

I CALL IT HOME

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I CALL IT HOME

Economy vs. Ecology, culture clashes and family feuds  
1hr family dramedy w Feature film prequel/Holiday Special  
25-45 yr olds, Ethnic families, ecology and music fans

Circumstances force brothers back to live with their NONNA,  
speak Italo-English and pursue conflicting careers:  
ED is a Concert Promoter/Ent Lawyer for a National Park outdoor stage  
FERRIS is a Forest Ranger/Ecology Guardian for a National agency

**ED and FERRIS**

35 yr old fraternal twins have grown apart as adults.  
Each successful in their way, happily living and working at opposite ends of  
the province for the last 10 yrs until circumstances bring them back to live  
with their Italian grandmother (Nonna) in the small mid-province town of  
Gwillumbury.

**ED**

is north from a glamorous penthouse in Toronto, he worked for his British  
ex-father-in-law as an Entertainment Lawyer (Concert Promoter) and is a  
culture-vulture.

Ed's back to live with his Nonna broke from his divorce.

**FERRIS**

is south from the pristine woodlands of Algonquin, he worked with his First-  
Nations, buddy Makeewa as an Ecology Stewart (Forest Ranger) and is a  
party-boy playboy.

Ferris is back to help Nonna since NONNO (her husband) had a stroke.

**NONNA ASCENZINA**

Italian immigrant maternal Grandmother to Ed and Ferris, salt-of-the-earth  
savvy, vivacious and wise, schemer for family unity and quality of life issues

**MAIN EPISODIC CONFLICT:** Ecology vs. the Economy

Ed's glamorous and only source of income without ex-wife's access is to  
produce week-end concerts that pack the park at an old outdoor  
stage in Wasaga Beach for immediate maximum profit\$.

Ferris' grass-roots job is to prevent the immediate abuses from huge  
outdoor concerts and save the park from future permanent  
destruction to wildlife.

Nonna makes them work it out to each other's' advantage

**MINOR EPISODIC CONFLICT:** personality and culture clashes

**In every episode -**

When Ed meets glamorous celebrities' residence and whenever Ferris bonds  
with an element of the wilderness, they say: "I CALL IT HOME".

Ethnics seem opposite, are really very similar (British, Jewish, 1<sup>st</sup> Nations)

Twin brothers of the very same blood are really very opposite.

Nonna schemes to bring the family together, speaking Italo-English

Boys visit Nonno's nursing home, he never speaks 1<sup>st</sup> season

### **ASCENZINA and NATUCIO MALTÉSÉ**

Nonna and Nonno – Italian immigrant Grandparents to Ed and Ferris;  
70ish, they own 4 the bedroom home where they've all returned.

#### **ASCENZINA** (Ascenzina Carolina Maltésé)

very healthy, still lives in their house, has an active life she visits Nat daily  
She makes herself understood in her broken English dealing  
with nursing care issues in her own inimitable way.

Ascenzina's driving life force is family unity.

She is salt-of-the-earth savvy, vivacious and wise.

Her storylines are sometimes mischievous, always as a homemaker, striving  
for family togetherness and quality of life issues.

She is outwardly sweet and in control, inwardly bitter.

#### **NAT** (Natucio Antonio Maltésé)

has suffered a debilitating stroke and needs to live in a nursing care facility  
nearby.

Nat never speaks or reacts to her in the first season and won't return home  
until the next season.

He is old world old.

Even with a stroke, he shows the figure of a once elegantly handsome man  
forced into the harsh life of construction business with hints of mafia ties.

Nat is outwardly bitter, inwardly sweet.

#### **NAT and ASCENZINA** –history: Ft Film or 2hr Holiday special

They grew up as neighbours in the small town of Sora, in 1940's Italy.

After enlisting in the army, as an aviation communications technician, he  
was home on leave when he noticed her at 13 yrs old becoming a beautiful,  
head-strong, free-spirited young woman  
and told her "I'm going to marry you one day"

Her parents whisked her away, immigrating to Canada. But he was  
determined to marry her and be the wife of an Officer (and a gentleman).

