

TV MINI-SERIES: ***"The War of Lions"*** 90-minutes Feature-film/Pilot.
"Reprisal of Lions" 270-minutes for TV Mini-Series.
www.TheWarofLions.com • www.Leopolis.us

A true story about an Italian family and their Polish friends during World War Two.

Vittorio Perantoni is a Polish-born Italian national with dual citizenship living in Poland and operating his father's wine and pasta tavern and managing his wine imports from Italy. But the Nazi-Soviet invasions of 1939 change all of that. Italy's Embassy suddenly orders Italian nationals to evacuate Poland and the Perantoni family are suddenly forced to leave their considerable wealth behind. Victor's girlfriends will also be left behind as he flees to Switzerland to avoid Italy's draft. Left too are his Polish friends André, Franki, and Padre. All these persons will be scattered across enemy lines as they face the fears, hardships, and abuses of WWII. The war drags on and Europe burns. His Polish friends André and Franki are arrested and routed to Siberia. His girlfriend Dani faces deportation to a Nazi death camp, and Vittorio too is nearly captured and imprisoned. From three sides of enemy lines all are wondering: will life ever be the same again? <http://leopolis.us/id197.html> • <http://leopolis.us/id165.html> • <http://leopolis.us/id184.html>

The feature film's original title used in this casting-call denotes the 270-page script which contains all portions of "The War of Lions" (revision ©2017 rewrite ©2018) consisting of a 90-minute Feature-Film/Pilot with four Mini-Series episodes of 45-minutes each. There's also more material in consideration. Feel free to send your suggestions for a director team. This project may be directed in the USA or Europe, or both. Casting selections and similar decisions won't be made until a director team is in place. More information will be sent out by email as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

George A. Perantoni

<http://leopolis.us/id209.html>

<http://leopolis.us/id206.html>

Ten Main Roles

1) Vittorio Perantoni (VICTOR) 18-yrs-old. Fervent Fascist teen.

Lead Male, 18 - 19 yrs. Approximate 5'7" to 5'9"

Vittorio Perantoni (VICTOR) 18-yrs-old. Lead protagonist. Born 1912 in Lwów. Son of Carlo Perantoni, innkeeper. Vittorio Perantoni is cast as 18-yr-old in the opening scenes set in 1929 Poland when Benito Mussolini holds a luncheon and gives a speech in his father's "Winiarnia Italia" wine & pasta tavern. Young Victor is absorbed in the Duce's Fascist youth-movement and he's ecstatic over the Duce's official visit at his family's "Winiarnia Italia." At the luncheon Victor is given the honor of singing the lead to the Fascist national anthem titled "Giovinezza" ("Youth") accompanied by the glory of his beloved Duce and the other men in the hall. After the song, Benito Mussolini takes his PNF Party Badge from the lapel of his coat and pins it on Victor as a sign of appreciation. Guess what surprising gift Victor has for the Duce?

Casting 18-yr-old Victor Perantoni is limited to the 1929 opening scenes, plus three flashbacks.

<http://leopolis.us/id197.html> -and- <http://leopolis.us/id205.html>

2) Vittorio Perantoni (VICTOR) 28-yrs-old. Importer wine merchant, tavern keeper.

Lead Male, 26 - 30 yrs. Approximate 5'8" to 5'10"

Vittorio Perantoni (VICTOR) 28-yrs-old. Lead protagonist. Born 1912 in Lwów. Dual citizenship Italy-Poland. Bartender. Wine merchant. A devoted stamp-collector and passionate photographer. A very enthusiastic member of Mussolini's 'Fascist Youth' movement. It's been 10-yrs since Duce's 1929 Fascist luncheon at the "Winiarnia Italia." In 1939 Victor is a clean-shaven, lean, 28-yr-old wealthy wine importer with international connections. Most are females! He's Italian and flaunts it, except in Italy where he exults being from the far away bustling city "Leopoli" (Lwów) in eastern Poland. He dresses elegant, always in style. Every stitch of his apparel sports the finest taste of the Italian Fascist youth fashion: 'Pantaloni alla Zuava' (baggy knickerbockers) - sports coat - tie - and at all times exhibiting his PNF lapel-badge that Duce Mussolini gave to him back in 1929. His style is very trendy in Italy and quite attractive elsewhere in Europe, mostly to members of the opposite sex! He's a wine merchant with the class of a well-off Fascist playboy.

PHOTOS: <http://leopolis.us/id197.html> -and- <http://leopolis.us/id114.html>

3) Andrzej Frodel (ANDRÉ) 49-yrs-old. Printer-lithographer, expert artist.

