

This Press Kit Contains:

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SYNOPSIS

Handsome young Nino is back in his home country after years of struggle in Hollywood. He returns triumphant having just got his big break: the lead in a new film by the 'it' American director, starring opposite the international sensation Vanessa Luna. And to top it off, it is shooting in his hometown.

Mario, owner of "Il Gatto Nero" – the place to be in the heart of Little Italy - is throwing a small after-hours party to celebrate the success of the immigrant kid made good.

Lots of wine and Italian food is on the menu. The guest list is a cross-section of Italian Immigrant life: Leo, the contractor who just found out his wife's cheating on him; Frankie, who published a tell-all novel about the community; Alberto, whose family runs the multicultural radio & television network; Eddie who just had his restaurant foreclosed; Bruno who left a life in the mob to become a chef; Michael, a desperate salesman who just might be the guy screwing Leo's wife. And Vince, an aging film director recovering from heart surgery and – through the manipulations of Vanessa Luna – is offered the chance to finally make his dream movie.

Over the course of the evening and into the night, buried emotions erupt and old wounds bleed again. Everybody walked into the party believing they'd blown their first shot at life. Through the mystery of Fate, everybody gets a second chance tonight. But the question they face is: "Are you willing to pay the price?"

Reminiscent of character driven films such as "Husbands", 'Big Night' and 'Diner'; 'The Resurrection of Tony Gitone' is a universal dramedy about life, love, friendship and trying to find your roots.

LONG SYNOPSIS

On a hot summer night in Toronto's Little Italy, Il Gatto Nero, a popular Italian social club, is the after-hours setting for a welcome home/birthday party to a hometown prodigal son. But what starts as a joyous gathering full of high spirits, food, dancing, drink and music soon explodes as old wounds open and long-buried secrets tumble out. Bodies, fists and guns collide across platters of food. But love and friendship win out. As the sun comes up on College Street, everyone steps into the morning changed, redeemed and ready to grab life's second chance.

Mario, owner of Il Gatto Nero, is a father figure to the locals of Little Italy. His bar/social club is neighbourhood home base for the few remaining Italians and the many Italian-wannabEs.

Talented, handsome and still young, Nino has been knocking around L.A., getting small parts in big movies and big parts in small movies. Now he's got what he hopes is his break: starring in the new movie of a big time director. His co-star is Vanessa Luna, a real movie star on the international scene. The shoot has brought Nino back to Toronto for the first time in years.

On this fateful night, Nino shows up at his party, after a day's work, accompanied by Luna, with whom he is having a secret affair.

Alberto runs a family-owned, multi-cultural TV and radio empire. Al lives under the shadow of his dead father's big reputation. He's inherited the job of being the voice of the immigrant and the responsibility weighs heavy on him.

Bruno is an ex-criminal trying to go straight. He is the Gatto's cook and hopes to take over the place when Mario makes good on his promise to retire to Italy.

Eddie owns Bella Figura, one of the last old school restaurants in the hood. The place is struggling and Eddie owes six months rent to Al who owns the building.

Frank is a respected author of a novels that revealed the twisted underbelly of the Italian Immigrant experience. The gang admires his success but Mario isn't crazy about this private world going public.

Johnny has been a top salesman for a series of high-end menswear stores. Fast-talking and charming, for John the selling never stops. Always the class clown, everybody likes him but nobody trusts him.

Leo is a powerful building contractor. He's really here tonight because he's just found out about his wife's affair with Johnny and he plans to get some payback.

Vince is a television director. Twenty-five years ago he was supposed to be the next big thing. Drugs, sex and ego derailed that career. Now, he obsesses over his failure to make a comeback. Vince is a hero to Niño.

Vanessa wants to take charge of her career, and has her eye set on controlling Vince's I produced screenplay. Her plan is seduce Vince and get him to dump Niño from the lead role.

Worst is for poor Nino who gets a phone call from his agent telling him he's about to be fired from the film he's working on.

Tonight, everybody faces their demons as they fight for a second chance at their dreams.

PRODUCTION HISTORY

March 2011 – Jerry Ciccoritti is having lunch at Il Gatto Nero with an Italian friend and gets the inspiration to make a movie about his generation of Italian Canadian men.