They married each other three times:

**Once** - by proxy, in Rome, all dressed up in his uniform, with a  
party waiting in his home town to celebrate. But the Archbishop  
wasn't available for a signature without a "donation" which Nat  
couldn't afford yet so it was deemed technically invalid, but he went  
back to Sora and celebrated anyway without telling anyone.

**Twice** - in secret, still in his dirty work clothes, as soon as he got paid; he  
rushed to Rome to catch the Archbishop, pay him and get a  
signature, in time so he could get back to the base before curfew.

**Third** – in Canada, in Church, so Ascenzina could wear a white dress,  
with her family and paesanos and have a proper reception.

But she didn't want to go back to an army life. She wanted a new life to  
work and buy a house and raise a family, so he stayed in Canada just for  
her and worked in construction instead of Aviation Communications.

In Feature Film - Each of cast plays the elders or the (now) grandparents.

### **FIRST EPISODE:**

An evening, late in the spring, ED arrives at NONNA'S to move in. Nonna Ascenzina has prepared a feast for dinner to celebrate. Ed and FERRIS have a lot of tension between them. We meet JENNY, their damaged cousin, also living there. The boys discuss Ed's plans and tension mounts. Ed has no one else in his life and lets Nonna spoil him. To get away from Ed after dinner Ferris spends most of his evenings at a pub with MAKEEWA (his best buddy) and others

### **Next day:**

Ferris studies the park and its various creatures that are drawn to him.  
Ferris excels at his work and enjoys the wilderness.  
Ed gets in touch with famous performers who turn away from him because the stage is a dump.  
Ed also excels at his work and enjoys the pretences  
These particular acts will appear in future episodes  
Stage is in various states of repair with story lines of ecology vs economy issues and reluctant performers  
Nonna brings the boys to visit NONNO at his nursing home.

### **Second day:**

Ed's first booking, on the desperate coercion of "you owe me big-time", is a very reluctant COLIN JAMES.  
Ferris finds an ecology issue to prohibit the concert  
and brings in a camera crew to go on air as a local news story  
Ed reacts badly because has already signed Colin James and cannot afford to pay out the contract without selling-out the house  
Nonna is annoyed as the tension mounts between the boys  
and plans a scheme forcing the boys to bond again

### **Following day -**

Nonna, working her "yarda" meets MOSHE the Jewish-Russian next-door neighbour's widower father who immigrated last fall.  
Ferris and Ed:  
Because of Nonna, they work together with a dangerous relocation plan to protect a family of endangered bears with cubs to allow the concert.  
They save it just in time to avoid ticket refunds for a cancelled concert  
-and Ed's financial ruin

### **Episode ends:**

Nonna Ascenzina lays down the house rules that the boys work together. The concert goes on and Colin James ends the show with a song called BREAKIN' UP THE HOUSE, from Little Big Band. Bit by bit, while they perform, the stage falls apart until the last strain of music and they walk away from heaped rubble while the crowd cheers.

INT. NONNA'S KITCHEN - DAY

ED sits at the table with a beer.

FERRIS walks to the fridge to also get a beer.

The silence is uncomfortable for Ed.

Ferris annoyingly engages him.

FERRIS

(Nods) So-o-o

(off Ed's shrug)

Y'know, you haven't been much help. Wadda ya here for, now? We don't even see you when we need you and then when it suits you ...

ED

What are you talking about, just I did the grass, cleaned the *tamigianas*, and took her car for an oil change and a wash. What the hell's wrong with you?

FERRIS

What's wrong with 'me-e-e'?

(gets eye level in Ed's face)

Wadda 'bout the hospital, the doctors, the family, the house-

ED

Get out of my face, beaver breath. Truth is you're just a big fat coward caveman.

FERRIS

Truth!?! The hell know about the truth? You're a lawyer. To you the truth is whatever suits your purpose.

