

PINEAPPLE ASHES



A FILM BY MICAH PERTA

**SOME OF THIS HAPPENED.
SOME OF IT DIDN'T.**

ALL OF IT IS TRUE, ISH.



After his gay father's partner of 30 years dies, Adam joins his family—and the semi-estranged twins he had in college—on a reluctant trip to a small Catholic Sicilian town beneath volcanic Mount Etna to scatter the ashes... and try not to kill each other.



A COMEDIC STORY

ABOUT FAMILY





IN ALL ITS

MODERN FORMS

WITH
GAY FATHERS





A QUEER SISTER

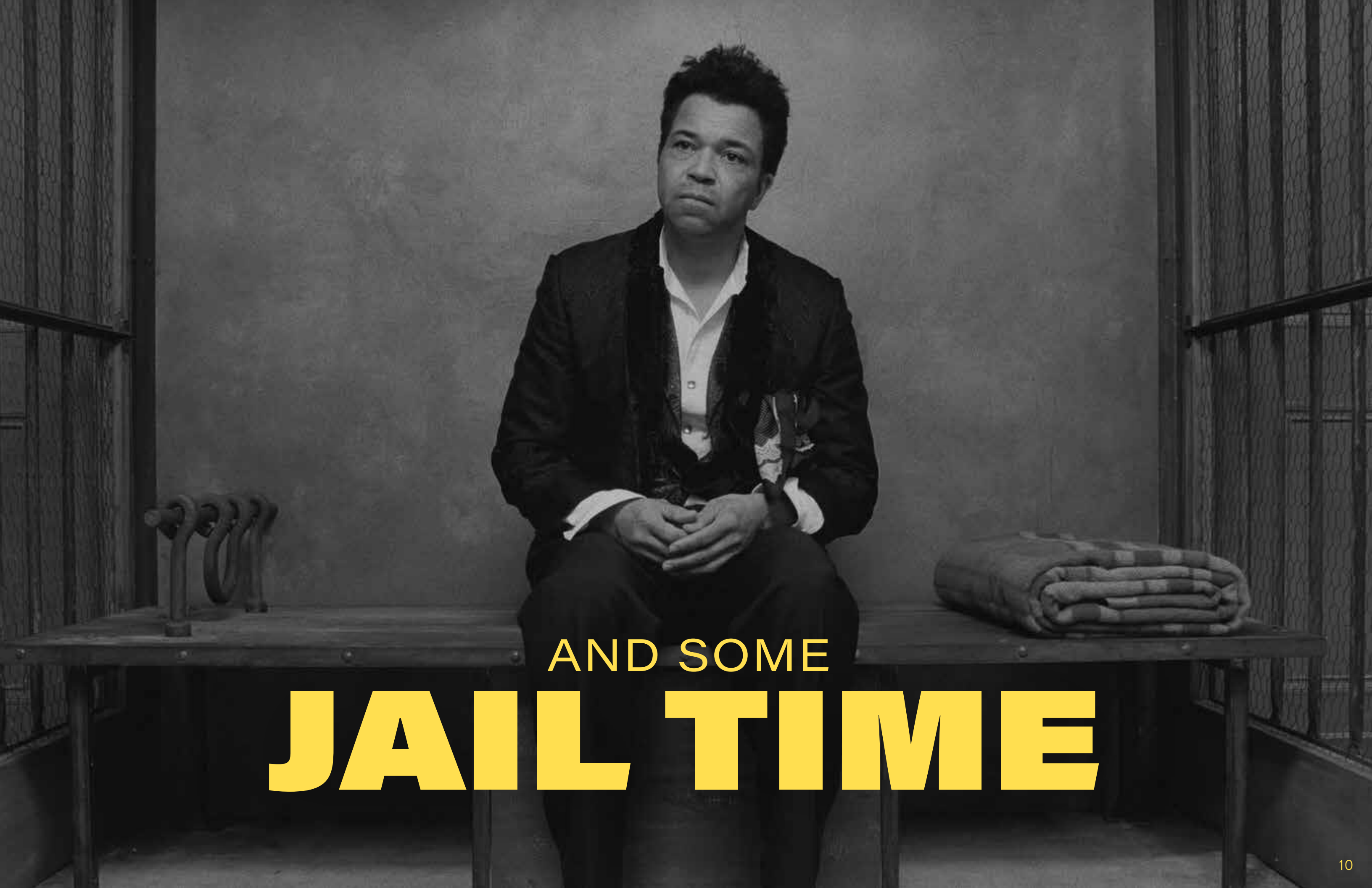
A man with dark, wavy hair and a beard, wearing a light blue and white striped button-down shirt, is leaning forward. He has a serious, intense expression. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with traditional houses featuring terracotta roofs under a clear blue sky.

