



Silver Linings Playbook

Born and raised in the Chicago suburbs, Carmen Vitali always had football in her blood. Vitali covers the National Football League's NFC North Division for Fox Sports. Her love of the game and fandom of the Philadelphia Eagles was instilled by her father, Vince Vitali.

"Some of my fondest memories were watching football with my father," says Carmen. "At 9 years old, I knew the players and coaches, but was curious about those who worked on the sideline."

Vitali was always a passionate writer. With her father's encouragement, she decided to combine her passion for writing and football into a sports broadcasting career. A third-generation Italian American (her roots in Ascoli-Piceno and Naples), she credits her work ethic to her Italian heritage: "There's a general sentiment and work ethic that is involved with being Italian American. My dad instilled an incredible work ethic in me. It's something I'm proud of."

In an industry dominated by men, Vitali consistently made strides in broadcasting and is determined to inspire other women who want to pursue a career in sports entertainment. With the support of her family, she feels as if she could accomplish anything.

"My goal is to become a national analyst," says Vitali "Instead of facilitating the conversation, I want to make myself a part of it."

—Anthony Sciaratta

Italian Run-Through

PJ Byrne has worked with some of the greatest actors and directors in history, from Martin Scorsese to Leonardo DiCaprio. Byrne's unconventional journey into acting propelled him to Hollywood.

Byrne studied finance at Boston College with dreams of working on Wall Street and entering politics. But his sophomore year, his audition for a play impressed the theater faculty and convinced him to turn to acting. He went on to earn a Masters of Fine Arts in Acting at the Theatre School at DePaul University.

Born in Maplewood, N.J., and raised in Old Tappan, Byrne was always in touch with his Italian roots. "My grandfather immigrated to America from Santa Croce, Sicily, with the first wave of Italian immigrants in the early 1900s," he says.

Byrne has many fond memories of his grandfather's garden. To this day, he still searches for tomatoes that taste as fresh. Memories like this inspired him to obtain Italian citizenship for himself, his wife, and children.

Byrne plans on bringing more film and television opportunities to Italy. "My dream is to bring my children back to Italy with me while I'm working," he says. "There are so many talented artists in Italy I would love to work with."

Since the early 2000s, Byrne has acted in more than 40 films—notably *The Wolf of Wall Street* and *Babylon*.

—Anthony Sciaratta