April 2011 – In Mexico City Ciccoritti writes a “scriptment”. It’s a 110 page document, with both detailed scenes and scenes that are open to development by improvisation. Ciccoritti emails the “scriptment” to Slawko Klimkiw at the CFC and Slawko surprises Ciccoritti by saying he loves the project and wants to help do it with CFC involvement.

May 2011 – Ciccoritti agrees to engage two CFC screenwriting graduates to help develop the screenplay, four CFC acting graduates (all for on-screen credit) to take small roles, and to have the rehearsal process and the shooting open to observation by CFC students.

June 2011 – CFC screenwriters - Jennifer Deyell and Svet Rouskov, are brought on board.

July 2011 – The cast and the Cinematographer fly in to Toronto for two days of script “jam sessions”. Using two digital cameras to shoot, Ciccoritti guides the cast as they discuss, argue and explore improvisations based on the original scriptment. The two screenwriters sit quietly in a corner getting carpal tunnel syndrome as they madly make their own notes apace with the fast-talking, fast-thinking Italians, and sole Mexican, Paula Rivera as Vanessa.

July 2011 – Ciccoritti, Deyell and Rouskov spend a week reviewing the tapes and notes and writing a new draft of the script.

July 2011 – Ciccoritti hands that draft over to Deyell and Rouskov, and tells them to go away for a week and bring to the material their own take.

July 2011 – Ciccoritti takes the script that returns and spends a week doing his own and final pass to create the real draft of the movie.

August 2011 – After 4 months of writing and improvisations with actors at the CFC. Ciccoritti writes the Shooting Script based on a final two day jam session with the cast.

August 2011 – Principal Photography begins. They shoot Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, August 22,23 24, (the Gatto Nero's slow nights) and again Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, August 29,30,31. 6 nights.

Marina Cordoni, a film distributor with Breakthrough Entertainment, visits the set, having read the script. Excited by what she's read and now witnessed she offers to come on board. "Tony Gitone" is now fully financed to completion.

September 2011 – Picture editing begins. George Roulston, Ciccoritti's editor on many projects, completes a cut by late September.

December 2011 – 1st screening at The Royal Cinema. Ciccoritti and Roulston feel the film is close to ready. They hold an invitational screening for comments. A new cut will be prepared based on this screening.

January 2012 – 2nd screening at The Royal Cinema. Comments from this screening lead to a locked picture.

April 2012 – Final mix of sound and music at Krupka's studio. Kasper and Roulston supervise colour timing at Technicolor.

May 2012 – Cast and Crew Screening of finished film is held at The Royal Cinema.

June 2012 – Final credits are placed. Corrections to sound and picture are made at Technicolor.

June 12, 2012 – Master of finished movie is delivered to Black Mariah Films & New Real Films.

BIOGRAPHIES

JERRY CICCORITTI (WRITER/PRODUCER/DIRECTOR)

Born and raised in Toronto, Canada. Co-founder of Buddies In Bad Times, a major Canadian Theatre Company. An early desire to be a comic book artist evolved into a passion for film. Long one of Canada's most prolific and influential directors. Known for his innovative, visual style and considered an actor's director, Ciccoritti has worked with an impressive roster of talent: Sophia Loren, Colm Feore, Catharine O'Hara, Kris Kristofferson, Eric McCormack, Sarah Polley, James Caan, Kate Nelligan. His features have been invited to festivals throughout the world. In television, he has three Best Film Gemini Awards, eight Geminis for Best Director, 3 Directors Guild of Canada Awards and received a Genie nomination for Best Adapted Screenplay.

Selected FEATURE FILMS:

THE RESURRECTION OF TONY GITONE Black Maria/New Real Films
(Producer/Writer/Director)

BLOOD (Writer/Director) Spank Films/Capri Releasing
2005 DGC Award Nomination – Outstanding Achievement in Direction, Feature Film

THE LIFE BEFORE THIS Alliance Atlantis Releasing
Toronto, Berlin, Palm Springs and Taos Film Festivals – Official Selection

BOY MEETS GIRL Beyond Entertainment
Cologne Film Festival – Best Film
Toronto International Film Festival – Official Selection

PARIS, FRANCE (Producer/Director) Alliance Releasing
Toronto International Film festival – Official Selection
Vancouver International Film Festival - Official Selection
Karlov Vary Film Festival – Official Selection

Selected M.O.W. and MINI-SERIES

JOHN A: BIRTH OF A COUNTRY (2011) CBC/Indian Grove Prods.
2011 DGC Awards – Best Movie and Best Director.

