



Indie Film “Trattoria” Serves up Stars and Celebrity Chefs

“*Trattoria*” serves up the culinary culture in San Francisco and artfully combines on-screen storytelling with powerful narrative from real chefs. The feature film stars *The Closer*’s Tony Denison, John Amedori (*Gossip Girl*, *Jane Mansfield’s Car*) and is peppered with personal restaurant stories that are seamlessly woven into the feature from celebrity chefs like Elizabeth Falkner (*The Next Iron Chef*), Traci Des Jardins (*Top Chef Masters*), and husband/wife chef duo Craig Stoll and Annie Stoll. Writer/Director Jason Wolos has now completed post-production, is now aiming at the film festival circuit and shopping a distribution deal.

Inspired by real chefs and real-life experiences in the restaurant business, filmmaker *Wolos and co-writer Dawn Rich*, tell the story of Sal Sartini (Denison) who has forgotten why he became a chef in the first place – his love of food and cooking – and loses site of what is really important: family. Chef Sartini must learn with the help of his son Vincent (Amedori) to rekindle his passion for cooking and life, and not make the same mistakes again or risk losing everything.

Elizabeth Falkner is quoted in the film, “I was falling in love with the food scene in the Bay Area... by the time I started working in restaurants it was like live theater,” (Chef/partner of two *Michelin* recommended restaurants in San Francisco).

Trading in his hand gun for a chef’s knife is five-time SAG nominated and Prism Award winning actor Tony Denison, who is known as Lt. Andy Flynn in TNT’s #1 Drama *The Closer*, starring Kyra Sedgwick, soon to be *Major Crimes*, and was named best villain of the decade by TIME Magazine for his role as Ray Luca in *Crime Story*.

Wolos says, “When we were pursuing Denison for the lead, I knew he’d be great for the role not only because of his Italian heritage, but because he loves Italian food and can cook a mean eggplant parmigiana.”

“Their themes of family, food, and passion jumped out at me immediately. I am such a food lover and have always been fascinated by the restaurant business. I knew this was a film I had to make,” Denison adds.

Amedori, got his start after catching the eye of Cameron Crowe who then wrote a role for him in *Almost Famous*. He can be seen in Billy Thornton’s *Jane Mansfield’s Car* premiering in competition at Berlinale February 2012. He starred as the young Evan in the *Butterfly Effect* with Ashton Kutcher and most recently as Blake Lively’s love interest in the hit series, *Gossip Girl*. Lisa Rotondi (*Jerry Maguire*), and Kandis Erickson (*I Am Not A Hipster*) round out the cast.

Wolos, who shot camera on the feature, *Stephanie's Image*, with Oscar® Winner Melissa Leo, has been fascinated by the restaurant culture ever since he started washing dishes in the back of his family's first restaurant. "As a restaurant person, as a foodie, and as a filmmaker, I have always wanted to share these stories with the world," he says. His first short film "The High and The Mighty" played on Northwest Airlines as part of IFP's Independents in Flight, and his short Waiter Duty played in over 30 film festivals and is used as a training video in restaurants across the country.

Known for its vibrant culinary scene, San Francisco served as the backdrop for catching the interest of many top chefs. Chef Douglas Dale of Wolfdale's Restaurant, who was the food stylist/consultant on *Trattoria* and recently told the *Sierra Sun*, "The synopsis of the film truly hit home with me. It is a movie inspired by real chefs and the writers' real-life experiences in the family restaurant business – Wolfdale's being one the places."

"Being a chef today you have to be everything, you have to be a biz person, you have to be a TV personality, as well as a chef," Traci Des Jardins (chef/partner/owner of several SF eateries- *Jardinière*, *Public House*, *Mijita*, and *Manzanita* at the Ritz-Carlton/Tahoe).

Trattoria was produced under Trattoria Productions in association with Fog City Pictures and Executive Producer Dawn Rich.