A DONOR

A close-up photograph of a cake designed to look like a pineapple. The cake is covered in a crinkled, silver-colored material that mimics the texture of a pineapple's skin. A real pineapple top with its characteristic spiky leaves is placed on top of the cake. The entire scene is set against a solid black background, which makes the silver cake and the green leaves stand out. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the textures of the cake and the leaves.

A HEIST

**In the shape of a Pineapple*



AND SOME
JAIL TIME

**“IT DOESN’T MATTER HOW
YOU PARENT, ONLY HOW
YOU PARENT ONCE YOU
BECOME ONE”**

*MAX, PINEAPPLE ASHES

THE CHARACTERS



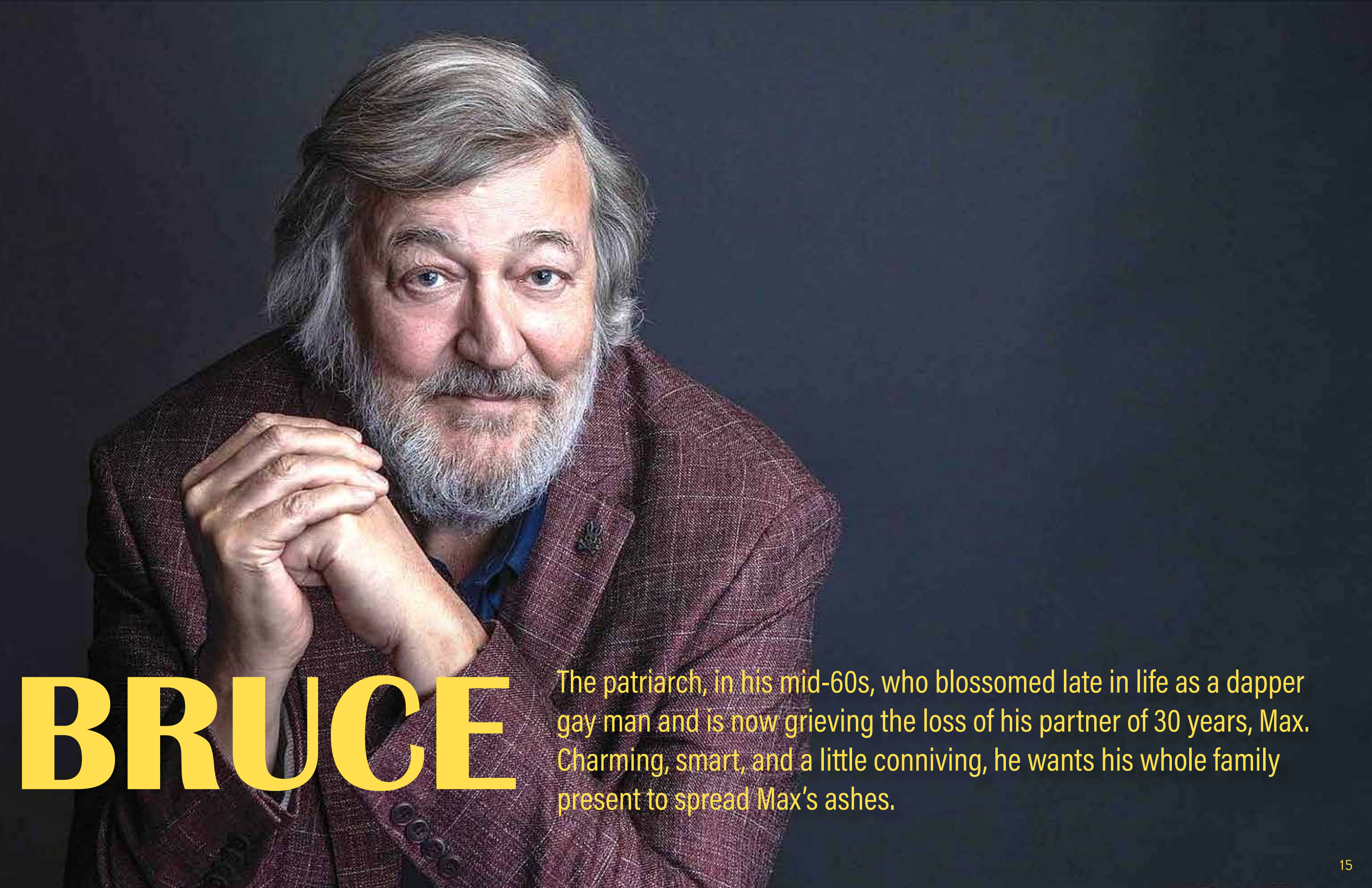
ADAM

Adam, mid-30s, had twins at 20 while still in college and then mostly disappeared. Emotionally stunted, equal parts funny and infuriating. He wants to be a father before it's too late — he just has no idea what that actually means.