THE TERRORIST NEXT DOOR (2008) CTV/SC Entertainment
2009 – Gemini Award – Best Director; 2008 In Competition – Best TV Movie, Rome Fiction Film Fest.

DRAGON BOYS (2006) CBC/Omni Films
2007 Gemini Award – Best Mini-series

LIVES OF THE SAINTS (2004) CTV/Hallmark/Capri Films
2005 DGC Awards – Outstanding Achievement in Direction, Television Movie or Mini-Series; Best Mini-series.

THE DEATH & LIFE OF NANCY EATON (2003) CTV/Indian Grove Prods.
2006 Nomination, Manitoba Motion Picture Blizzard Award - Best Directing

THE MANY TRIALS OF ONE JANE DOE (2002) CBC/Indian Grove Prods.
2003 Gemini Award - Best Direction in a Dramatic Program or Mini-Series

TRUDEAU (Director/Co-Producer) (2002) CBC/Big Motion Pictures
2003 DGC Award - Best Direction in a Movie-of-the-Week or Mini-Series; Best Movie for Television; 2002 Gemini Award - Best Direction in a Dramatic Program or Mini-Series

CHASING CAIN: VOWS (Dir/Co-Prod.) (2001) CBC/Indian Grove Prods.
2002 Gemini Award - Best Direction in a Dramatic Program or Mini-Series

A PRAYER IN THE DARK (1997) USA Network
Best Film - Santa Clarita Film Festival

STRAIGHT UP - PART II (1997) CBC/Back Alley Films
1998 Gemini Award - Best Director

STRAIGHT UP (1996) CBC/Back Alley Films
1997 Gemini Award - Best Director

NET WORTH (1995) CBC/Indian Grove Prods.
1996 Gemini Award - Best Director, Best Film

CAST

ALVARO D'ANTONIO

Alvaro D'Antonio is a veteran of theatre, television and film. He has worked in North America, Europe and Asia.

Mr. D'Antonio was part of New York City's La Mama Theatre Troupe from 1995-1997. He has starred in films such as "Booze Can", opposite Matt Dillon in "The Big Town", Whoopi Goldberg in "Homie Spumoni", and James Caan in "Wise Gal". Other films include "Looking for Angelina", "Boy Meets Girl", "The Family", and "Fast Money". In the CBC television series, "Foreign Objects" and "At the Hotel", Alvaro was the Face of Religion.

When not acting, Alvaro loves to travel and explore his other passions of sailing, and wine making. He loves being a new Father and spending time with his daughter.

RON LEA

Ron has been an actor for over 30 years. ACTRA award winner and 5-time Gemini nominee, Ron has worked across this country, the U.S., and in Europe. A graduate of the National Theatre School, credits include regular roles in shows like "This is Wonderland", "Street Legal", "Wind At My Back", "Doc", "Omerta". Ron received a Gemini nomination for the movie "Victor" directed by Mr. Ciccoritti. Theatre credits include Willy Loman in "Death of a Salesman", Harold Pinter's "Betrayal", Brick in "Cat on a hot tin Roof" to name a few. Ron also directed episodes of "Doc" during their 4 year run. Ron is presently a regular on the French Series "O".

TONY NARDI

A multi-award winner for his work in film and theatre, as actor and writer. His experience spans the spectrum from the theatre classics to new and independent works in film and theatre. Nardi was nominated for 4 Genie Awards and picked up the coveted statue twice in the leading role category - once for his performance in "La Sarrazine" and again for "My Father's Angel". In theatre he received a Dora Award - Canada's highest theatre award - for best actor in "The Lesson" in 2001. His first play, "La Storia dell'Emigrante", received the James Buller Award for best original Canadian play at the Ontario Multicultural Theatre Festival in 1982. His second play, "A Modo Suo (A Fable)", was nominated for a Dora Award for outstanding play in 1990. His "Two Letters" also received a Dora nomination for outstanding play in 2007. In 2008 he received a Siminovitch Prize Nomination for playwriting. In 1992 he was awarded Canada 125th Commemorative Medal by Ontario's Lieutenant Governor for significant contributions to Canada, to the community, or to fellow Canadians.

