

THE STORY OF TIBERIO MITRI AND HIS TOWN



TRIESTE

A RING ON THE ADRIATIC

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by RENZO CARBONERA

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Tiberio Mitri was born in Trieste on 12 July 1926 and rapidly became a star of Italian boxing. It is the immediate post-war period and the background is Trieste, claimed by both Tito and Italy and recently occupied by the Americans and the British in an attempt to keep it from the Communists.

Tensions are running high: it is as if the city has become an immense boxing ring where a match of historic significance is taking place. Mitri became European middleweight champion at only 22 years of age, in 1948, the same year that he married Fulvia Franco, elected Miss Italia at only 19.

The two rapidly became one of the most talked about and glamorous couples in Europe. Fascinated by the American myth, which they glimpsed from their city thanks to the presence of the Allied soldiers and their lifestyle, they decided to leave for New York.

Tiberio's dream was to challenge world champion Jack La Motta, while Fulvia wanted to try her luck in Hollywood. But things didn't go as planned: Mitri succumbed to his opponent's blows. He never completely recovered from the defeat, and neither did Fulvia obtain the success she so desired.

They returned to Italy, where Tiberio separated from Fulvia and soon after, gave up boxing. At almost the same time, Trieste was returned to Italy and the Americans left forever.

RUNNING TIME _____ 52 MINUTES
FORMAT _____ HDcam

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This is the story of Tiberio Mitri and his city during the lively years of the Allied Occupation: a story that vacillates between hope and disappointment, but always with a breathless desire to live and to struggle.