ED

Yeah? My kind of truth is going to make a nice house and a nice life for my kids when I have them. What are 'you' going to do, dig a hole, climb a tree?

Ed gets up to leave when Nonna ASCENZINA walks in.

ASCENZINA

*Che c'e?*

Ferris shakes his head. Ed shrugs dismissively.

FERRIS

No, niente Nonna, stam'a disce  
fecerie. Che ci sta intra i  
fridgio? You got gnocchi?

(goes to fridge)

I know this guy, he owns uno  
catering business, he makes the  
best sugo che volio fa sta sera.

Ed just leaves

ASCENZINA

*A d'ov va tu?*

ED

*Niente, it's OK, chiama me quand e  
time for dinner.*

Ascenzina looks one to the other, something's not right.

END SCENE.

INT. LOCAL RURAL BAR - NIGHT

A very drunk Ferris turns in his bar stool, looks around for MAKEEWA and sees that he's still with a woman.

Makeewa looks over noticing Ferris and immediately makes him a hand gesture of "not now".

Ferris turns back around to face the bar in his seat and motions for another drink to PATRICK, a same-age bartender who is not so tall or handsome, but still dark and attractive in his own way.

FERRIS

He's either getting very, very  
lucky or very, very screwed.

PATRICK

Yeah, I guess ...How do you know Mak?

FERRIS

Buddies from McMaster

PATRICK

I've seen you round here before,  
what Nation are you?

(off Ferris' confusion)

Y'know, tribe, parents, elders...

FERRIS

What!? -I'm not from a 'Nation'  
(Patrick shrugs it off)

My name is Ferruccio Severino  
Maltésé -my grandparents are  
Ascenzina and Natucio, what the  
hell makes you think I'm from a  
First Nations Tribe!?!

PATRICK

I dunno, dark hair, dark eyes,  
dark tan ...and always drunk

(off Ferris' look)

K maybe only sometimes, but still  
one damn good-lookin dude...

FERRIS

(dwells on it drunk)  
my cousins are Guilliarmo and  
Ferdinando...

(Patrick shrugs)  
I have aunts and uncles named  
Fabio and Romina, Ciro and  
Mariella, Tullio, Elia, Nunziata

Patrick has turned and leaves.

FERRIS (cont)

(Ital-hands and perfect Italian)  
Saverio Mastroiani, Gaetano  
Vecchiarelli, Dario Tersigni  
(More like a sentence  
than a name)

Cip-o-lo-na Cap-pu-cit-ti!!  
Sarafina Celentano, Luciano  
Pozzuolinatore, Giuseppe Galiano  
(Patrick stares him down)  
But I'm best-buds with Makeewa  
BigCanoe from Pefferlaw and Jack  
Daniels from Kentucky ... salute!



EXT - GARDEN - DAY

In the backyard ASCENZINA tends her garden almost in tears (V.O. in Italian) the patient voice of NATUCIO instructing her how to tend to certain plants, in her mind

MOSHE pops his head up on the other side of the fence and sees that they are very close but each on their own side and offers a loud "hello".

When she doesn't notice him because of her daydream, he tries again to get her attention.

This time, she's startled but replies pleasantly. Embarrassed at her mind wondering she gets up and composes herself, overtly friendly to compensate. Moshe has a very heavy and laboured Russian accent. Ascenzina has a very heavy and laboured Italian accent.

MOSHE

I'm sorry, my English, is not good

ASCENZINA

O no, I don't listen good.

MOSHE

How it is your garden is doingk?

ASCENZINA

O she is grow good. My yarda is from my husband.

They look at each other's gardens.

ASCENZINA

You speak very well the English.

MOSHE

Oh, thank you. We live in Thornhill for few years before Russia change political and then we go back. My wife have very good English. When my wife is died I come here to live with my daughter.  
When I speak English, I hear the voice of my wife in my ears.

ASCENZINA

(pleasantly surprised)

And me! My husband teach me the  
yarda, and I think with his voice.

