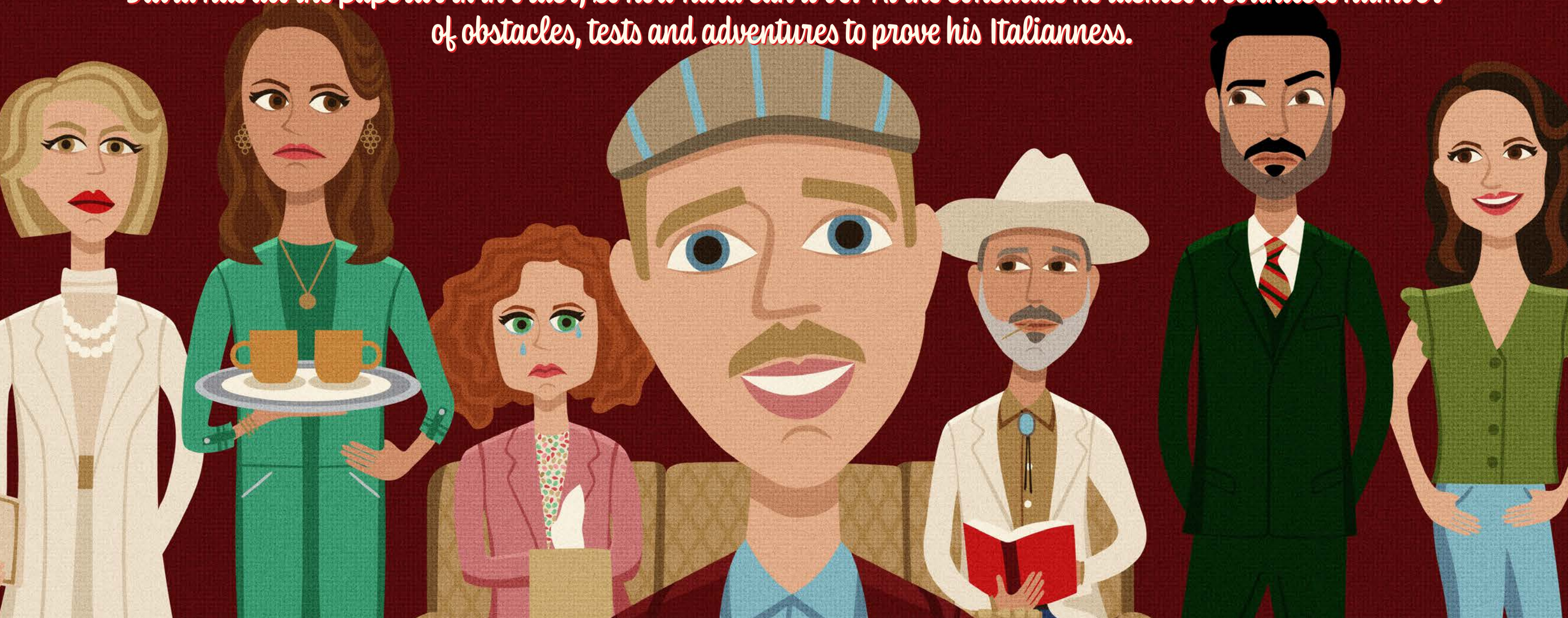
ITALIAN

a **FILM** *by* **BRYAN MAZZARELLO**

A SHORT FILM

AN AMERICAN MAN'S AMUSING AND FANTASTICAL QUEST
TO BECOME AN ITALIAN CITIZEN.

David has all the paperwork in order, so how hard can it be? At the consulate he tackles a countless number of obstacles, tests and adventures to prove his Italianness.





ABOUT THE FILM

Inspired by Bryan Mazzeo's exaggerated stories about his life, the film follows David Mangano on his mission to get his Italian citizenship recognized by the consulate.

Pietro, an Italian consulate employee who always dots his I's and crosses his T's, begins the citizenship process with a comedic interrogation of David. After passing the grilling, things take an odd turn as David is forced to prove his knowledge and passion for all things Italian.

Along his journey he encounters some interesting characters in the consulate who help him to discover more about his Italianness. This citizenship might be his birthright, but it is also a beautiful privilege.

Will David get his citizenship? Does he really understand what it means to be Italian? Is he up for some hilarious and strange challenges? In bocca al lupo.

This film is a recipient of the Panavision New Filmmakers Grant Program.

