

"DEAR VINCENTE..."

This romantic/comedy adventure plays against the colorful Italian neighborhood of Taylor Street, Chicago and Hollywood. A young hyper-energetic waitress working in her family-owned restaurant becomes obsessed with Italian movie idol, Vincente. Pretty Tina Casaletto, 23, believes she's destined to marry Vincente if only they could meet in person. She's so focused on Vincente's latest film or souvenir, she isolates herself from developing normal relationships. Tina's family worries. In a desperate effort to save her, the family, led by her mother, strips Tina's bedroom of her Vincente collectibles.

Shocked and feeling betrayed and alone, Tina leaves for Hollywood. She's determined to find Vincente. The trip fails on one level, but seems to snap Tina out other obsession. Back home again, she helps her mother decorate her room in a floral rose and green wallpaper. Even Gino, the restaurant's building owner, who feels intensely attracted to Tina, makes his move toward her. The family relaxes — all except Tina's grandmother, who knows her too well.

A sudden radio announcement about a contest celebrating Vincente's 35th birthday, triggers Tina's obsession to an even greater degree. Tina vows to herself that she will win the contest no matter what it costs. The entry letter, written by five of Tina's waitress friends, wins the contest, In triumph Tina flies to Hollywood to claim her prize: an appearance in Vincente's new picture, "LOVE BEAST II" and later a chance to appear at the Rose Bowl with Vincente.

In Hollywood, Tina finds herself in a bizarre super-real adventure. Like "Dorothy" in the "WIZARD OF OZ", Tina discovers Vincente's big secret. Now, she must join the conspiracy. Her promise to keep Vincente's secret during the filming acts to free her in a strange way. She is helped in her recovery from her obsession when Gino surprises her in Pasadena with a special gift.

Later, on the balcony of Gino's Taylor Street apartment, they dance. Tina finally slows down enough to "take time to smell the roses."