



Logline

A wannabe actress from Monopoli relocates to Scarborough just before the Brexit referendum, and with her amateur theatre company comprised of misfits and immigrants, enters a theatrical competition against the local British troop.



Our Vision



Ragù is a comedy-drama that follows the story of a goofy Italian woman, Alessia, settling down in Scarborough a few months before the Brexit referendum.

It is a story of friendship, love, diversity and immigration.

The title Ragù comes from the traditional Italian meat-based sauce known abroad under the name of Bolognese Sauce (since it originated in Bologna). This scrumptious recipe serves as a vivid metaphor to illustrate the importance of coming together. The comedy springs from the fish-out-of-water element of Alessia building her new home in Scarborough, but ultimately this is a story of unity and community. When Alessia's accent is mocked during an audition for the local Shakespearean production, she has no choice but to build her own company, comprised of immigrants and local misfits.

Forming the company and entering the competition is a rebellion against injustice. This message is very powerful, and movies with the same vibe have proven to be box office hits (The Full Monty, Pitch Perfect, Made in Dagenham, Pride).

The movie deals with the delicate themes of Brexit and immigration in a light but not superficial way. Many people relate to the idea of being an outsider, and on the other hand, many people are afraid of what is different. But it's true connection that makes life worth living, and this universal message deserves to touch the heart of audiences throughout the UK and the rest of Europe.





Synopsis



ALESSIA (32), is from Monopoli, a small seaside town in Southern Italy. She has always dreamt of an acting career but settled to be a supply teacher to marry Marco (32).

One night she discovers him chating and her perfectly planned life crashes....

Inspired by her grandmother, who worked as an au pair in the 60s London, she decides to go upset her family and move to the UK . But the only job offer she receives is in Scarborough, Yorkshire. There she is going to work for Catherine (30) a local bus driver, Trevor (35) a builder and their 3 kids, Phil (13) and the twins Simon and Nigel (7).

She gets very close to Catherine who encourages her to audition for a local amateur theatre company, The Yorkshire Thespians, but at the audition she gets quickly dismissed because of her Italian accent, even if the play is set in Italy! The rejection causes Alessia to have a breakdown on the street. A Nigerian gay musician Abdhullah (30), approaches her and comforts her, speaking the Italian he learnt at a refugee camp. He suggests she creates a company herself to compete against the Thespians at a local theatre competition. With the promise of offering free pasta with Ragù (or as the locals weirdly call it, Bolognese Sauce), she goes from shops to pubs and drums up a healthy crowd for her new theatre company: The Scarborough Players. She is joined by people from different cultures and backgrounds: a polish plumber, a manager at the local Tesco, a Muslim woman who works at the NHS and a shop assistant from Whitby and her grandad.

Something magical starts to happen: the more the rehearsals go on, the more people join in and love being part of the process. From little kids to old people, everyone is having fun watching the actors play and enjoying the free pasta. Everything seems to be going well until the Brexit referendum kicks in and she discovers that the community she created is not that united after all...



Main Characters

Alessia (32)

Out of step with the times, lost in a world of grand fantasies and naive romanticism, she follows her grannie's passion for British luvvie Laurence Olivier. When her perfectly planned life crashes she reinvents herself through a journey of self-discovery and freedom that will make her more grounded and more assured to pursue what she really wants.

Trevor (35)

In contrast with his tough appearance, his cropped hair and his arms plastered with tattoos, Trev is a good bloke and a family guy. While he is the soul of the party playing darts at the pub, he reacts strongly to stuff he does not understand – for a start, Alessia and her unconditional love

Catherine (30)

Is a curious and perky woman always searching for something that will make her life more exciting. She dreamt of a wonderful life travelling but instead ended up pregnant at 17. Her fascination with everything that is foreign pushed her to get an au-pair from Italy. Her friendship with Alessia is the heart of the film. Through their relationship they both come to appreciate what they already have and break away from the pigeon-hole of what a woman in her 30s should do/be.



Abdullah (Abe), 28

A flamboyant larger-than-life character. Abe was born in Nigeria and started to play music to express his inner world. People 'like him' were beaten up and even killed. He had to get away and one night he embarked together with his friend and secret lover Umar on a terrible and life-changing trip to Europe. He is a survivor who's been scarred by a hard life and won't let Alessia give up her dreams without putting up a fight.



Producers



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Giulia Salvadori

A member of the UK Production Guild, Giulia has worked across film, TV, advertising.

Most recently she worked as line producer for the **Sky TV series** "Devils"; A Sky Italy/Sky Vision co-production shot in London and Rome, the Hong Kong movie **"To the Fore"** by Dante Lam, shot in Milan, the action film **"One-Nenokkadine"** by Sukkumar Bandreddi, shot in London and Belfast, and she associate produced **"The Trip to Italy"**, directed by Michael Winter bottom for the BBC.