Supporting Male, 45 - 55 yrs. Approximate 5'7" to 6'1"

Andrzej Frodel (ANDRÉ) 49-yrs-old. Thin hair, small mustache. Passionate philatelist/avid stamp collector. Printer lithographer. Decorated WW1 Army Officer. Loyal wine and pasta client of Carlo since after WW1. A devoted friend. Often eats at the Perantoni family's table, sharing enthusiasm for stamps and philately. Polyglot, speaks fluent Italian and six other languages. Member of the Lwów Stamp Club. André is an expert traveling consultant in printing-lithography for Poland, Bulgaria, Romania, and regional agencies. Specialized in master-dies, embossers, printing plate design for banknotes, postage stamps, etc. André's stamps and the "Winiarnia Italia" keep him occupied when he's not traveling. At home he makes amazing 'fantasy stamp-art' with incredible perfection. He's an amazing artist, expert of ink and paper – A SKILLED FORGER – but only for honest causes. When WWII breaks out he begins using his forging skills "half-honestly" — to benefit only his side of enemy lines. He forges his way through WWII, from beginning to end.

<http://leopolis.us/id205.html> – <http://leopolis.us/id165.html>

4) Carlo Vincenzo Perantoni (PAPA) 57-yrs-old. Honorary Vice-Consul, Innkeeper.

Supporting Male, 50 - 60 yrs. Approximate 5'10" to 6'1"

Carlo Vincenzo Perantoni (PAPA) 57-yrs-old, balding. Born 1882 in Volargne di Dolcé (pre-Alpine region of northern Italy). Wine exporter Valpolicella to Poland. "Winiarnia Italia" owner, wine merchant, innkeeper. Religious man/Bible reader. WW1 Army Officer. Member of Italy's Fascist Party but secretly loyal to Italy's House of Savoia (not Mussolini). In 1919 King Victor Emanuel makes him Honorary Vice-Consul for Italy's Regal Affairs in Eastern Poland. Carlo Perantoni has serious doubts about Mussolini's Fascism and tactfully shares his concerns with his sons Luigi and Victor. Luigi capably learns from his father, but Carlo must remain patient with Victor, letting him learn for himself over the years, especially during the war as the Duce's Fascist rule results in critical blunders that he had warned Victor about. So, Carlo remains patient with Victor.

<http://leopolis.us/id113.html> – <http://leopolis.us/id115.html>

5) Daniela Rabinowitz (DANI) 23-yrs-old. Photography shop keeper.

Supporting Female, 20 - 25 yrs. Approximate 5'4" to 5'7"

Daniela Rabinowitz (DANI) 23-yrs-old. Born 1917 Lwów Poland. Victor's girlfriend. Beautiful daughter of Jewish photography merchant where Victor purchased his Zeiss-Iconta fold-out camera and obtains his photo supplies. Dani is an attractive gypsy-like Jewish girl with jet-black hair who works as a shopkeeper in her father's photography store. In 1941, while Victor is in Switzerland to avoid Italy's draft, Germany invades Lwów a second time. Dani's parents are murdered and Dani is imprisoned awaiting shipment to a Nazi death camp. Victor finds out about it and becomes resolved to save her. But travel visas are halted due to war in Europe, and how could he possibly steal her from the grasp of Lwów's Nazi SS command? Victor is not an action hero. He's a wine merchant playboy stamp collector. How does he pull it off? Here's a hint: Stasi and Lari share Victor's affections and are close friends with Dani.

<http://leopolis.us/id205.html> – <http://leopolis.us/id184.html>

6) Franciszek Mrowicki (FRANKI) 29-yrs-old. Postal employee, part time student.

Supporting Male, 27 - 34 yrs. Approximate 5'8" to 5'11"

Franciszek Mrowicki (FRANKI) 29-yrs-old. Born 1911 in Gdansk Poland. Stamp collector. Gdansk postal worker with Post Office work-study privilege in Lwów as student at the Polytechnic University. A passionate philatelist, friend of Victor and André. Loyal patron at "Winiarnia Italia" wine and pasta tavern where he eats lunch daily between school hours. On 1 September 1939 he witnesses the war's first firefight against German invaders by patriotic postal workers firing from Gdansk's Post Office windows - It's Poland's first demonstration of resistance to Nazi-Germany's invasion. It does not go well for the heroic Postal Workers, but their message and example are received by the world as the opening salvo of WWII, that will continue over the next 6 years. Franki Mrowicki's most admirable quality is his trustworthy friendship. A reliable friend who has the mysterious ability to be at the right place at the right time with the right solution and the right idea ... plus, he has everything else you forget.

<http://leopolis.us/id184.html> – <http://leopolis.us/id114.html>

7) Larisa Doroshenka (LARI) 23-yrs-old. Part time student, country girl.

