

Loose Cannons

Cert 12A Italy 2010 113 mins

Crew

Director	Ferzan Özpetek
Screenplay	Ivan Cotroneo
	Ferzan Özpetek
Cinematography	Maurizio Calvesi
Editor	Patrizio Marone
Art Director	Andrea Crisanti
Music	Pasquale Catalano

Cast

Riccardo Scamarcio	Tommaso Cantone
Nicole Grimaudo	Alba Brunetti
Alessandro Preziosi	Ivan Cotroneo
Ennio Fantastichini	Vicenzo Cantone
Lunetta Saviano	Stafania Cantone
Ilaria Occhini	grandmother
Carmine Recano	Marco
Massimiliano Gallo	Salvatore
Paolo Minaccioni	Teresa

Synopsis

SPOILER ALERT!

Lecce, Apulia, the present.

The Cantone family are assembling for a dinner at which patriarch Vincenzo will formally hand over management of the family's pasta factory to his two sons - Antonio, an assistant manager at the factory, and younger brother Tommaso, who now lives in Rome, ostensibly studying business,

Tommaso has returned to Lecce with two bombshells to drop at dinner, which he first confesses to Antonio: he has been studying literature, and writing a novel; and he is gay. Before Tommaso can tell the assembled company, however, Antonio steals his thunder by announcing that he is gay, prompting Vincenzo to bar him from the house and have a heart attack.

Tommaso fearful for his father's health, remains in Lecce to manage the factory, aided by the attractive and canny Alba, daughter of his father's associate.

Abridged from Sight & Sound Dec'10

"A touching and bittersweet comedy drama with a wicked tongue and a heart of gold" ★★☆☆

"A complete joy from beginning to end"



Reviews

As the director of films like *Hamam – the Turkish Bath*, *Facing Window* and *A Perfect Day*, [Ferzan Özpetek](#) has established a track record of nuanced comic dramas about contemporary European characters negotiating points of transition and uncertainty in their lives. In his latest multistranded comedy of errors and sexual identity, the focus is on Tommaso ([Riccardo Scamarcio](#)), son of a pasta-making Puglian clan, whose plans to come out to his traditional family are derailed when his older brother steals his thunder. *Loose Cannons* looks sideways to Tommaso's siblings, friends and acquaintances and back to his grandmother's early life, exploring a range of dilemmas with humour and sensitivity as its dozen-odd characters try to find their own ways of weighing social propriety and family obligation against self-fulfilment – a balancing act made trickier for Tommaso when his boyfriend and mates arrive from Rome. The feel is somewhat cloistered and the pace rarely gets the pulse racing but this is engaging and affecting stuff, handsomely shot and well acted: Ilaria Occhini is a stand-out as the grandmother.

Ben Walters, Time Out Dec'10

Impeccably played and staged in the luminous southern Italian town of Lecce, Ferzan Özpetek's gentle blend of gay rom-com and generational soap is as appealing as it's contrived. Thwarted by his older brother in his bid to quit the family pasta company by announcing he's gay, an aspiring novelist (Riccardo Scamarcio) attempts to tow the line after becoming intrigued by a poor little rich girl (Nicole Grimaudo). But the tension between duty and desire proves unendurable. Notwithstanding a couple of misfiring subplots and a predilection for circular tracking shots, this is a slick and sweetly sentimental saga that deftly deploys overly familiar tropes to explore entrenched attitudes, foolish hopes and unfulfilled dreams with knowing wit and stylish delicacy.

Empire Magazine

BFFS BOOKING SCHEME

Loose Cannons is one of the new additions from **Peccadillo Films** available from BFFS.

Ferzan Özpetek