MOSHE

(Understands)

Ah, how is it he is doingk? Where  
is it you are goingk to see him  
everyday?

ASCENZINA

Southlake Nursing Home.

(They nod together)

Your name is Moshe, is Jewish no?

(off Moshe's nod)

I think you suffer the war, more  
bad, no?

MOSHE

Yes. What I suffer, most people  
don't want to survive.

They share a long thoughtful silence, and then smile.

They've bonded and later we see them help each other daily  
in the backyard sharing tools and harvest over the fence.

We get used hearing Moshe say things like;  
How is it you are doingk today?  
Where is it you are goingk today?  
De beerds doingk too much pooingk on my veggytables  
Hey goot cookingk, come haf lookingk at my veggytables!

Moshe has a cat he calls 'Leettle Meess Nosiness'

Eventually Moshe meets the boys:

EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

Ferris waves to Moshe also checking his mail.

MOSHE

Hello Ferris how is your doingk?

FERRIS

How is my what!?!

MOSHE

Oh... not what...

Moshe gestures each word while Ferris nods after each one.

MOSHE

How...? is it..? You are...  
doingk? Are you fine?

FERRIS

Oh doing!?! Yes, I'm fine thanks.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY (LATER)

MOSHE

Hello, Ed, are you fine?

ED

Yes, I'm very fine, thank you

MOSHE

Where is your goingk?

ED

Where's my what?

MOSHE

No what... (same gestures)  
Where ...is it ...you are ...  
goingk? To work?

ED

Oh! "Where"? Yes, work, I'm going  
to work, yes.

They wave each other off and Ed gets in his car.

EXT. VERANDA - DAY

Having a beer, Ferris and Ed sit on patio chairs with JENNY sitting on the railing.

(O.S.) Nonna has a living-room of company gabbing inside. They all speak a natural mix of Italo/English with Nonna.

FERRIS

(To Ed)

I don't know h-o-w you can take  
all that opera...  
I dunno if you noticed, but we're  
Italian; you wanna hear people at  
the top of their lungs in a  
foreign language, all ya gotta do  
is come home for a family dinner.  
(off Ed's dismissing)

No seriously, there's not enough  
sex in the world, make me go to  
the opera, even for a wife.

JENNY

Is it true you got your law degree  
a year faster than the class you  
started with?

(off Ed's nod)

How did you do that?

ED

(shrugs reluctantly pensive)  
You spend enough time alone either  
you get busy or you get drunk.

FERRIS

God knows you don't get laid.

They "shut-up" each other until Nonna pops her head out the door to the boys.

NONNA

Iam i, eenside!

(To Jenny)

*tu ancora sta' ieque?* (you still here?)

JENNY

(with Ital-gestures)

*Scine, mo uaie.* I'll be back, *dopo.*

NONNA

(To the boys again)

*Stong a fa cafe, you want tiramisu  
o panetone, ci sta anche cookies*

Ferris nods liking all of it

ED

Io voglio ciambella.

Nonna nods 'va be' and returns inside. Ferris takes issue

FERRIS

Ciambella!? You gotta have  
ciambella? She didn't offer you  
ciambella! Why you gotta ask her  
for ciambella!?

While the boys "shut-up" each other again, Jenny slides off  
the railing, gets her car keys ready to go.  
Ed cuts it off with Ferris:

ED

Where are you going?

JENNY

I volunteer at the library.

ED

No you don't. I saw you at the  
Timmy's on Main St yesterday

Jenny freezes, quietly

FERRIS

Leave her alone.

ED (to Jenny)

No, it's OK, I don't blame you.  
Hell, I did it too in high school  
-but even to us? It's not me is it?

FERRIS

You have to ask? Of course it is!

JENNY

No ... it's just ... all of "them"  
(eye gestures into the house)

ED

What, those lil old *vechiette* in there? They're harmless

JENNY

Not to me. I HATE listening to them; all their daughters are married, and working, and kids and houses and vacations an-

ED

-they're cows; they're all stupid-idiot cows, who cares?

