

MY FRIEND JOHNNY

Written and Directed by
Alessandra Cardone



**GIORNATE
DEGLI AUTORI
VENICE DAYS**

Venice Nights

MY FRIEND JOHNNY • credits

Written and directed by	Alessandra Cardone
Photography	Selene De Rui, Valerio Ferrario
Editing	Max Pastore
Sound	Andrea Parolin
Produced by	Alessandra Cardone
Nationality	Italian
Year of Production	2011-2012
Location	Venice
Running time	14,10'
Format	Full HD 16/9
Sound	stereo
Press Office	Lionella Bianca Fiorillo Storyfinders Via A. Allegri da Correggio 11 Roma ITALY +39.06.88972779 +39.340.7364203 press.agency@storyfinders.it

credits not contractual

MY FRIEND JOHNNY • synopsis

My Friend Johnny is a little documentary about friendship between Cristiano Vitale, who owns a restaurant in Venice, and actor Johnny Depp.

Shot in Venice between november and december 2011, it's the story about the feelings of a simple man who confronted "celebrity" for a while and was enchanted by it.

During the filming of "The Tourist" (spring 2010) Venice was in the spotlight internationally because of the presence of two über-stars: Angelina Jolie and Johnny Depp.

When Johnny Depp had dinner at Cristiano's restaurant, "Rosa Rossa", for the first time, he liked it so much that he kept going there during his whole stay in Venice, enjoying himself with the owner and all his staff.

All of them were fascinated by the actor's personality, and Cristiano to a further level. He was hoping Mr. Depp would start considering him a great friend, and would include him in his entourage. But unfortunately this magic period ended when Johnny left Venice.

Even though Johnny never returned, in spite of Cristiano's several failures in contacting him and of the cynicism of Venetian people who consider him too naive, he does not give up. He's sure his friend Johnny will come back.



MY FRIEND JOHNNY • conversation with the authoress

How have you decided to tell this story?

I was in Venice, having lunch with some Venetian friends, when they started to tell me about Cristiano, who runs the restaurant "Rosa Rossa".

While shooting "The Tourist", Johnny Depp showed up in his restaurant and started to go there regularly and spent amazing nights there with Cristiano and his family.

Then Johnny went back to US, leaving their friendship behind and the restaurant looking like a temple dedicated to him. This also left Cristiano completely transformed, both emotionally and physically: Post-Johnny he started to dress, act and even do his hair like him!

The story touched me very much, so I went to see Cristiano at "Rosa Rossa" to hear the story directly from him.

The first thing I noticed was his look: everything Cristiano did revealed his desire to look like Johnny Depp.

I thought I'd meet this crazy stalker, but I was wrong. Cristiano is a nice, quiet, generous man, loving father and husband.

What's the message of "My friend Johnny"?

The opportunity of living just for a moment under the shining light of a celebrity, attracts everyone. One can try to be practical and sensible, realising that such an encounter cannot have longevity. However in real life it is distinctly more difficult to remain sane in the face of such intensity.

Cristiano comes across as nostalgic to the audience: in fact, what could be considered as a "stroke of luck", turned out to be a double edged sword that gave him false hopes and ultimately disappointment.

What approach have you used to tell this story?

Even if this is a story of dreams and frustrated hopes, I wanted to tell it in a light and ironic way, so I asked Cristiano to find the humour in his own situation.

I decided to tell the truth of this very "human" story: I hoped the result would be funny but could also show the contradiction of its emotions. On the one hand that real life often doesn't pan out as we dream, on the other that Cristiano never actually gives up hope that his friendship with Johnny meant something more profound.

He never gave up and is still waiting for something to happen...

ALESSANDRA CARDONE - PROFILE

Alessandra Cardone (Milan, 20-05-1975) is an ex copywriter. She worked for years in big advertising agencies in Milan, until she started studying screenplay with Gaetano Sansone and then directed her first shortmovie *Aspettando Hollywood* (2006), finalist of several festivals and winner of others. In 2008 she won a special mention at "Nastri D'Argento" for *Boxing Paradise's* screenplay, directed by Stefano Quaglia. She started shooting commercials but she continued to work in an advertising agency, until october 2008, when she made the decision to be a full time director.

Along with commercials, she directed shortmovies like *Beneficenza* (2010), *Chapeau!* (2011), the documentary film *le Tessitrici di Guri I Zi* (2011), and she's finishing the post-production of *Questioni di Etichetta*, a shortmovie with Bebo Storti, Ugo Conti and Francesco Montanari. She is currently working on her first feature film.