LENGTH IS 25:29



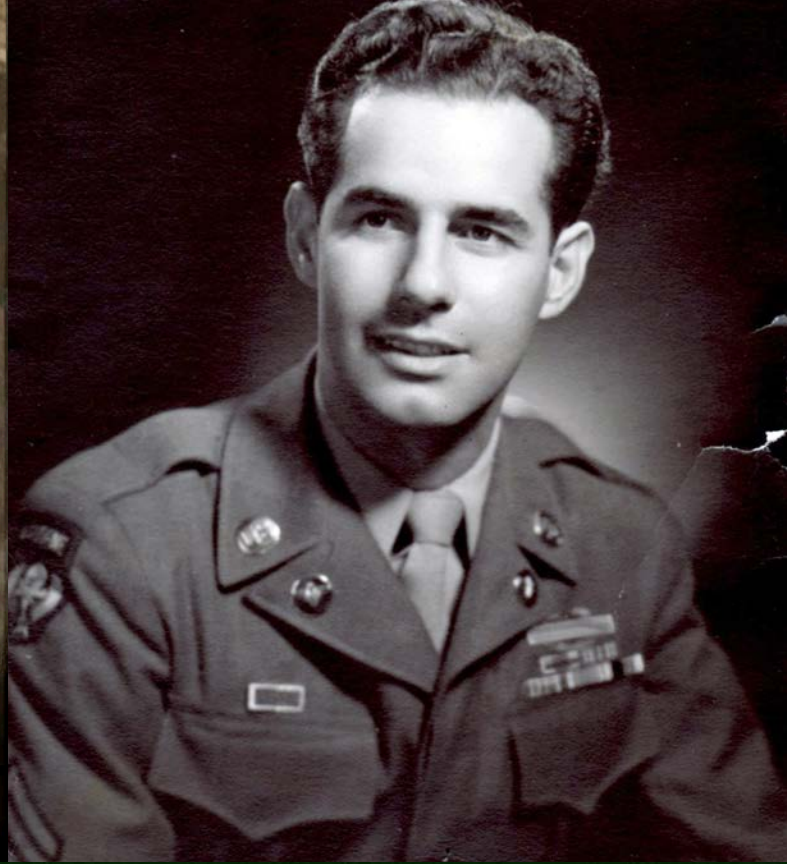
DIRECTOR'S ARTISTIC STATEMENT

I am drawn to comedic, fantasy and sci-fi films that explore the concepts of connection and belonging. Both this film and the process of making it were dependent on people being drawn together for a common passion.

In a time where divisions are highlighted over unity, I believe that we have a need for narratives that celebrate what it means to be a part of a culture and community. As we understand our personal heritage and histories, we are better able to empathize with others and their journeys of discovery and belonging.

Humor is a beautiful tool to open up our minds to new ideas. It breaks down the partitions that we allow to separate us, and we can laugh in unity together. If I can spark that feeling of human connection through laughter, then I have done my job as a storyteller. And hopefully viewers will grab a cup of pistachio gelato to share with a new friend while discussing their favorite Italian films. *Che bello!*

*Grazie,
Bryan Mazzarello*



A TRUE(ISH) STORY

I am a third generation Italian-American that received my Italian dual citizenship recognition in 2016.

FAMILY HISTORY

My great-grandfather, Francesco Mazzarello, and my great-grandmother, Teresa Sberna, immigrated to Milwaukee from Sicily in the early 1900's. They met, married and raised children in the red-lined Third Ward district. Their son and my grandfather, Salvatore Anthony Mazzarello, served much of his career as a US serviceman, but in 1958 due to persecution of Italian-Americans, he changed his last name from Mazzarello to Marell. His goal was to blend in better, like Dean Martin and Tony Bennett.

CONNECTING TO ITALY

Growing up in California, away from my Italian-American family in Milwaukee, I didn't really connect to my Italian roots. Then after graduating college, I took a backpacking trip through Europe, mostly in Italy, and connected with my famiglia Italiana. It was life changing for me. I changed my surname back to Mazzarello four days before getting married to my wife and creative partner, Stephanie, 20 years ago.

ITALIAN CITIZENSHIP

Getting my Italian citizenship was one of the highlights of my life. It enabled me to connect to my ancestors and a land that I love. Italy is my second home. The events that took place at my citizenship appointment live forever in my memory and now in this film (slightly and humorously exaggerated).





WHY THIS STORY?

CREATING TOGETHER

After years of designing with each other, Stephanie and I worked together on a feature film and loved the experience. We decided to use our visual storytelling skills to write and produce stories we are passionate about.

WRITE WHAT YOU KNOW

Inspired by Mike Birbiglia's one man shows and Sebastian Maniscalco's comedy specials, we began writing about our lives: the awkward pre-teen years, the journey of a marriage and all things Italian.

STARTING SMALL

We decided a short film would be a perfect first project to take on from start to finish. I love to exaggerate stories of my life and we both love comedies, so we sat together and wrote about my Italian citizenship process at the consulate.

ITALIAN NARRATIVES

Stephanie and I are always looking for movies and TV shows that portray the beauty of the Italian and Italian American community. We don't think that the world needs more mobster films. Instead, we believe there is a need for thoughtful, kind and uplifting Italian stories...with several dashes of humor and a good splash of fantasy.



THEMES

DREAMING

We believe that dreaming is essential to the human experience. Dreaming helps us imagine and discover new possibilities. When we open our imaginations, we might find that there really is magic to be found.

BELONGING

We are all seeking our place in this big wide world where we can often feel lost or invisible. While we often see stories of finding our true selves, it is important to explore discovering belonging inside of a community or culture.

ITALIANITÀ

This film celebrates the beauty of Italian culture beyond (but including) delicious food and stylish cars. To be Italian is to appreciate the beauty in the life's simple moments. It is seeing and hearing and feeling the fullness of life.