LOUIS DI BIANCO

When Louis was three, his uncle Bruno pinched his cheeks hard, grinned, and asked, "What do you wanna be when you grow up?" Louis wanted to scream and curse in Italian. Instead, he said, "Everybody. I wanna be everybody." Bruno walked away muttering, "This kid is nuts." That event sparked Louis's desire to become an actor.

Louis has an international stage career and more than sixty screen credits. They include, "Moonstruck," "Boss of Bosses," "Vendetta," "Rent-A-Goalie," (award winning TV series), and "Who Is Cletis Tout?" that earned him a nomination for best male comic performance.

Louis's decision to become everybody worked out. Today, he really feels like somebody.

TONY NAPPO

Tony Nappo was born and raised in Scarborough, Canada. He attended The American Academy of Dramatic Arts in Manhattan. He just closed 3 back-to-back plays: *The Real World*, *The Golden Dragon* (Tarragon Theatre) and *Peggy Pickit Sees The Face of God* (Canstage). His film and TV work includes *Saw 2*, *Four Brothers*, *The Land of The Dead*, *Stag*, *Beat Down*, *Who Is Cletis Tout*, *Wisegal*, *This Beautiful City*, *Hank and Mike*, *Mothers Day*, *Defendor*, *Da Vinci's Inquest*, *Breakout Kings*, *Intelligence*, *Flashpoint*, *The Republic of Doyle*, *King*, *The Bridge*, *Slings and Arrows*, *This is Wonderland* and much more.

MICHAEL MIRANDA

A veteran of Film, Television and Theatre, Michael's appearances in Film and Television include *GOTTI* for HBO, *Johnny Mnemonic*, *Murdoch Mysteries*, *Knockaround Guys*, *XIII-The Series* and *Warehouse 13*. For the stage, credits include *The LOVE LIST* for Globus Theatre; *Den Of Thieves* for Surface/Underground, *Mambo Italiano*, Sudbury Theatre Centre and *DRACULA* for Theatre Collingwood. Michael considers his collaborations with Jerry Ciccoritti as some of the most memorable highlights of his career. Over the last twenty five years, projects include *Boy Meets Girl*, *Wise Gal*, *Puppets Who Kill*, *A Prayer in The Dark*, *Psycho Girls*, *Graveyard Shift I and II*, and *Lives of the Saints*, with the legendary Sophia Loren, for which Michael not only got to share the screen with a fellow Neapolitan 'paesan', but also received an ACTRA AWARD nomination for "Outstanding Male Performance". The Resurrection of Tony Gitone marks the twenty-second time Michael and Jerry Ciccoritti have worked together.

FAB FILIPPO

Fabrizio wrote, starred and directed a half-hour *SHOWCASE* comedy, *BILLABLE HOURS*, and was the voice for Teletoon's new animated comedy, *THE DETENTIONAIRE*.

Fab has worked extensively as an actor in Canada and the US. He was seen in the lead role of CTV mini-series *LIVES OF THE SAINTS*, starring opposite Sophia Loren. He also portrayed violin prodigy, Ethan Gold, on the award-winning Showtime series *QUEER AS FOLK* and received strong notice as Holden Van Dorn, the in and out of rehab "actor" in the critically acclaimed, but short lived, Fox series *ACTION*, starring Jay Mohr.

Some of his film credits include *HOLLYWOOD NORTH* (for director Peter O' Brian), as well the lead role in the independent feature, "waydowntown" (Lot 47 & Odeon Films, dir: Gary Burns) which premiered at the Toronto Film Festival where it was awarded the City TV Award for Best Canadian Feature. Other film credits include *LIFE BEFORE THIS* for Alliance Atlantis and Romy Goulem's indie *THE DRIVE*.

