



Best Adapted Screenplay AND Best Special Mention Screenplay

28 August 1939: Phone call from Warsaw's Consolato d'Italia to Carlo Perantoni, Honorary Vice Consul for Southeast Poland: "Signore Perantoni, you must alert all Italian nationals in Leopoli and region to evacuate Poland immediately."

This is a story of peaceful Italian and Polish friends caught in a world that had become dominated by a violent war. The Italians return to their native land, and then reunite with their Polish friends as they served in the liberation of Italy by the brave Polish 2nd Corps, il valoroso Corpo Polacco.



The War of Lions

WHO ARE THE "LIONS" AND WHY IS WWII DENOTED AS "THE WAR OF LIONS?" The beautiful Ukrainian city 'Lviv' had not always been Ukrainian. Prior to the second world war it was the largest city in Eastern Poland, and earlier it belonged to Austria-Hungary. Regardless of the region's political changes, the city's name always meant 'LIONS' in each of their spoken languages (Ukrainian: L'viv, Polish: Lwów, Russian: Lvov). Variations such as German 'Lemberg' and Latin 'Leopolis' connoted 'CITY OF LIONS'. Our title "THE WAR OF LIONS" refers to laudable men of Poland's Kresy (the eastern borderlands) the majority of whom were from its largest population center, namely: the city of Lwów. During the Second Polish Republic's critical period of military occupations by two very hostile aggressors, the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany, the laudable and heroic LIONS gave a stinging retribution to Adolf Hitler, the originator of their land's demise. Their reprisal caused the fall of Fascism as they took part in the liberation of Italy, thus sending the Wehrmacht on a gradual northward retreat. It was Hitler's proverbial *writing on the wall*, as the brave Polish 2nd Corps and all the other LIONS of General Anders' Army had their day with Nazi Germany.

Some of these courageous men were the dear friends of our protagonists (Victor, Luigi, and Carlo Perantoni) as well as loyal patrons of our family's *Winiarnia Italia Wine and Pasta Tavern* located in the heart of Lwów. While the liberation of Italy was still in progress, two of these bold Lwowians and a priest (the former Vatican emissary to Lwów and loyal Winiarnia patron) ventured into German held north Italy, simply for a cheerful get-together celebration with the Perantonis.

The War of Lions

BASED ON A TRUE STORY. The Second World War comes to a boil, forcing an Italian family and their friends in Eastern Poland to flee, and henceforth rely on wit and luck to survive.

OUR SCREENPLAY IS NOT A HISTORICAL NARRATIVE. Historical settings described above render the important background of our story, but the screenplay is neither a re-enactment of history, nor styled as a historical documentary. Instead, it's based on a true story which narrates wartime experiences of our real Italian and Polish protagonists. In this way we depict how WWII might have influenced the daily lives of other innocent civilians in Europe, all while Russia and Germany were fighting like dogs over a bone, the "bone" itself being Poland. The events and experiences of our protagonists present the very *heartbeat of WWII* in a true factual historical context. After all, Lwów and Eastern Poland were the "bones" for which two rabid dogs, Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin, triggered a challenge from Western Nations, thus giving a generous advantage for Poland's heroic LIONS to strike back ... in Italy!

REVIEWS FROM AMERICAN ZOETROPE (2015) John J. McGuire: "How gratifying it felt to read the number of incidents where Nazi's were outwitted by guile and fearlessness ... I got caught up in their wit and courage during Nazi occupation ... I feel honored to have read it." **In personal note John J. McGuire wrote:** "Thomas, let me first off congratulate you and George for a great script. It's the highest rated of the many scripts I've read here on Zoe. **Jim Bissell wrote:** "I really enjoyed the script and marvel at the cunning and tenacity of its main protagonists ... and I read it straight through as I was gripped by the story ... characters seemed very real and tangible. Story that needs to be told. Photographs being available would enhance the realism of this very fine story." **Peter Szumlas wrote:** "The originality here is fantastic ... a fresh view on WWII from a perspective that hasn't been seen before ... It focuses on the people, not the soldiers ... The settings are also original and not what we have typically seen of WWII ... Kudos on the originality scale well done." **BLUECAT #5681 READER #9087:** "Most World War II stories follow the same general formula. Your script was a breath of fresh air in this regard. From the beginning the story offers a very unique perspective and different lets with which to view this era. Not only was the Polish perspective a very interesting angle, the fact that the main characters were Italian citizens made your script very intriguing and unique ... I have always thought the Italian perspective of World War II was tremendously interesting and is sorely lacking representation, so your narrative fills a void in this genre well ... I appreciated that your script did not indulge too much into the horrors of the war ... So, the fact that your script alluded to the atrocities happening but never tried to shock or terrify was very rewarding ... you told a very compelling story ... about family [life] accessible and unique."

Screenplay adapted in 2015. Lots of additional material, with historical and cultural advisor available for film production.

Adapted from "Arrivederci Leopoli" (2011) by George Perantoni and Sam Ivey. www.leopolis.us
Perantoni@Leopolis.us