STYLE & TONE

WHAT DOES THE FILM FEEL LIKE?

The comedic style is inspired by the likes of Wes Andersen, Roberto Benigni and Gianni Di Gregorio. We desire to pay tribute to Italian and Italian American film makers from Federico Fellini, Michelangelo Antonioni, Sergio Corbucci, Sergio Leone, Martin Scorsese and Francis Ford Coppola.

It is playful, silly and hopefully brings a little joy into the world.

the **CREATIVE TEAM**





BRYAN MAZZARELLO **PRODUCER, WRITER & DIRECTOR**

Bryan Mazzarello is a Bay Area born, LA based, SAG-AFTRA actor, screenwriter and director. He is a 2023 recipient of the Panavision New Filmmaker Grant Program.

He has trained in improv comedy with Upright Citizen Brigade, sitcom comedy with Actors Comedy Studio and drama with Howard Fine Acting Studio in Hollywood.

He is most known for being transformed into Bob Ross for the award winning AdAge Content Campaign of the Year (2021) by an Emmy winning makeup team for a Mountain Dew. Bryan is also the host of the 23andMe welcome series.

After a life changing backpacking trip to Italy, Bryan changed his last name back to Mazzarello from the Americanized name Marell in 2002 and he received his dual citizenship recognition from Italy in 2016. Bryan is the 2nd VP of the Società Garibaldina di Mutua Beneficenza, the oldest Italian Society in the United States.

STEPHANIE MAZZARELLO **PRODUCER, WRITER & PRODUCTION DESIGNER**

Stephanie Mazzarello is a nerd and an artist. Growing up she thought you had to pick a side. Creative or logic. Words or numbers. Vivid colors or straight lines. Luckily in film she has found that having a strong left and right brain is pretty powerful. No dreams become a reality without problem solving and practical work.

Screenwriting is a new endeavor for her, but she has always been a lover of stories. Whether she was rereading books as a child or rewatching Gilmore Girls for a 5th, 6th or 7th time, she loves what a story can tell us about ourselves and our world.

Stephanie spent over a decade as a graphic designer working on screens. Her work would eventually be printed into something you can hold. Having the opportunity to make and design in a 3 dimensional world is both stimulating and rewarding. Now she has to imagine how the 3 dimensional spaces will look on a screen. Her work flow is now in reverse, which is pretty darn fun.



COURTNEY TAIT PRODUCER

A Reno, NV native, Court grew up with a passion for the arts, and a hunger to get into showbusiness. She was involved with theater from a very young age, and began making her own short films in high school. She was certain by age 13 that all she wanted to do was make movies. (After a brief stint at 12 when she contemplated becoming a marine biologist)

Since she moved to LA in 2015, she's worked in a wide variety of mediums including eSports, Reality, Documentary, and finally landed in Scripted content in 2019. She has since worked in Production for Film / Television for studios including A24, Warner Bros, Searchlight, Netflix, Apple, Hulu, and Showtime.

Court's driving force in the industry is to make cool stuff with good people. (And to always follow the motto she picked up at her first full time job in LA: Work hard, and be nice.) She is incredibly excited to be producing such a fun project and helping to cultivate an unbelievably passionate and talented team to bring this story to life.



JUSTIN KEMPER DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Raised in sunny Southern California, I am a spirited soul who only feels comfortable looking at life through a lens. I started in lighting just over 15 years ago on features and commercials right out of film school. I've worked on everything from narratives to fashion shoots and have been lucky enough to travel substantially for work. A true traveler at heart, I have always been inspired by other cultures, encompassing their stories while constantly shot listing. With a background in lighting design, cinematography wasn't just the next logical step. It was an invitation to further my knowledge of lighting, to better enhance the emotions and arc of the story and its characters. I love the manipulation of capturing what could be the simplest moment in a new light; creating imagery that moves and speaks to audiences of all types. My cinematography has always been a tool to portray stories through an empathetic eye. One of my favorite parts of shooting is the collaboration process and connecting with new creators to find interesting and compelling ways to tell their story. I feel it is my responsibility to collaborate and guide the director's vision from conception to actuality in a compassionate, organized environment. I have always been enamored by the symbiotic relationship between light and emotions. Drawing out characters' internal struggle or unbridled joy through subconscious attachments to light and shadow that a collective audience doesn't realize, but feels.



JEFF ASHER

EDITOR

Jeff Asher began his editing career with Nickelodeon game show, BrainSurge, and has since jumped to scripted shows such as ABC's Forever and Fox's Lethal Weapon & Prodigal Son; most recently he edited two seasons of ABC's Big Sky and the indie feature For When You Get Lost.

Jeff studied film in New Orleans and was brought out to Los Angeles by Hurricane Katrina. He has since become a husband to Dawn Asher, a short-term rental experience designer, and father of two lively girls, 8 and 4. He keeps busy outside the office playing guitar and disappearing into nature. Repped by Innovative Artists for editing.