Supporting Female, 20 - 25 yrs. Approximate 5'5" to 5'7"

Larisa Doroshenka (LARI) 23-yrs-old. Born 1916 rural Leopold (Lwów). Beautiful brown-haired Ukrainian country girl. Victor's girlfriend. Larisa Doroshenka is a Galician farmer's daughter, part-time student and casual merchant of dairy and other farm products in Lwów. LARI is the daughter of Ukrainian farmer Ivan Doroshenko who is a hunting guide and seasonal partner with Carlo Perantoni in providing guided hunting tours organized for Italian dignitaries and other celebrities. Lari, Dani, and Stasi share Victor's affections. The four are very close friends. Victor, however, has a special affection for Stasia. <http://leopolis.us/id205.html> – <http://leopolis.us/id184.html>

8) Luigi Perantoni (GiGi) 31-yrs-old. "Winiarnia Italia" bartender, tavern keeper.

Supporting Male, 29 - 33 yrs. Approximate 5'7" to 5'10"

Luigi Perantoni (GiGi) 31-yrs-old. Lean, clean shaven. Born 1909 in Lwów Poland. Son of Carlo Perantoni, innkeeper. GiGi is Victor's older brother. Dual citizenship Italy-Poland. Bartender cameriere. Wine and spirits import-exporter. PNF-Member of Italy's Fascist Youth but NOT ardent as Victor. In the 1930's Victor and GiGi tend bar in their father's "Winiarnia Italia" wine & pasta tavern and they operate his age-old wine importing business. In 1938 they add Polish and Italian liquors/spirits to their import-exports. Both brothers are advantaged with dual citizenship which facilitates obtaining international docs & visas. The paradox is that the brothers were not born in Poland but in Austria-Hungary which no longer exists. Later their Polish identity becomes jeopardy when Hitler declares all Poles to be "Untermensch" (sub-humans) - and their hero, Dux Benito Mussolini, had gone over to Hitler's side!

<http://leopolis.us/id113.html> – <http://leopolis.us/id115.html>

9) Michele Kolbuch (PADRE) 36-yrs-old. Catholic priest, Vatican envoy to Lwów.

Supporting Male, 35 - 40 yrs. Approximate 5'9" to 6'6"

Michele Kolbuch (PADRE) 36-yrs-old. Catholic priest (tall, wire-rim glasses). Born 1903 Lwów. Vatican's 1930s Emissary to Lwów. Polyglot Polish, Italian, and German. Amazing fun personality, quite unusual for a priest. Loyal fan of Carlo's "pastasciutta" dishes, green salads, and glasses of red wine. Padre and Victor, GiGi, André and Franki enjoy long nights gambling at cards with other stamp collectors, NOT for money, but using collectible stamps like poker chips in assorted values – while Carlo mumbles "good for business." Carlo, André, and Padre, with the three younger ones, make six very close friends. They share joy of stamps and fine Italian wines as their bond. But in September 1939 their bond is forcibly undone by a Nazi-Soviet conspiracy of murder and destruction. The six men, and Victor's girlfriends are scattered across three enemy fronts of war. Soviets arrest André and Franki and a twist of events has them taking part in the LIBERATION OF ITALY with the ALLIED POLISH 2ND CORPS. Mere weeks before Germany's surrender André and Franki reconnect with Padre at the Vatican – and Padre craftily escorts them across enemy lines disguised as monks on a furtive 5-year-reunion for 'wine and fun' with the Perantoni family ... amid uneasy Germans on their panicky retreat in northern Italy.

<http://leopolis.us/id205.html> – <http://leopolis.us/id165.html>

10) Stasia Alexiniska (STASI) 21-yrs-old. Sophisticated student ballerina.

Supporting Female, 18 - 24 yrs. Approximate 5'4" to 5'7"

Stasia Alexiniska (STASI) 21-yrs-old. Born 1918 Lwów Poland. Beautiful talented 21-yr-old Polish ballerina. Victor's childhood girlfriend. Classy ballet student. Aspiring prima donna. Daughter of a strict Polish Cavalry officer. Mother is a ballet seamstress owner of an upscale dance-costume shop - SCRIPT DOES NOT CONTAIN A BALLET SHOW - Parents allow Stasia to date Victor but prohibit her from stepping into his "Winiarnia Italia" wine and pasta tavern. She had been taught that inside Victor's tavern was anathema. But when Italy's embassy suddenly orders all Italian nationals to evacuate Poland (before the invasion), Stasia dares to break her father's strict rule and enters the "Winiarnia Italia" tavern for the first time. Stasi and Lari and Dani are very close friends – and they share Victor's affections – Victor, however, has a special affection for Stasia.

<http://leopolis.us/id205.html> – <http://leopolis.us/id114.html>