

FACTSHEET

MID-AUGUST LUNCH

European Cinema for Active Ageing

CINAGE

LIGHTS,
CAMERA,
ACTION!

65+



Title	PRANZO DI FERRAGOSTO (Mid-August Lunch)
Release date	September 2, 2008
Running time	75'
Director	Gianni Di Gregorio
Country	Italy
Language	Italian
Producer	Matteo Garrone
Writers	Gianni Di Gregorio, Simone Riccardini
Cast	Gianni Di Gregorio as Gianni, Valeria De Franciscis as Donna Valeria, Marina Cacciotti as Marina, Alfonso Santagata as Alfonso, Marcello Ottolenghi as Marcello and Grazia Cesarini Sforza as Grazia.
Genre	Comedy-drama
Awards	Grand Prix Award and the Audience Award at the International Film Festival Bratislava; FIPRESCI Award; "Luigi De Laurentiis" Award for a First Feature Film at the 65th Venice Film Festival in 2008; David Di Donatello Awards; Satyajit Ray Award at the London Film Festival; Golden Snail award at the Academy of Food and Film in Bologna.

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Plot

Mid-August Lunch chronicles, a food-filled nonagenarian sleepover, catered for by the only cast member under 60: Gianni, is a gummy-eyed bachelor who tends to his mother Valeria in their small Rome flat.

It's the midsummer bank holiday and most families have left the sticky city for the coast. The apartment block caretaker, Luigi, is keen to follow suit, but he, too, has an elderly mamma to care for. In return for some waived utility bills, Gianni agrees to let her stay overnight. Yet when Luigi shows up an hour later with wheezy Marina, an even older sister, Maria, is in tow, too. No matter: a small bundle of euros and Gianni is making up another spare bed.

It's the same story when Gianni phones the doctor about his worsening angina. The doc is unexpectedly on the night shift; his mother will be left home alone – might Gianni mind another mouth to feed? Grazia is, in fact, the easiest of his new charges – at least until she starts smuggling cheese into her bedroom (her son insists she keep to a strict steamed vegetable diet). Maria, likewise, is a sweetie, save for when Gianni puts the wrong kind of pasta in the pot.

Marina – resplendent in frills, pickled in perfume – presents more of a problem when she escapes to the local bar, and again when she's in the mood for romance. But it's Gianna's own mother who's the snippiest. Valeria is an imposing sight: a great, chestnut-coloured hawk, smothered in lipstick topped with towering whips of golden hair, but she has the poise, as well as the looks, of a comtessa: refusing to dine in the kitchen, or to let the others enjoy equal TV rights.

Initially, Gianni copes by necking chablis and sharing his woes with a tramp. But eventually, as the women mellow over asti and palm-reading, he begins to enjoy himself – even later, when soothing them in the small hours or slipping medication into their chamomile tea.

Active ageing competencies

All the six competencies.