MATTEO GUASTAMACCHIO

EDITOR

Matteo Guastamacchio is a music producer, film composer and sound designer from Connecticut living in Nashville TN. He works with many independent pop artists as well as composing scores for the royalty free music platform Artlist. Brands he has worked with include Nascar team 23vi, Patron, Jordan, Bare Minerals and others. Two great aunts from either side of his family had accordions, one black and one white, that came from family in Italy. These were passed down to him which sparked a whole new love for Italian folk and Italian musical traditions - inspiring him to create his own.





the **CHARACTERS**



DAVID

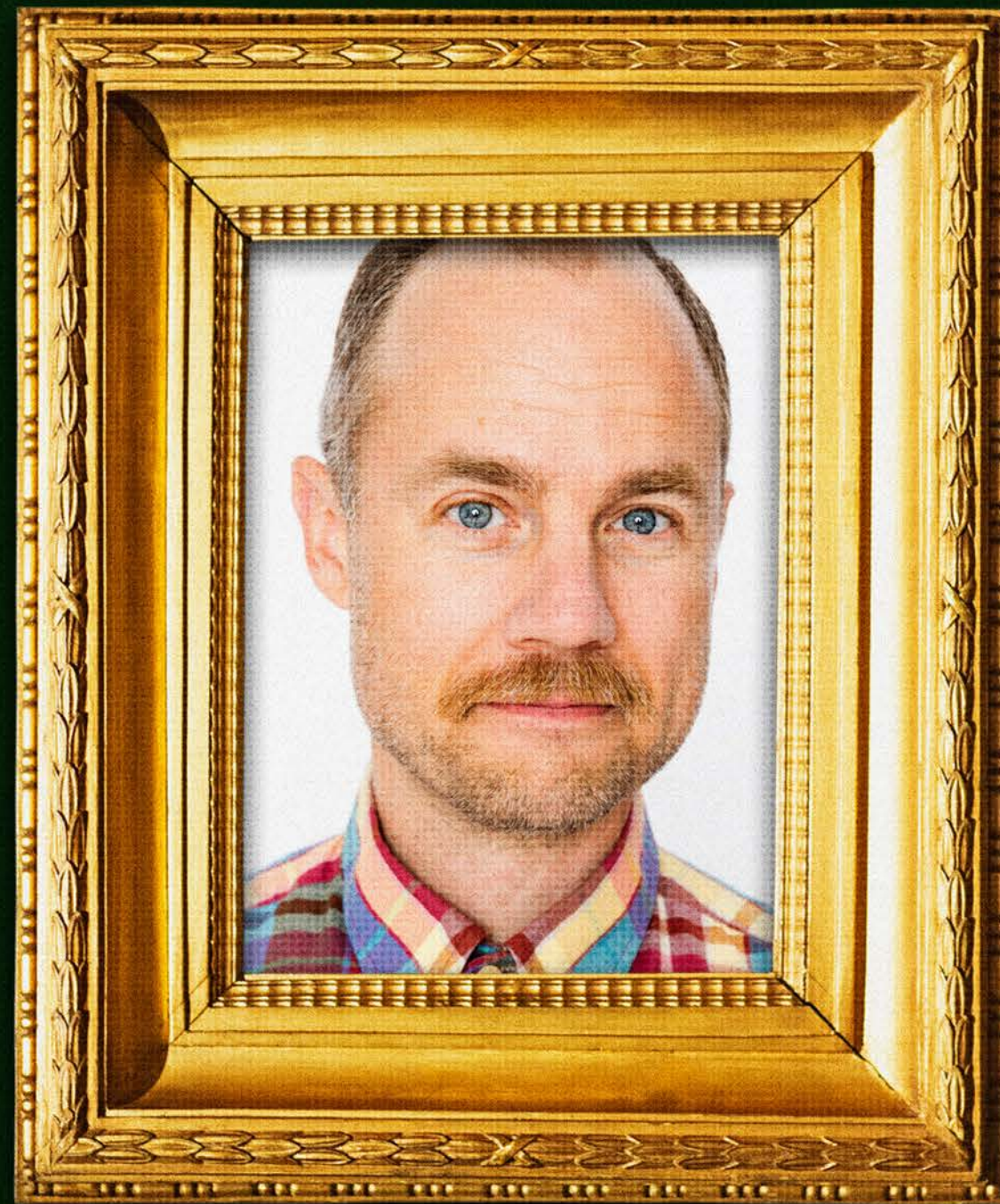
the naive dreamer

desires Italian citizenship & a sense of belonging

played by

BRYAN MAZZARELLO

Bryan Mazzearello is a Bay Area born, LA based, SAG-AFTRA actor. He has trained in improv comedy with Upright Citizen Brigade, sitcom comedy with Actors Comedy Studio and drama with Howard Fine Acting Studio in Hollywood. He is most known for being transformed into Bob Ross for the award winning AdAge Content Campaign of the Year (2021) by an Emmy winning makeup team for a Mountain Dew. Bryan was the face of the Raley's Holiday campaign and the host of the 23andMe welcome series. Bryan is a lead in the comedy short film Hardwood Heroes.