GRACE

Adam's older sister, in her late-30s. She's whip-smart, and was studying law at Yale before she and her non-binary partner, Drew, decided to have a baby. Raised with gay dads and a straight mom (no Freudian love), she must now juggle the donor of her baby and the brother who's never grown up.



BRUCE

The patriarch, in his mid-60s, who blossomed late in life as a dapper gay man and is now grieving the loss of his partner of 30 years, Max. Charming, smart, and a little conniving, he wants his whole family present to spread Max's ashes.



NANCY

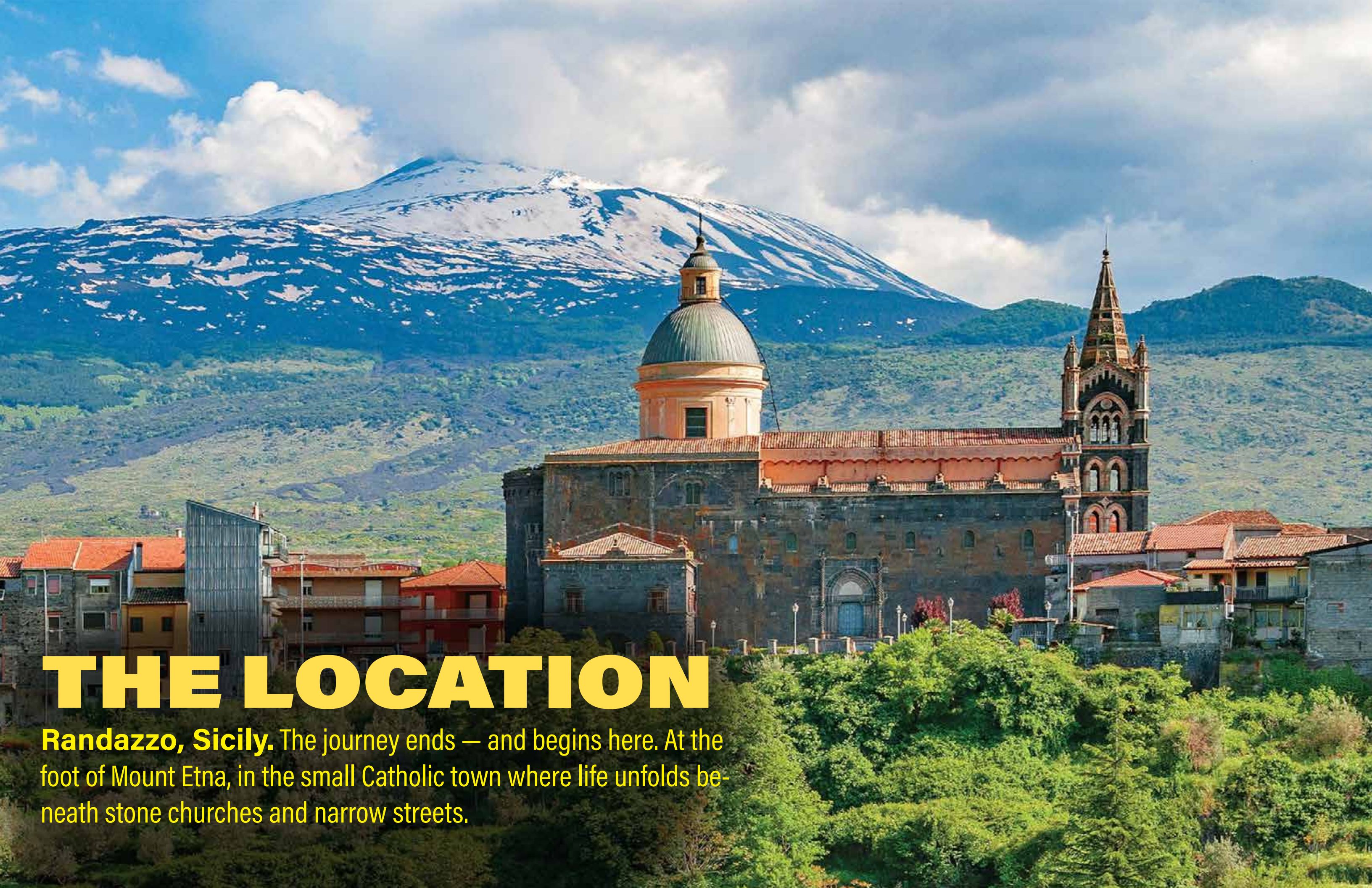
Also in her mid-60s, Nancy is buttoned-up and a little old-fashioned. Her life was upended when her husband left her for another man. Thirty years later, she's kept the family together, but on this trip she discovers her independent and adventurous spirit.