His TV series credits include the role of the underground filmmaker in the hour-long drama *HOLLYWEIRD*, for producers/creators Wes Craven and Shaun Cassidy, as well as the Paramount/Sci-Fi series *LEVEL 9*. He co-starred as Buffy's rebound boyfriend in *BUFFY, THE VAMPIRE*

PAULA RIVERA

Paula Rivera's acting career started in Canada where she has been able to work in both television and theatre. She co-starred in the CTV sitcom *Hiccups* alongside the show's creator, comedian Brent Butt. She had leads in popular television series like *Flashpoint* and *Bloodletting and Miraculous Cures* as well as in the award winning television movies *Victor and the Terrorist* and *Next Door*, both directed by acclaimed director Jerry Ciccoritti. Ms. Rivera's stage career began with dance, an art that she continues to practice and that originally brought her to Canada. Ms. Rivera is also a playwright, and her one-woman show, *Every Girl Wants A Skirt like Frida's*, was listed among the best plays at the 2008 Toronto Fringe Theatre Festival. The play was later adapted into a Bravo Fact short film, also directed by Jerry Ciccoritti. The Resurrection of Tony Gitone is Paula's entrance into the world of feature film! and she couldn't be more thrilled to be part of such an amazing project.

JOHN CASSINI

John Cassini is regarded as one of Canada's most versatile and dynamic actors. This multiple Gemini Nominee (honouring the best in Canadian television) has had the distinction of playing regular series leads on some of Canada's most successful television shows.

John has over 60 Guest Star appearances that include multiple episodes on NYPD Blue, ER, The Bridge and many more. John co-wrote, produced and starred in the award winning independent film Break A Leg starring Molly Parker, Jennifer Beals, Sandra Oh, and Eric Roberts. His other feature film credits include: David Fincher's The Game and Seven, Alive, Paycheck, and Get Carter.

John has received industry acclaim throughout his career, and has been honored with a Leo award for Best Lead Actor on Robson Arms and was nominated for a Gemini Award for Best Lead Actor for Intelligence. He also received a Gemini Nomination for his work on the critically acclaimed drama Da Vinci's Inquest.

NICK MANCUSO

NICK MANCUSO, EXEC PRODUCER, ACTOR IS A 40 YEAR VETERAN OF OVER 300 MOVIES HAVING STARRED IN 65 FILMS AND TV SHOWS-IN THE MID 80'S HE APPEARED AS THE LONE MYSTERY MAN "STINGRAY" FOR NBC AND HAS WORKED FOR EVERY MAJOR NETWORK AND HOLLYWOOD STUDIO.HE HAS STARRED IN 4 TV SERIES AND HAS RECENTLY COMPLETED THE NBC SERIES "THE FIRM." HE FIRST APPEARED IN COLUMBIA PICTURES "NIGHTWING" DIRECTED BY ARTHUR HILLER AND HAS WORKED IN FILMS AND TV AROUND THE WORLD.HIS OTHER CREDITS INCLUDE, RAPID FIRE, UNDER SEIGE WITH STEPHEN SEGAL, MOTHERLODE WITH CHARLTON HESTON AND KIM BASSINGER AND THE BREAKTHROUGH FILM "TICKET TO HEAVEN."MR MANCUSO HAS PRODUCED 4 PICTURES IN THE LAST FEW YEARS INCLUDING THE AWARD WINNING "THE LAST GAMBLE" IS A WRITER AND PUBLISHED POET, PLAYWRIGHT AND IS A RECIPIENT OF MANY INTERNATIONAL ACTING AWARDS.

CREW

NORAYR KASPER – Director of Cinematography

This is the sixth collaboration between Kasper and Ciccoritti. Their other works include the mini-series, "Trudeau" and the feature "The Life Before This". Internationally recognized, Kasper shot "Calendar" and "Sarabande" with Atom Egoyan. Other titles include "St. Urbain's Horseman", "Zenne Dancer" and "Last Exit."

GEORGE ROULSTON – EDITOR

'Tony Gitone' is the latest in a long and fruitful collaboration with Jerry Ciccoritti, most notably perhaps the multi-award winners 'John A' and 'The Many Trials of One Jane Doe.'

George celebrates 25 years of film and television work in cities across Canada, in Europe and in Los Angeles.

ROCCO MATTEO - Production Designer

Over two decades Matteo has Art Directed numerous Hollywood studio films, working with Directors like John Landis, Roland Joffe, Robert Harmon, DJ Caruso, Melvin Van Peebles and Bob Gale.

