



Via dell'Amore



LOGLINE

After the loss of his father, a buttoned-up Manhattan hedge fund manager reluctantly returns to his family roots to ride in an Antique bike race across Tuscany - but when his bicycle and all his belongings are stolen, he must resort to other means to get to the finish line - on a beat up old tandem with a spunky Italian “street girl” he hires to ride on the back of the bike – and in the process discovers the love and joy his life was missing.

SHOW CROSS



MEETS



MEETS



SYNOPSIS

Via dell'Amore isn't your usual boy meets girl.

Nando, escaping his stifling life in New York, agrees to complete a Tuscan bike race his favorite uncle Aldo entered before suffering a heart attack. The real prize is to find Aldo's true love who mysteriously vanished decades ago.

A series of inspired disasters leave Nando in the Tuscan countryside. Bike-less, penniless, phoneless, and hopeless, until a group of nuns gift him an old tandem bicycle for his journey. Struggling to peddle the tandem alone, he comes across one roundabout with a particularly attractive option.



NANDO

MAIN CHARACTER

The only son of Joe and Tina and Aldo's only nephew.

Smart, handsome, and athletic, he grew up adoring his uncle Aldo and rejoicing in the escapades Aldo brought to their otherwise drab life in Brooklyn. Everything fun had an Italian flair - especially bicycles. But when his father dies in a freak accident while Nando is off on a bike trip with Uncle Aldo, Nando feels responsible, and closes himself off from all things Italian -- until he opens himself up to the expedition of a lifetime in Tuscany with Angelica.





ANGELICA

Angelica, the mentor/love interest in the film is a no nonsense independent woman-girl-tomboy all rolled into one.

When abuse forced her to leave home at a very early age, she learned to live on the streets with nothing but her looks and her wits to survive... and her older brother's controlling best friend/protector turned "pimp", Matteo.

She too is escaping life as she knows it, wanting something more for herself, as she joins forces with Nando for the promise of a voyage to America.

Angelica is wiser than her years, smart as a whip with street smarts, but a vulnerable side she doesn't show – that is until she and Nando grow close and she begins to trust him.

UNCLE ALDO

Aldo, Nando's beloved Uncle, represents Nando's return to life, love and laughter. He has many of his own heartaches that are revealed to the audience on Nando's journey, yet still, somehow through it all, he remains hopeful.

Uncle Aldo is the catalyst for Nando to begin his quest. On a journey of his own, he is also searching for a lost love from many years past.

He's the man who can "get anything done for you", always in your corner and would die for you, if necessary.



MATTEO

Nando nemesis and Angelica's pimp. He's a ruthless thug with no conscience.

He is the impetus for Nando's tandem bike journey after he steals his rental car with all of his belongings inside.

Angelica has been trying to get away from him for years.

He chases the couple across Tuscany trying to get Angelica – his #1 meal ticket - back.





THE NUNS

THEMATIC CHARACTER

The Nuns of St. Rocco follow Nando on his journey, weaving in and out of the story at the most opportune (and inopportune) times.

As is the case with Italian stories over centuries, they are both the metaphors for the story lessons, and comedic additions, and, often the answer when Nando has nowhere to turn.

THE SET UP

We are introduced to Nando as a boy, his overprotective parents Joe and Tina, and his favorite fun-loving Uncle Aldo. Life is a working class Brooklyn neighborhood in the '80's. First-generation Italian-Americans trying to work their way up.

His father wants Nando to buckle down and "make something of himself". But Uncle Aldo encourages his nephew to experience passion over responsibility. He gifts him an Italian race bike and asks Nando to join him in Italy for the 'Dolce Vita' bicycle race in Tuscany before entering his first year of college. While on the ride, tragedy strikes back home. Joe is killed in a freak accident. Nando returns home, vowing he will NEVER ride again, blaming himself for his father's death.

Fifteen years later, thirty year old Nando is engaged to be married, uber-successful. But he's lost his spark— his zest for life and love.

At Nando's engagement party, Uncle Aldo tells Nando he is going back to Italy ride the 'Dolce Vita' all these years later, so that he can reunite with his lost love, Maria. When Uncle Aldo has a heart attack and winds up in the hospital the next morning, Nando forsakes his fiancée to go to Italy for Aldo, ride in his place, AND find Aldo's missing love, who is planning to meet him at the finish line. Secretly, Nando years to finish what he started as a teen and this is his one chance to do it before he takes on the responsible life back in New York.

Things go awry as soon as Nando arrives, as his bicycle is stolen along with all his belongings and his means of communication. Nuns provide him with an old tandem bike to get to the finish line.