PIETRO

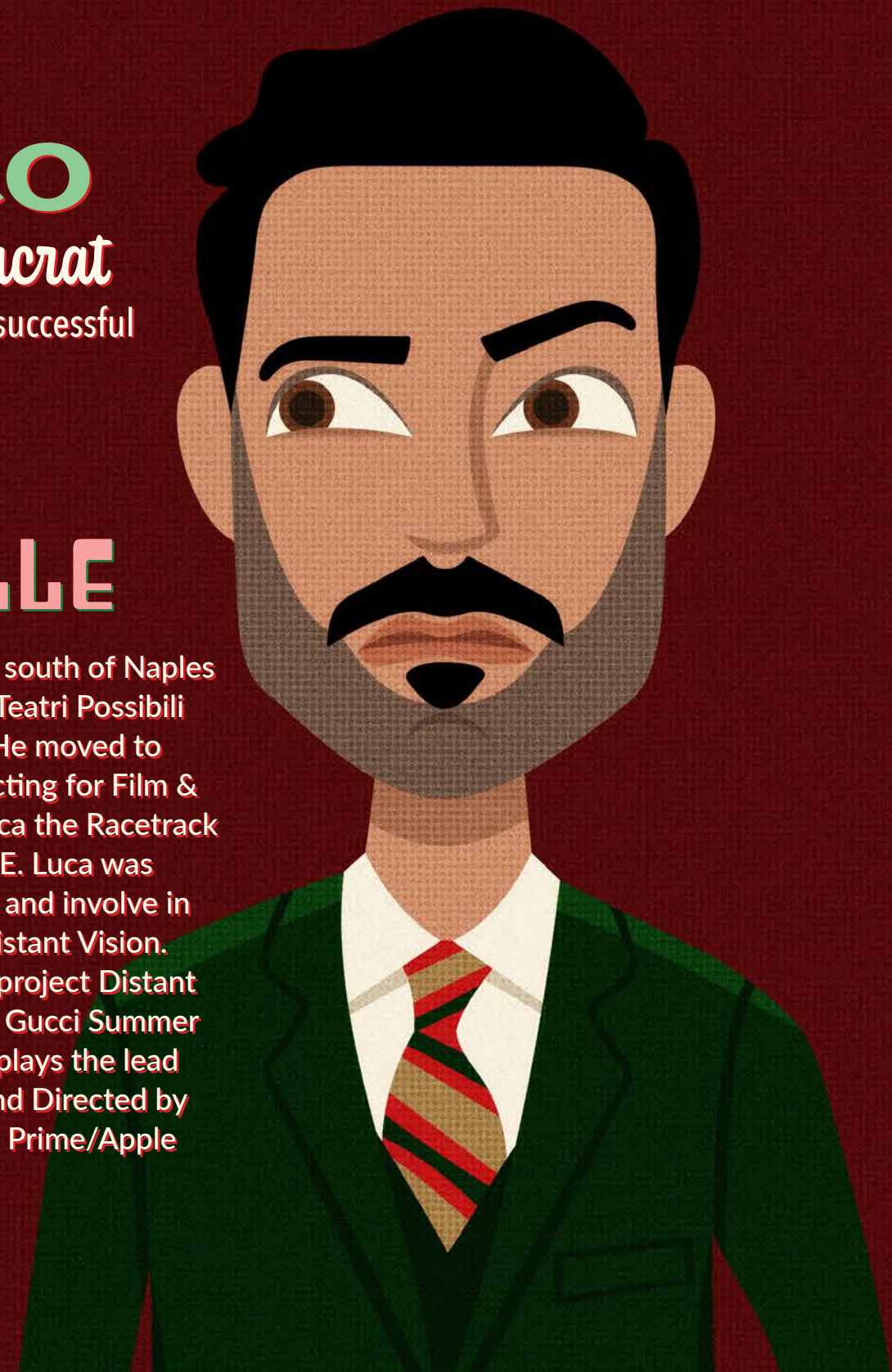
the precise bureaucrat

wants everyone to be serious & successful

played by

LUCA DELLA VALLE

Luca della Valle was born in a little town south of Naples in Italy. Luca trained Method Acting at “Teatri Possibili Speech and Drama Academy” in Milan. He moved to London where he studied English and Acting for Film & TV at The Actors Center. Luca played Luca the Racetrack Head Security in The Man from U.N.C.L.E. Luca was cast as one of the main supporting roles and involve in the new Francis Ford Coppola project Distant Vision. Luca was cast in Francis Ford Coppola’s project Distant Vision. Luca is also featured in the 2019 Gucci Summer Campaign in Vanity Fair magazine. Luca plays the lead in the horror trilogy Sebastian written and Directed by Mann Robison, coming soon on Amazon Prime/Apple TV and TUBI.





FRANCESCA

the aloof superstar

is brimming with superstar qualities & talents

played by

**NADIA
LANFRANCONI**

Nadia Lanfranconi is a singer-songwriter and actress, born and raised in Lake Como, Italy, but based in LA. Besides music Nadia's has worked consistently in the entertainment industry acting on several TV shows and films like the latest series. American Gigolo, the Netflix hit Hollywood and Criminal Minds to name a few. Because of her Italian nationality you can also find her speaking her native language on projects like the Fiat sponsored series Italian Neighbors and the Entourage Italian Affair, Ari Gold is Back, presented by Cadillac.