FERRIS

(To Eddy) Oh shut-up!

(To Jenny)

So? -you can have all that when you want all that...

(Realizes he's not really sure)

-if you want all that. Do you even want all that?

JENNY

Yeah well, not according to my ex-Mom

ED

Yeah well, your ex-Mom ca-

FERRIS

-Never mind. You don't have to stick around if you don't want to. It's good to get out, see people -

(to Ed)

she's not like you.

ED

Yeah, but that's my point, she doesn't see people, she's always by herself; at home, out there...

JENNY

I see people. -Look, I just-

Boys wave her off 'don't-worry' and get up to go inside. They don't notice that she wanted to say so much more.

**FERRIS** is Ferruccio Severino Maltésé

**ED** is Edgirio Gaietano Maltésé

- took Mother's maiden name too ashamed of their dad

Grandparents are; (Nonna and Nonno)

**ASCENZINA** Carolina Maltésé and **NATUCIO** Antonio MALTÉSÉ

**JENNY** - boys' damaged cousin, is Genuefa Concietta Maltésé

**MOSHE TERESHKOVA** - Russian next-door neighbour

**MAKEEWA BIGCANOE** - First Nations best buddy to Ferris

**PATRICK** - bar buddy to Ferris and Makeewa

**SARA** - boys' Mother, on tour with Roller Derby Team

**EMMA** - Ed's ex-wife

**DICK and MAGGIE BICKENBACH** - Ed's parent-in-law

**LOUIE** - Jenny's Dad/ boys' uncle, on-the-road NHL journalist

**DINO and DON** - boys' childhood moron buddies

### **FIRST SEASON:**

- Brothers settle in, animosity grows pursuing careers
- Ferris establishes himself as a media darling for Ecology issues
  - ruthless to stop Ed's concerts
  - issues with drinking and women that Makeewa fixes
  - oblivious to Nonna's struggle with Nursing home
  - becomes more like Ed in career ambitions
- Ed books acts, plans stage construction, avoids media
  - diligent secrecy about shady deals
  - issues with ex-wife and in-laws
  - involved in Nonna's legal estate issues
  - becomes more like Ferris in family involvement
- Nonna mediates boys, deals with Nursing Home issues
  - enjoys Moshe's company
- Jenny enigmatic presence, affliction TBA
- Sara (boys' Mother) never seen, texts, email, phone mgs
- Dino and Don are comedic morons then dark as psychos

### **SET-UP to SECOND SEASON:**

- Boys don't notice they switched each-others' personality traits
- Ed decides to build a casino
- Ferris offered political office in Ottawa
- Natucio speaks, comes home, Moshe is affected,
- Ascenzina's medical issues with Nat, gets personal with Moshe
- Jenny's affliction revealed
- Makeewa has fall-out with Ferris
- Sara, their Mother – returns from Roller Derby tour
- Don fired as NHL journalist, maybe moves in, dark secret
- Dino and Don dangerous mental health issues

### **THIRD SEASON:**

Boys find out why 4bedroom home for Nonna's 2-child family

We find out about boys' father

## **FERRIS:**

Tall, dark and ruggedly handsome, has been there since January when his grandfather/Nonno first suffered a debilitating stroke.

He helps their grandmother/Nonna manage emotionally and socially.

He works with local environmental agencies and community media for ecological issue awareness.

His pay was never a match for Ed's but his life was much richer in many ways.

Ferris is the sweet one with lots of friends;

- caring, comforting, sociable, not materialistic, spiritual, sensitive, handsome party-boy
- outwardly fun, inwardly brooding when he's alone.

He camps, hikes, cooks, gardens, cycles, snowshoes, skates

Ferris tackles fur fashion, fishing and hunting issues,

He's very musical, entertains with backyard BBQs and beer

He takes in odd stray pets and nurses them back to health before releasing them back into the wild.