LUKE & CAM

Identical twin brothers, mid-teens, who don't feel close to their dad, absent for much of their lives. As progressive Gen-Zers, they're ready to bond with their non-traditional extended family — though time will tell if they'll give Adam a chance to be a real father.

THE WORLD



THE LOCATION

Randazzo, Sicily. The journey ends — and begins here. At the foot of Mount Etna, in the small Catholic town where life unfolds beneath stone churches and narrow streets.



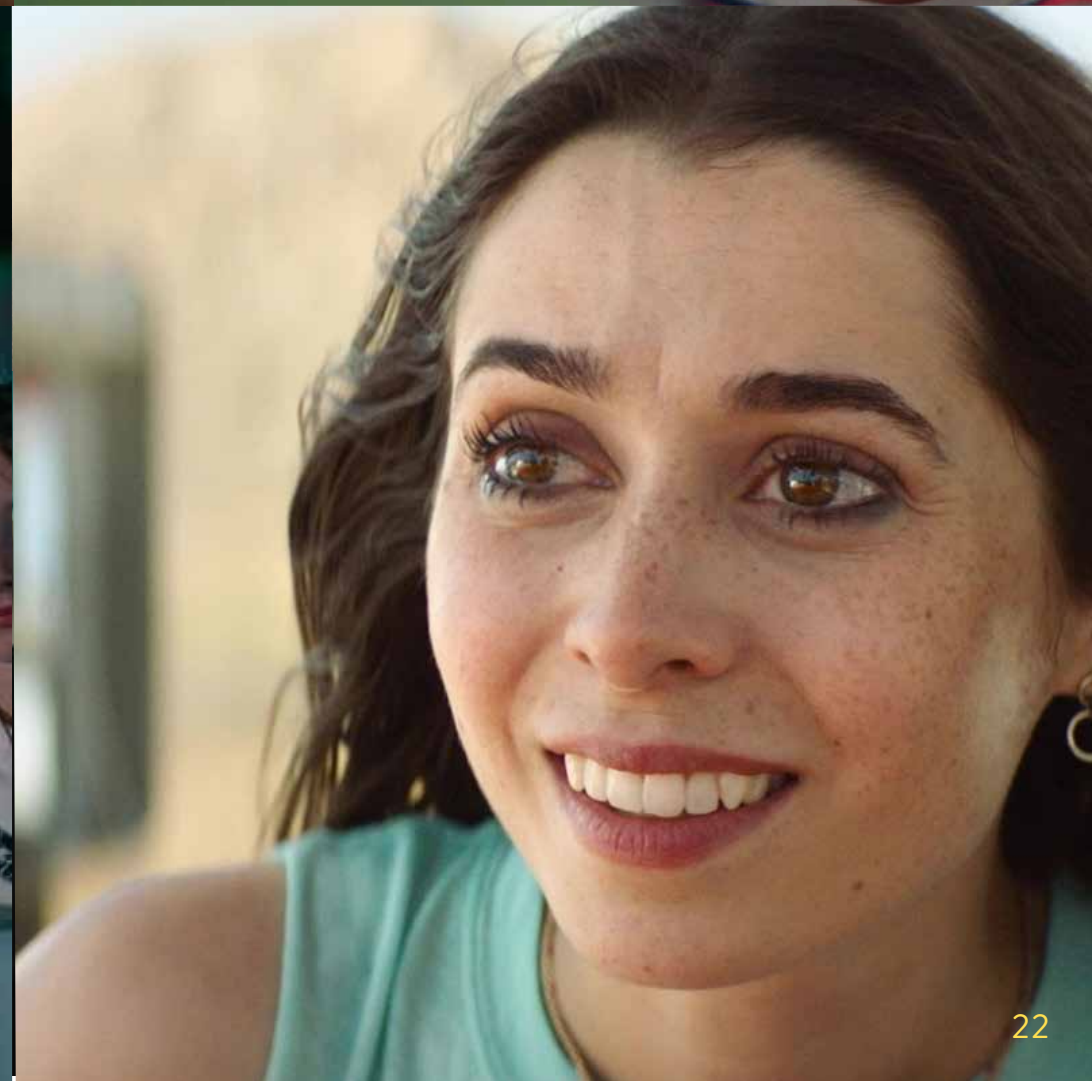
TONE

I want the tone of the film to come across as comedic, but at the same time heartfelt and meaningful. Something like the road trip ensemble of *Little Miss Sunshine*, mixed with *Transparent*. And the themes and style of *Beginners* crossed with *While We're Young*.



LOOK & FEEL

The film will have a cinematic tone that's authentic, real, and a little rough around the edges — like the characters themselves. I want to shoot mostly handheld, with long lenses for a shallow depth of field and an intimate, lived-in feel. The visual language will carry the vibrancy and emotional immediacy of films like *Lady Bird* (Greta Gerwig), *Anora* (Sean Baker), and *Aftersun* (Charlotte Wells).



CREATIVE TEAM

WRITER/DIRECTOR

MICAH PERTA

Micah Perta's most recent narrative short film, *Daytime Noon*, starring Olivia Wilde and Dolly Wells, premiered at the Nantucket Film Festival and won the Best Actress award at the Los Angeles Short Film Festival and the Audience Award at the Nitehawk Shorts Festival. His short documentary, *Bump Tick Scratch*, screened at SXSW, Slamdance, AFI's Silverdocs, and Edinburgh, among others. Before that, his student film, *Gogol Bordello*, a short documentary about the gypsy, Ukrainian, punk, surrealist cabaret band was a regional finalist at the Student Academy Awards.