CONCETTA

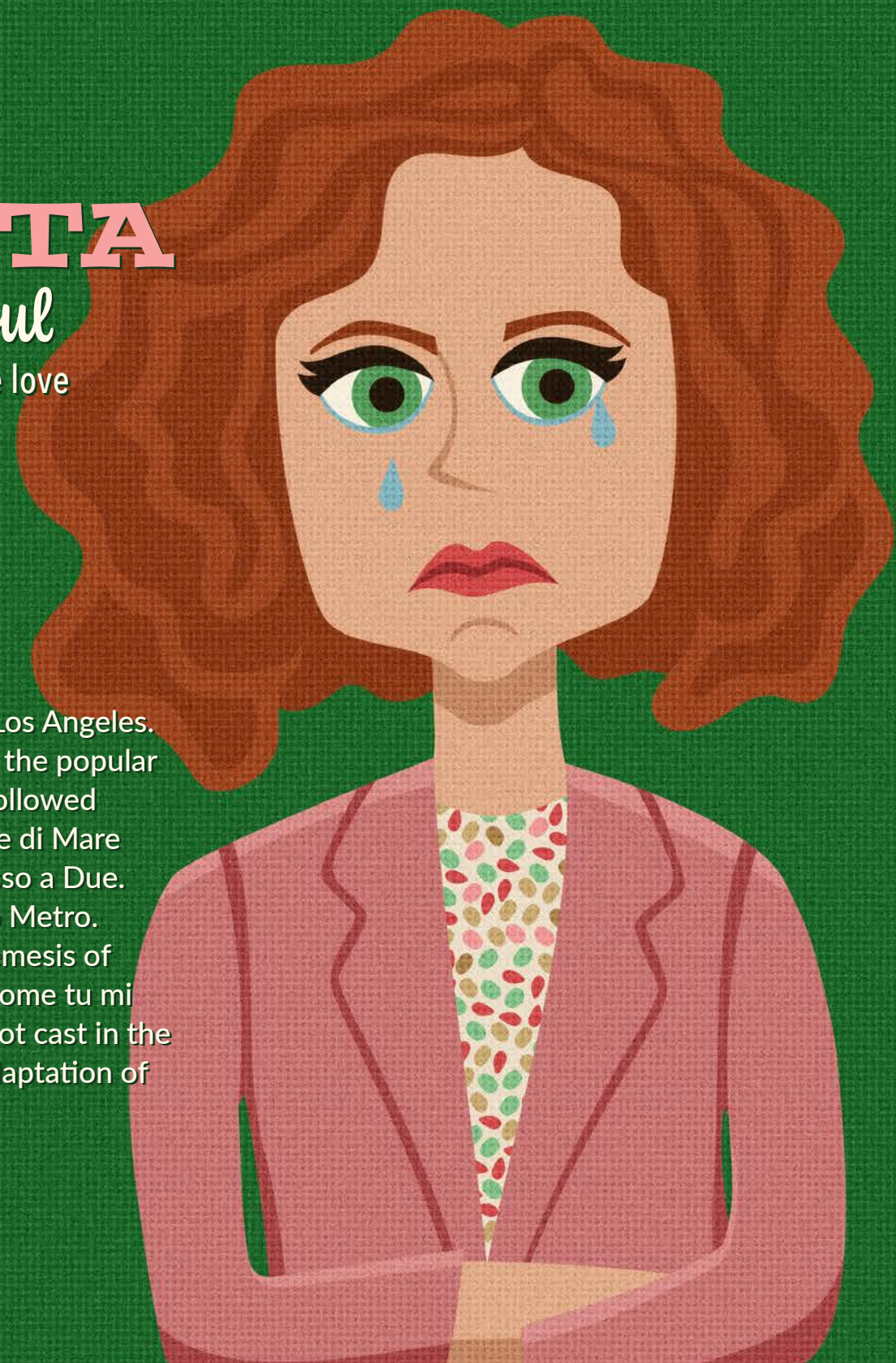
the heartbroken soul

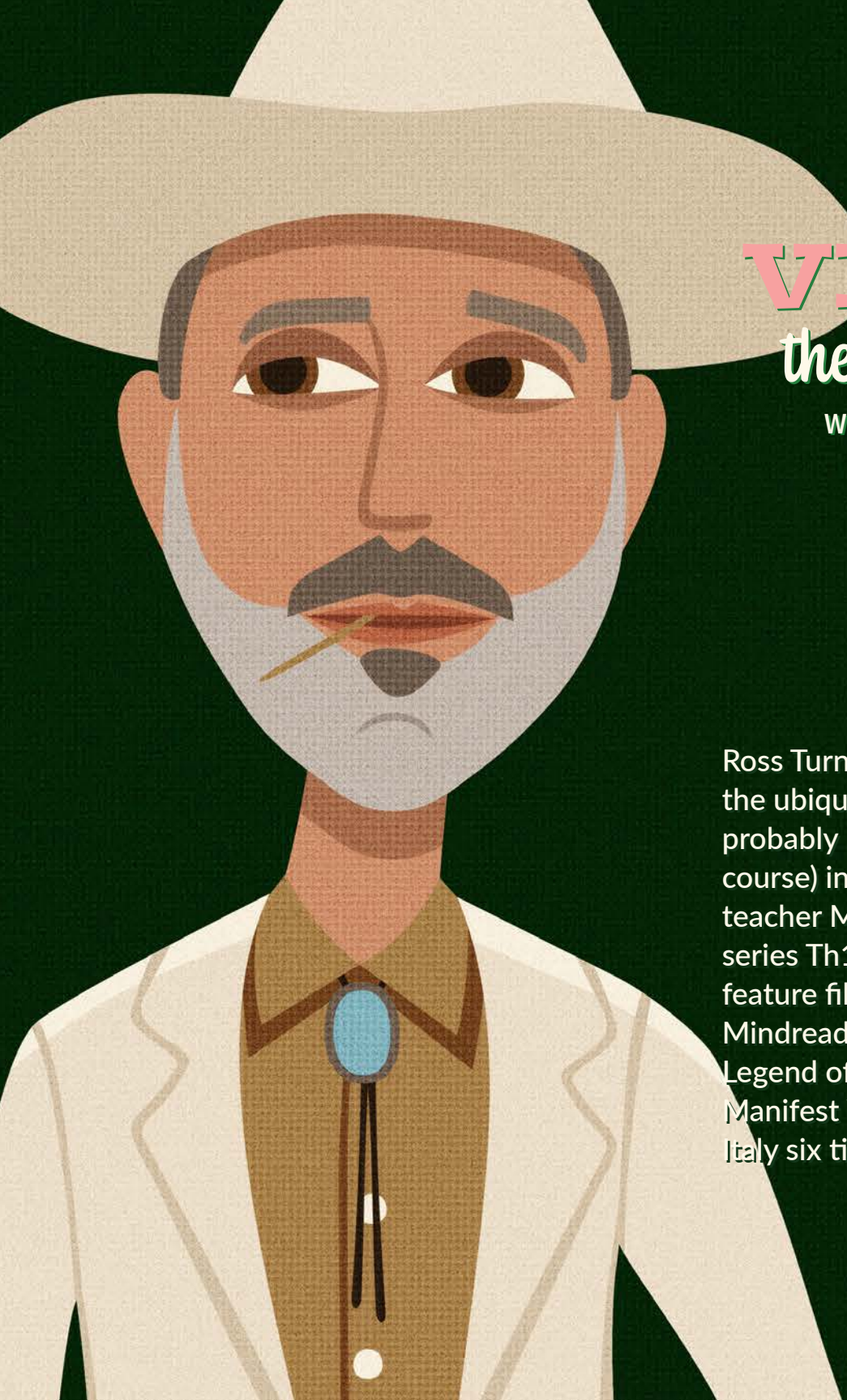
desires to find & be with her true love

played by

**PAOLA
CARLEO**

Paola Carleo is an Italian actress, based in Los Angeles. She made her television debut as Maria on the popular television series *Elisa di Rivombrosa*. She followed this, with a co-starring appearance in *Gente di Mare* series, and a co-starring role in the film *Passo a Due*. Next, had a supporting role in the film *Solo Metro*. She gained wider recognition as Alessia, nemesis of an unfashionable student, in the comedy *Come tu mi vuoi*. When she moved to the States, she got cast in the role of Ruby, for *Portraits*, a modern day adaptation of *Carmilla*, a female vampire story.