### **1<sup>st</sup> season:**

Ferris prefers to destroy the shoddy outdoor concert stage

and he works with Ed's architects, contractors to rebuild an environmentally sound outdoor stage for the concerts

Each episode Ferris deals with different issues;

- green energy sources, materials and design
- displaced wildlife in public spaces
- Ferris becomes environmental awareness media darling

### **In each episode FERRIS:**

- drives off wild life the night before concert by getting his pub buddies to pee around perimeter of park to keep the deer away
- has new girlfriend and parties with buddy, Makeewa
- deals with environment agencies and ecology issues
- speaks Italian to Nonna and Nonno
- argues with Ed

While at the park everyday, monitoring and helping the wild-life, he stakes an emotional ownership to it

Ferris believes in sex for pleasure, true love for marriage and GOD, but not religion or politics and much less politicians and priests

Ferris cleans up Ed's environmental messes from concerts

Makeewa cleans up Ferris' personal messes with girlfriends



**ED:**

Tall, blond and elegantly attractive, comes to live there in the spring only because his wife has cleaned him out in divorce and he needs a refuge to recover, but only financially.

He works with performers he got to know through his former entertainment law practice to organize concert events.

He's used to an affluent lifestyle but his life was very poor in many ways.

He is the difficult one with no friends;

- cold, detached, loner, materialistic, uptight, pragmatic, insensitive, pretentious snob
- outwardly brooding and abusive, but secretly sweet

He skis, golfs, sails, goes to the theatre, dines gourmet

Ed handles corporate issues, stock options and real estate

He has no ear for music but does ballroom dancing for show

Ed takes luxurious vacations on clients' invitations and expense after lying about his situation.

**1<sup>st</sup> season:**

Ed resents Ferris' interference with his concert plans and negotiates sketchy deals with architects and builders by finagling Nonna's estate and mortgaging her house.

Each episode deals with different issues;

- keep financial details a secret and dodging blackmail
- Ed contacts various performers into a concert deal
- maximizes profit potential in shady ways that make it to his advantage to keep a low profile

**In each episode ED:**

- meets with a reluctant performer and has to negotiate an unorthodox deal to sign them for the concert
- Ed ends up alone at the end of the day or weekend
- deals with residual divorce issues, his ex- wife and father-in-law and their clashes with his Nonna
- understands Nonna's Italian but speaks English to her
- argues with Ferris

While working on his concerts everyday, Ed monitors his finances and has emotional memories of his former life.

Ed believes in sex as a strategy and marrying for net worth, political and social status but not love or religion much less the Church and priests.

Ed just tolerates Ferris's interference with his concerts

Nonna tries to temper Ed's snootiness with earthy guidance

**MOSHE**

Russian next-door neighbour  
Lives with his daughter Elsa and her husband  
Moshe recently came from Russia to live with Elsa after his wife/her Mother died about a year ago.  
Moshe speaks functional English with very heavy accent and also some broken Italian, (mostly menu items).  
Moshe meets Ascenzina at their mutual backyard fence.  
They chat, share tools and harvest  
maybe even 2<sup>nd</sup> season romance to their friendship.

**JENNY**

boys' younger cousin, no one really knows why she's also living there.  
She displays unusual behaviour and she rarely speaks.  
She refers to her mother as "my ex-mom" and has an otherwise a pleasant relationship with the boys until the end of the season.  
the next season we understand Jenny's secret and she gets a job as a Supply Educational Assistant working with Special Needs kids and deals with disability issues for students, their caregivers and handicapped adults.  
She also helps her grandmother with the medical and nursing home issues  
Ascenzina wants to fight for.

**MAKEEWA BIGCANOE\_(Mak)**

Ferris' First Nations best-friend from university  
He also works to preserve the parks,  
parties with Ferris but doesn't drink or do drugs,  
also has a PhD of Ecological Sciences and  
he keeps Ferris sober and honest with his many women.  
Mak really likes Nonna's cooking and always ends up remarking how similar their families are  
He teaches her his family's cultural ways; herbal remedies, family traditions and holidays, recipes etc. –maybe has a thing for Jenny.  
Nonna is convinced Makeewa is really an Italian name.