The only problem is that he can't ride a bicycle for two by himself. SO, he finds Angelica, a street urchin/street walker, and together they ride off to finish the race. We get the feeling, he is also on the road to self-discovery and love.

tone

Optimistic and inspirational: The story is built on the idea that even after heartbreak, a person can find new happiness and growth. It's about the power of resilience and that it's never too late to return to your true nature.

Dreamy and escapist: The narrative transports you to an idyllic Italian setting. It's a comforting, fun escape from reality, reminiscent of old Italian romantic movies, rife with metaphors that serve as the lessons Nando must learn to find love.

Transformational: The story frames Nando's return to who he was before tragedy reshaped his life -- as a metaphor for self-discovery and transformation (back to) his authentic self.



THE WORLD

Romantic and affectionate: The world is filled with warmth, particularly in its portrayal of family and embracing the journey, especially at the most difficult times.

The special bond between Nando and his uncle give us the hope that the affection Nando and Angelica grow to share in a short time masquerades true feelings hidden from the surface that slowly start to unfurl.

Celebratory: It is a celebration of life, resilience, and family. The story uplifts the idea that joy can be found in unexpected detours. Above all, it celebrates Italian and American-Italian culture, and pure unadulterated romance.



A GUIDE TO THE STORY

"THE OPENING" We meet Nando as a boy — joyful, passionate, Italian at heart — shaped by his Uncle Aldo's love of life and bicycles. When his father dies in a freak accident while he's away riding with Aldo, Nando closes himself off from everything that once made him alive. Fifteen years later, Aldo's heart attack and a mysterious letter about his long-lost love Maria send Nando on a collision course with the life he abandoned.

"THE DEAL" Stranded in the Tuscan countryside — bikeless, penniless, phoneless — Nando is gifted a tandem bicycle by the Nuns of St. Rocco. He finds Angelica at a roundabout, a quick-witted street grifter trying to escape Matteo, the man who controls her. She agrees to ride in exchange for passage to America. Neither trusts the other. The journey begins anyway.

"LOVE HAPPENS ALONG THE WAY" Nando teaches Angelica to ride. She teaches him how to survive, laugh, and live again — channeling Aldo's lessons back to him without either realizing it. The Nuns of St. Rocco appear at the most improbable moments, comic and wise. The man who swore off passion is falling for a woman he never could have imagined.

"ALL IS LOST" Near the finish line, the tandem crashes and is destroyed. Nando discovers Angelica slipped away overnight — a devastating breach of trust. What he doesn't know: she was hustling to earn money to fix the bike. When the truth comes out, his pride wins over his heart, and she walks. Separately: the mysterious letter was never from Maria — it was sent by the nuns themselves. The whole mission suddenly feels like a fantasy.

"THE FINISH LINE" Nando realizes what he's thrown away and goes after Angelica. He defeats Matteo, reaches Maria — only to discover she became a nun decades ago, unable to love anyone else after losing Aldo. Far from a disappointment, it's the most romantic thing in the film. He finds Angelica, and with the nuns looking on, makes the grand gesture that wins her back.

"THE AFTERMATH" Aldo arrives at the finish line to find Maria. Nando crosses on the tandem with Angelica — his true love, his Via dell'Amore — finally the man he was always meant to be. In a joyful Brooklyn epilogue, both couples celebrate. Even Penelope finds love. The whole world of the film has been healed.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Gilda Hauser Porcari grew up around storytellers. A middle child with an active imagination, she inherited a love of storytelling the way some families pass down recipes. Initially, she used her sense of humor to craft stories as a stand-up comedian and TV writer in the 90s. After a career in finance and fundraising, where she used her writing skills to create change in the non-profit world, Gilda has finally returned to her roots to create screenplays and tv pilots, her first love.

She was the winner of the Screencraft Comedy Competition 2024 Mentorship Award, mentored by Lauren Schuker Blum and Rebecca Angelo who wrote *Dumb Money*. She also won the Chicago Screenplay awards, was a semi-finalist at the Austin Film Festival and Page awards. Gilda is a Michigan grad, a Stowe story fellow in 2026 and also a top-tier Roadmap writer. She is also a Second City alum and the voice behind many iconic voiceovers in the 2000's.

On the home front, she's a slacker wife to an Italian IP attorney, who provides her with a treasure trove of endless writing material, not to mention frequent trips to Italy and their vacation home in the Canadian Rockies. Via Dell'Amore is inspired by her many trips bike riding across Tuscany and her love for her husband's close-knit Italian family.



E: ghporcari@gmail.com

P: 248-320-2484