VINCENZO

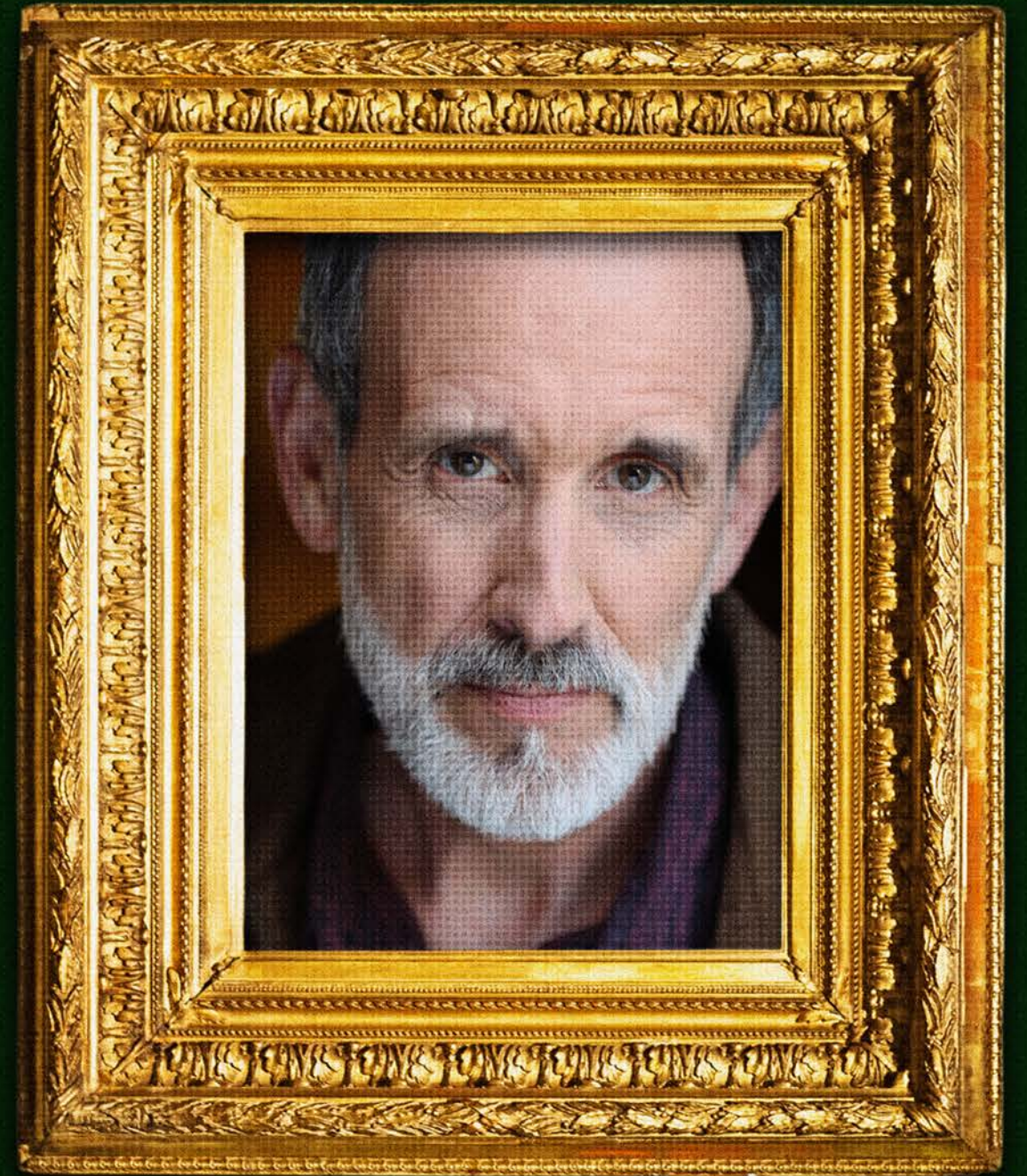
the mysterious adventurer

wants to explore & be brave in the wild

played by

**ROSS
TURNER**

Ross Turner is best known as the Upwork Zombie from the ubiquitous 2022-2023 television ad campaign, but probably better recognized (without zombie makeup, of course) in his recurring role as Liberty High School math teacher Mr. Wood in three seasons of the hit Netflix series *Thirteen Reasons Why*. He stars in four indie feature films including as the bad guy in period drama *Mindreader* (2022). Ross can currently be seen in *The Legend of Jack and Diane* starring Tom Sizemore, and *Manifest West* opposite Milo Gibson. He has been to Italy six times and is a huge Pompeii nut.





AGATA

the lovable meddler

is passionate about cooking & feeding her family

played by

LUCIA GIARDINA

Lucia Giardina is best known for her cooking show A Tavola and her restaurant review show Eating Out with Lucia. She studied acting in NOVA then moved to LA and continued her acting studies at Manhattan Actor Studio, The Groundlings, and Scott Sedita Acting Studio. She is also known for her lead role in the short film Epiphaneia. She is also a featured extra on the Apple TV series The Shrink Next Door. She has played lead in many TV commercials for Mercedes-Benz, Ally Bank, Australian Dream, Champs to name a few. She is first generation Italian. Both her parents were born and raised in Italy. She spent every summer growing up in Torino and Milano and is bilingual.





DANIELLE

the obsessive italophile

loves everything Italian (even if she isn't)

played by

**JENNA NICOLE
SULLIVAN**

Jenna Nicole Sullivan is an LA based actor, and is so excited to be a part of this project! She's trained at Upright Citizens Brigade, Second City, and Stan Kirsch Studios. She can be seen in many national commercials, and most recently ABC's Grey's Anatomy! Jenna's never been to Italy (though is an avid spaghetti fan) and counts on her fellow cast members to help her perfect the Italian pronunciation of "Fammi un' Italiana!"





WEBSITES

MAKEMEITALIAN.COM

IMDB

imdb.com/title/tt22335450/

INSTAGRAM

@make.me.italian

FACEBOOK

facebook.com/make.me.italian

FILM FREEWAY

filmfreeway.com/makemeitalian

SCREENING FORMAT

RUNNING TIME

25 minutes 31 seconds

SPECS

1.89 ratio

CAMERA

Panavision DXL2

COLOR

Light Iron



SAG-AFTRA®

FILMED IN



LIGHT IRON
A PANAVISION COMPANY

AN AMERICAN MAN'S FUNNY & FANTASTICAL QUEST TO BECOME AN ITALIAN CITIZEN

make ME ITALIAN



make **ME**

ITALIAN

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