**SARA** (Saragita Asuntina Maltésé)

The brothers' single Mother, she's away on a National Roller Derby Tour  
She is with the boys in emails, phone calls and texts; pleasant, supportive insights, concern and annoyance.

**PATRICK**

First Nations bartender and new buddy to Ferris and Mak  
Sometimes they hire him to work with them  
He goes on to betray Ferris in favour of Ed's money.

**EMMA**

Ed's ex-wife. Shows up sometimes to provide exposition about Ed  
Some hint of re-union  
Controversial reason they divorced secret from her family.

**DICK and MAGGIE BICKENBACH**

Ed's ex-in-laws  
Culture clash with Nonna,  
Political clashes with Ferris and Mak  
Family clashes with Ed's Mom Sara  
Ex-Father-in-law secretly helps Ed in shady deals

**DINO and DON**

are best-friends and the boys' moronic childhood buddies,  
We are introduced to them as a tag-team at a tournament of mixed-martial arts fighters with the Police academy which lands them hospitalized in varying degrees of consciousness after the tournament.  
We come to understand the fight is fixed and they are dismissed from the academy for failing a mental competency test, but only after the main-event is won to favour the crooked cops, of course.  
We hear the doctors tell their mothers that due to repeated head traumas during their life-long pursuit of their favourite sport they have each experienced an amount of reduced cerebral functions.  
They provide a dark comedic element and issues of Mental Health Legislature that puts public and Jenny at risk.  
In denial of their condition they are convinced that they did SO well in their training that they were too good for the Police force and need to be on their own as private detectives.  
They believe that their ODSP cheque (disability pension) is paid to them as a secret fee for investigating Jenny, with whom they are obsessed, besides her secret.

**LOUIE** (Luigi Osvaldo Maltésé)

is Jenny's father  
Ascenzina and Nat's son and Ferris and Eddy's uncle  
He's a sports reporter on the road with the NHL/MLB.  
We only see him visit at the house when he's in town and sometimes we see him at his own home when he pretends he's still on the road.  
He brings in a menacing shady element once or twice a season; prostitutes, steroids, gambling, blackmail ...sometimes for himself, sometimes the family, sometimes with the players on the team.

**Music:**

considered as much of a character as the cast in that we see each of the acts that are booked play one of their songs, that reflects the story, to a capacity crowd at the end of each episode.  
During the first season the stage is still in its derelict state and the musicians cope.  
Each week the Canadian act of the episode records their version of the opening song upon which the whole show is based.

**OPENING CREDITS:** (series of shots)

The title is based on an old camp song from Girl Guides.  
The musical act featured in each episode records their own version.

A very young  
Ferris and Ed receive their high school diploma together.

Then as adults;  
Ferris in a forest studies plants writing on a clipboard  
Ed in a courtroom reads to witness from a clipboard

Ferris slides food to injured animal to watch it eat  
Ed slides documents to reluctant client to watch them sign

Ferris walks through field surrounded by pack of dogs  
Ed walking down a corridor surrounded by other lawyers

Ferris at backyard party; girl on his lap with a beer laughing with buddies  
Ed at ballroom gala; in tuxedo with champagne holds table chair for his wife

Ferris alone looks up at lake sunset from cottage veranda  
Ed alone looks down at city sunset from penthouse terrace

Next day, in the present, they stand next to each other  
in front of their grandmother's house;  
Ed in his suit with briefcase stands next to a luxury car  
Ferris in his jeans with a backpack next to a motorcycle

Opening Song: **MY COUNTRY IS MY CATHEDRAL** - author unknown

Side by side  
And step by step  
Our Fathers came  
Marching along

My country is my cathedral  
the northern sky is dome  
they all call it Canada  
But I call it home

They were building  
A road to the future  
With a spade  
And a smile and a song

The Mountains the lakes and valleys  
Are friends that I have known  
they all call it Canada  
But I call it home

When out of the wildness  
And out of the sand  
Came the land  
That we live in today

From the Atlantic, To the Pacific  
From the Pole, To the U.S.A  
we're one united neighbourhood  
And united we will stay

Though the job  
To be done  
Has scarcely begun  
There is one thing  
I'm proud to say...

