

A FILM BY SEAN DANIEL CUNNINGHAM  
STARRING CARMEN MARIA MITCHELL AND ANDREA LIVI



# *Stai Bene*

REDWOOD ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY PRESENTS A FTA PRODUCTIONS FILM

CARMEN MARIA MITCHELL AND ANDREA LIVI EXECUTIVE PRODUCER CARMEN MARIA MITCHELL PRODUCED BY MARY CATHERINE GREENAWALT

SCRIPT SUPERVISOR & TRANSLATOR JESSICA D'ACUNTO DIRECTED AND EDITED BY SEAN DANIEL CUNNINGHAM

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AN INTERNATIONAL LOVE STORY SHAPED BY A FLORENTINE LEGEND



# ***STAI BENE***

*RUNNING TIME:* **4:00 MINUTES**

*DIRECTED BY:* **SEAN DANIEL CUNNINGHAM**  
*PRODUCED BY:* **MARY CATHERINE GREENAWALT**

*STORY BY:* **SEAN DANIEL CUNNINGHAM**  
**MARY CATHERINE GREENAWALT**

*UPM / TRANSLATOR:* **JESSICA D'ACUNTO**

*STARRING:* **CARMEN MARIA MITCHELL**  
**ANDREA LIVI**

*EXECUTIVE PRODUCER:* **CARMEN MARIA MITCHELL**  
*PRODUCTION COMPANY:* **FTA PRODUCTIONS**

*SHOT AND EDITED BY:* **SEAN DANIEL CUNNINGHAM**



## **LOGLINE**

Against the backdrop of Florence, two strangers from different worlds forge a brief, bittersweet connection that echoes long after their inevitable goodbye.

## **SYNOPSIS**

Set in Florence and performed entirely in Italian, this film follows the intimate evolution of a relationship between an American woman and an Italian man. What begins as a tender, effortless connection gradually reveals the quiet complexities of love shaped by time, place, and unspoken truths.

In just a few fleeting moments, the film captures the beauty of connection, the inevitability of change, and the emotional resonance of a love that is both bittersweet and deeply human.



# OUR STORY

Born from a lived experience in Italy, this film captures a connection that is quiet, real, and emotionally honest. A collaboration between American and Italian artists, the project was filmed on location in Florence and performed entirely in Italian. This cross-cultural process mirrored the story itself, prioritizing presence and listening over mere dialogue.

The Florentine legend of the "open window"- a woman waiting for a love that never returns- serves as the film's anchor. It links a modern, brief encounter to a timeless human pattern of devotion and longing. Ultimately, the film explores the space between presence and absence, revealing the surprising familiarity found between two people from different worlds.

# THE LEGEND

In Florence, the age-old legend of *La Finestra Sempre Aperta* tells of a woman who kept her window open, waiting decades for a lover who never returned from war. She never closed it, and today, that open window remains a permanent fixture of the city skyline- a quiet monument to the space between hope, longing, and absence.

You can learn more about the legend [HERE](#).



# INTERNATIONAL POSITIONING

A cross-cultural collaboration filmed on location in Florence, this project is made up of a California-based production team and an Italian creative crew.

The film's two-person cast (one American and one Italian) performs entirely in Italian, reflecting a deep exchange of language and culture. By blending these two perspectives, the film remains grounded in its local environment while remaining universally accessible through a shared emotional experience.



# THEMATIC POSITIONING

- Connection beyond language
- Cultural exchange and identity
- The complexity of love
- Timing, distance, and emotional evolution
- Memory, longing, and symbolic space





# Carmen Maria Mitchell



Carmen Maria Mitchell is an American actress, singer, and producer originally from California, now based in New York City. With a background spanning theatre, film, and live performance, her work reflects a multidisciplinary approach rooted in storytelling, movement, and music.

In this film, Carmen draws from her experience living and performing in Italy, bringing a profound appreciation of the language, culture, and emotional nuance. Her performance reflects a tender energy of love and curiosity, shaped by both personal experience and a commitment to honest, intimate storytelling.

[Learn more about Carmen](#)



# Andrea Livi

Andrea Livi is an emerging Italian performer based in Tuscany. Originally from Pistoia, he brings a natural understanding of the character, informed by his cultural background, lived experience, and a deep connection to Italian tradition. With a performance style rooted in connection and emotional instinct, he brings a grounded presence and authenticity to the screen.

