

Big Night (1996)

Written by

Stanley Tucci and Joseph Tropiano

Directed by

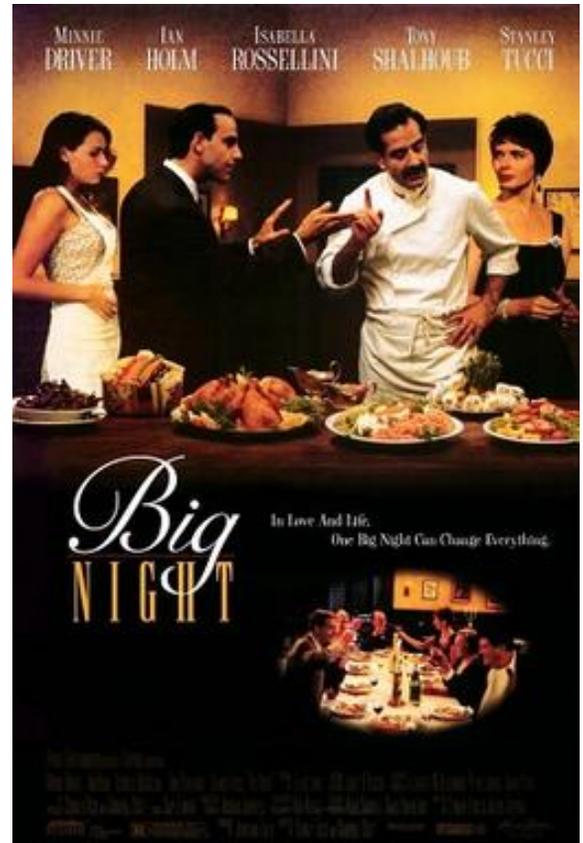
Campbell Scott and Stanley Tucci

Cast

Marc Anthony	<i>Cristiano</i>
Tony Shalhoub	<i>Primo</i>
Stanley Tucci	<i>Secondo</i>
Andre Belgrader	<i>Stash</i>
Minnie Driver	<i>Phyllis</i>
Peter McRobbie	<i>Loan Officer</i>
Isabella Rossellini	<i>Gabriella</i>
Liev Schreiber	<i>Leo</i>
Pasquale Cajano	<i>Alberto</i>
Christine Tucci	<i>Woman Singer</i>
Gene Canfield	<i>Charlie</i>
Ian Holm	<i>Pascal</i>
Allison Janney	<i>Ann</i>

Trivia

- Stanley Tucci co-wrote this movie, because he wanted a decent part for himself.
- The woman singing in the competing restaurant is played by Christine Tucci, who is co-Writer and co-Director Stanley Tucci's sister.
- MGM was going to distribute the film, but it was ultimately dropped because directors Stanley Tucci and Campbell Scott refused to change the ending.
- Minnie Driver landed the role of Phyllis by a complete fluke after she had just arrived in the U.S. for the first time to promote her new film. While she was consulting with casting agent Ellen Lewis over possible movie roles in the U.S., a ferocious argument erupted in an adjacent



office between two men who turned out to be, Campbell Scott and Stanley Tucci, who were casting for *Big Night* (1996). The original actress had dropped out and Minnie happened to be in the right place at the right time and landed the part right there and then. Though she'd only planned to be in the U.S. for a weekend, she ended up staying for over a year after her stroke of good luck.

- Shot over a period of thirty-five days.
- Stanley Tucci started writing the script out of frustration while filming *Jury Duty* (1994), a movie he hated.
- The end credits mention special thanks to Robert Altman and his wife. Steve Buscemi and his wife are thanked as well.
- The culinary consultant for 'Big Night' was Hudson Valley-based and Italian-born Chef Gianni Scappin. At the time he was chef/owner of Gigi Trattoria in Rhinebeck New York.
- Mary-Louise Parker was originally cast as Phyillis.
- While the restaurant is located in Yonkers, NY, the actual location of the restaurant is the Jersey shore.
- Primo, Tony Shalhoub's character in this movie, translates as "First". Secondo, Stanley Tucci's character, translates as "Second". This relates to their birth order in this movie. It is briefly referenced in the Cadillac scene, when Secondo meets Bob the car salesman (Campbell Scott).
- Campbell Scott is the son of George C. Scott, who appeared in *Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb* (1964). Stanley Tucci appeared in *The Life and Death of Peter Sellers* (2004) as *Strangelove's* director Stanley Kubrick.
- The film cast includes one Oscar winner: Allison Janney; and four Oscar nominees: Ian Holm, Minnie Driver, Isabella Rossellini and Stanley Tucci.