He has established franchise television projects such as NIKITA for Warner Brothers, MUTANT X for Tribune & Marvel, THE CHEETAH GIRLS for Disney and both KOJAK and COVERT AFFAIRS for NBC/Universal.

Matteo has been nominated for numerous team and design awards in North America, notably for the mini-series LIVES of the SAINTS, the series La FEMME NIKITA and for ACROSS THE RIVER to MOTOR CITY, which won a DGC award for excellence in production design.

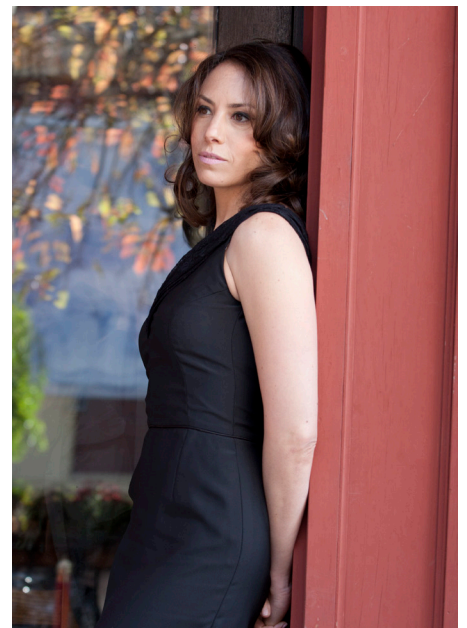
In 2010, Matteo designed the mini-series, THE KENNEDYS. It garnered ten EMMY nominations including one for Best Production Design.

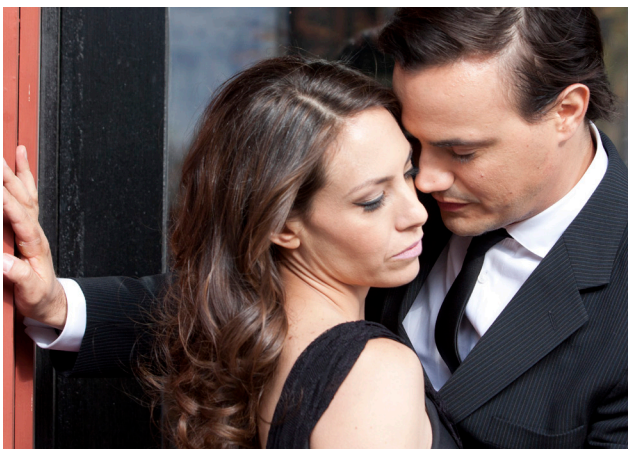
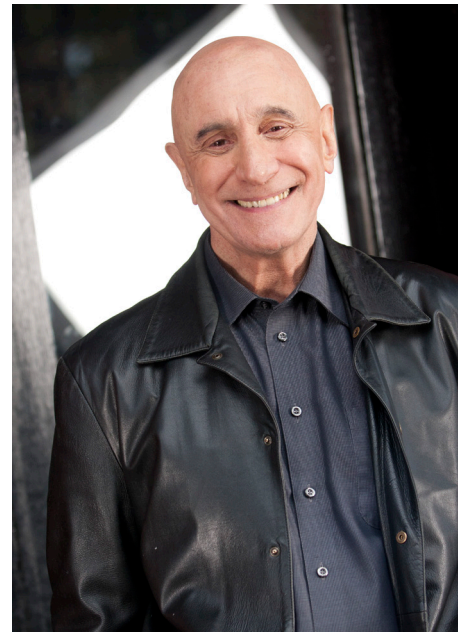
The RESURRECTION of TONY GITONE is the latest of many projects Matteo has collaborated on with director Jerry Ciccoritti.

MAURIZIO ABENI – COMPOSER

"Maurizio Abeni is a versatile musician who lives and works in Rome.

He started as pianist and after academic studies dedicated himself to film music, composing around 20 titles but collaborating in over 100 soundtrack as conductor, Orchestrator pianist for more famous composers as Luis Bacalov, Pino Donaggio, Armando Trovaioli, Stanley Myers and many others.





Publicity Stills

<http://tiny.cc/tonygitoneselects>



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