

THE ITALIAN BIRTHDAY



The background of the poster is a photograph of a landscape. In the foreground, there is a green grassy field. In the middle ground, there are several tall, dark green cypress trees. In the background, there are blue mountains under a clear sky. On the left side, there is a black wrought-iron fence. A large red rectangle is centered on the poster, containing white text.

ITALY, 2024, FEATURE, 87 minutes

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY
Dino Di Moia

DANIELE – Fausto Gattuso
FRED – Charles Goodger
MARIO – Lorenzo Falomi
ANNA – Aurora Ronsisvalle

VICTORIA – Pamela Zullo
BILLIE – Loredana Martinazzi
DYLAN – Manuel Carlin
JORDAN – Gloria Di Cosmo
CASEY – Paolo Ventura
EMILY – Aurora Graldi

VANESSA – Shiva Namvar
STEPHANIE – Irene Tarozzi
CARLO – Federico Stanzani
GIOVANNA – Paola Gamberini
FRANCO – Roberto Nobili

SYNOPSIS

Daniele Penna was born on the poor side of Italy. As soon as he became an adult, he decided to leave Europe for the U.S. in search of success and wishing to build his own empire. After years of sacrifices, he is today one of the biggest names on the industry scene in Houston. He lives a luxurious life in a huge mansion surrounded by eight aides and John, his own personal driver. Even though Daniele sacrificed his whole sentimental life to reach success, he also decided to adopt two Italian orphans named Anna and Mario. Once Anna and Mario reached the adult age, they decided to relocate and go study in Europe because they didn't like life in the States. This decision disappointed Daniele and shattered all his hopes causing him to fall in a deep state of depression, after seeing all his succession dreams shattered at once.

In order to help his master regain some confidence in life, John the driver recommends him to Vanessa Ramos, a psychologist. Unfortunately, it is soon obvious that she's not able to help him enough. When everything seems lost, Vanessa asks for the help of the children and convinces Daniele to celebrate his incoming birthday with a big party in Italy, hoping this will help him rediscover his lost playfulness and help him develop some closeness with his children. Daniele accepts the proposition at only one condition: Stephanie Benniac, a well-renowned psychologist, will also have to attend the party hoping she will bring in a different opinion on his mental state. The whole house-staff relocates to Italy to plan for the party. Vanessa and Stephanie – who in the meantime have teamed up - are soon able to retrace all Daniele's best friends. In the same occasion they find out that each one of them also suffers from depression. In the meanwhile, Daniele tries to convince Anna and Mario to move back to the U.S. but they refuse; so Daniele, out of spite, decides to oppose himself to inviting his old friends to the party.

When things start looking hopeless, the two psychologists come up with a pretty unorthodox ploy to rattle Daniele's subconscious and provoke a change in him. They decide to stage a fake mass-suicide for all the guests who suffer from depression. This will take place at the birthday party by having each one of them drink from poisoned bottles of gin.

As a matter of fact, the bottles contain just liquor. After drinking the "potion", while awaiting for their lives to end, the four friends take some time to recall on the fond memories they share and exchange their own experiences and life tales. That's when, after a very long time, Daniele finally bursts in a happy loud laugh, like the ones you can only share with you own old true friends.



Director Biography

Dino Di Moia is a director, writer and editor currently living in Bologna, Italy. Dino's projects have won several awards. He has been nominated for the prestigious Sipario Prize three times in recent years. (Sipario is the Italy's leading theater review publication). After attending a number of training schools, Dino directed **BEFORE THE WITNESS LEAVES** which was selected by several major film festivals (including the Los Angeles Italian Film Festival and Ischia Global Film Festival).