In this film, Andrea worked closely with the team, generously sharing his language and cultural perspective. His connection to the region and familiarity with the landscape of Florence contribute to the film's sense of realism and place.

[Learn more about Andrea](#)



## **DIRECTOR, Sean Daniel Cunningham**

Sean Daniel Cunningham is an award-winning writer and director whose work is defined by subtle humor and emotional honesty. A New York native based in Los Angeles, Sean was nominated for a Young Director Award at Cannes Lions. His narrative work has been featured on Short of the Week and the Oscar-qualifying HollyShorts Film Festival, while his feature film, Hudson, is currently streaming on Amazon Prime and Apple TV.

Following the fourth season of his viral series Greg in LA, Sean is honored to present *Stai Bene*, his first foreign-language film. Filmed on location in Florence, the project represents a new creative chapter for Sean, trading his signature comedic timing for a quiet, deeply felt exploration of human connection and the unspoken language of love.





## **PRODUCER, Mary Catherine Greenawalt**

Mary Catherine Greenawalt is an award-winning creative producer, actor, and director whose work is anchored by a lifelong devotion to the craft. While she has spent over a decade mastering the complexities of physical production, acting remains her first and forever love- the driving force behind every project she champions. After the success of Sean and Mary's first indie feature Hudson, she has continued to focus on storytelling that balances technical precision with deep emotional resonance. This film is a true labor of love, representing an inspiring new creative union with Carmen Maria Mitchell and a meaningful evolution of her 10+ year creative partnership with Sean Daniel Cunningham. Combined, this trio brings a seasoned, heart-forward perspective to the screen, born from years of shared vision and trust.



## **PRODUCTION ASSISTANT, Jessica D'Acunto**

Jessica D'Acunto is an Italian creative based in Tuscany who contributed to the film in a multifaceted role that evolved throughout the production. Initially joining as a production assistant, she quickly became an integral part of the team, supporting the project as a script supervisor, translator, and liaison between the Italian agency and the production. Serving as a bridge between cultures, Jessica played a key role in facilitating communication on set, ensuring clarity of language, tone, and intention between the cast and creative team. Working closely alongside the director, she helped convey the emotional direction of each scene, while also supporting performance through language and pronunciation. Her presence contributed to the film's authenticity and allowed for a more fluid and collaborative international process.





## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Working with a bilingual and international team was central to the process. It required a different kind of communication and attention, which ultimately strengthened the authenticity of the performances.

The film follows a relationship shaped by cultural difference, language, and timing, set within the everyday rhythm of Florence. Rather than focusing on dramatic turning points, the intention was to capture the subtle shifts that occur between people as a connection evolves.

The legend of the open window provided a meaningful reference point. It reflects ideas of waiting, memory, and the passage of time, which echo quietly throughout the film.

# INSPIRATION



## A NOTE FROM CARMEN

This project came out of a period of time I was living in Florence, where I had gone to study classical opera, art history, and to immerse myself in the Italian language. I had temporarily stepped away from the pace and pressure of the American entertainment industry, thinking I might find something different there, or at least reconnect with why I started creating in the first place.

What stayed with me was not anything dramatic, but something much quieter. The experience of trying to understand and be understood in another language. The way connection shifts when you cannot rely on words in the same way. You begin to listen differently. You pay attention to tone, to presence, to what is felt rather than what is said.

When we began developing the film, I wanted to hold onto that feeling. Not an idealized version of romance, but something more natural and specific. A connection that unfolds between two people from different worlds, shaped just as much by what is unspoken as by what is shared.

Working with the Italian team became an essential part of that. There was a real cultural exchange in the process, not just in language, but in perspective.

We all left with an even deeper respect for culture, language and the willingness to share connection and experiences with a stranger from a different world.



# CREDITS

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*PRODUCED BY:* **MARY CATHERINE GREENAWALT**

*STORY BY:* **SEAN DANIEL CUNNINGHAM**  
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# SPECIAL THANKS

Accademia Europea di Firenze, FIRENZE

ALEX MODEL Agenzia, FIRENZE

Gusta Osteria, Santo Spirito, FIRENZE

Jessica D'Acunto

Ludovica Bonanno

Marta Giotti

Silvia Irene Morelli

Studio Variabile, FIRENZE



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