Alongside his narrative/documentary work, Micah has directed comedic commercials for over fifteen years and had the pleasure of collaborating with everyone from Don Cheadle, Drew Barrymore, Conan O'Brien, Tracy Morgan, Kate McKinnon, Steph Curry, Dwayne Johnson, Martha Stewart and Snoop Dogg, among others.



*Micah pouring his heart and soul into directing a can of mayonnaise for Heinz.



DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

SAM LEVY

Sam Levy has lensed some of the most iconic films of the last decade, including *Frances Ha*, *While We're Young*, and *Mistress America* (Noah Baumbach), *Lady Bird* (Greta Gerwig), *Wendy and Lucy* (*Kelly Reichardt*), and *His Three Daughters* (Azazel Jacobs). Known for his lyrical handheld style and emotional precision, Sam has also collaborated with directors such as Spike Jonze and Jonah Hill on commercials and music videos.

Sam and Micah met on a commercial set and went on to shoot numerous campaigns together, building a visual shorthand rooted in naturalism and humor—one that makes Sam the perfect eye for Pineapple Ashes.



*Micah and Sam together as babies.

PRODUCTION DESIGNER

ANTHONY GASPARRO

Anthony Gasparro has designed some of the most visually grounded indie films in recent memory, including *Materialists* (Celine Song), *Kinds of Kindness* (Yorgos Lanthimos), and *Showing Up* (Kelly Reichardt). His work combines naturalism with evocative detail, crafting spaces that feel lived-in, layered, and psychologically rich.

Micah and Anthony — like Sam and Micah — first met on a commercial set and went on to collaborate across many campaigns, including the now-iconic Martha Stewart x Snoop Dogg spots. With a deep understanding of family dynamics and the emotional potential of design, Anthony brings the perfect touch to a project like *Pineapple Ashes*.



*Micah looking unhinged on set with Tony (per usual).



**THANKS FOR
READING**