The mountains the lakes and valleys  
Are friends that I have known  
they all call it Canada  
but I call it home.

Nonna Ascenzina understands English and she can manage a few broken phrases to make herself understood, but usually she breaks out into lyrical dialogue in her native dialect; *In our family the children speak English to their parents and the parents speak Italian to the children.*

They are of an old-school dialect (same as Sophia Loren's) called Sciosciaro which lends itself very well to comedic elements because many words of that particular dialect are pronounced exactly like totally unrelated English words.

<b>English Meaning</b>	<b>Sciosciaro</b>	<b>Pronounced Phonetically</b>
I went out	sciette	shit
never again	fa chiu	Fuck you
Tight	strit	street
Killed him	Ia cis	ya cheese
mouth	mus	moose
head	scioca	Shock a
Let's go	iam i	Yum-mee
Yeah	scine	Sheen
But who's going [there]?	ma chi ua?	Makeewa (like Ferris' buddy)

**ADDITIONAL BACK STORIES:**

Ed and Ferris are of Italian heritage. (Italo-Canadese)  
Their grandparents are of the last original wave of immigrants.

Nat ran a successful business, here, for forty years and speaks English with a heavy accent but very well.

Ascenzina worked with other Italians and then was a stay-home Mom that never needed to learn English.

Nonna Ascenzina is based on a few real-life women relatives in my own family who lived, shopped, worked and socialized along St. Clair Ave only interacting with paesanos and other Italians.  
She is NEVER depicted as ignorant in any way, in fact she is quite intelligent and savvy about practical life and business matters ...-she only speaks broken English but cuts right through all the crap in any situation.

**ASCENZINA and MOSHE argue**

first:  
he yells in Russian she yells in English  
then:  
he yells in English she yells in Italian  
then:  
he yells in Russian she yells in Italian  
and they understand each other.

Dino and Don:

Joined the Police Academy when their own home went to foreclosure while working as licensed Real Estate agents and of course they blame the wives. Once or twice a season they cause a very sinister danger to Jenny. First goofy and harmless enough then dark and disturbingly sinister.

Complaining about his ex-wife:

DINO

She asked me to watch the baby  
while she did some laundry, and  
I called her as soon as he fell  
off the couch, right away, so  
she could come and get him off  
the floor, and she still got  
mad at me! It's her own fault I  
slugged her!

Complaining about being broke:

**Don**

Hires Ed when to sue his aunt who has been the sole care-giver to her ailing mother and Don's grandmother.

His aunt issues a restraining order against Don which prevents him from visiting because Don was taking his grandmother to her bank to withdraw money for him to "buy books".

He would then just drop Grandmother off at home and he was abusive to her any other time.

In court Don argues that he is denied a loving and affectionate relationship with his only living grandmother, but when the court asks him the date of his grandmother's birthday, Don doesn't know.

He blames that (and everything else) on his aunt.

The judge throws the case out of court, but,

One way or another, Don wants half of his grandmother's home.

But, it was sold with his aunt's life-long Power of Attorney to pay for the nursing home and medical care which only she administers to.

Meanwhile **Dino**

wants to hire Ed (\$1,100/hr) to make his case that he can't afford to pay child support when the FRO comes after him as a deadbeat Dad.

They have each experienced an amount of reduced cerebral functions.

They provide a dark comedic element and issues of Mental Health Legislature that puts public and Jenny at risk.

In denial of their condition they are convinced that they did SO well in their training that they were too good for the Police force and need to be on their own as private detectives.

They believe that their ODSP cheque (disability pension) is paid to them as a secret fee for investigating Jenny, with whom they are obsessed, besides her secret.