



terra
nera

Terranera S.A.S
terranera.sas@gmail.com

press office
 Valeria Aiello
valery.aiello@gmail.com
 +393317370289

SIC@SIC
 ShortItalianCinema@SettimanaInternazionale della Critica



31. Settimana
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with the contribution of

LUCE
 CINECITTÀ



Parallelo 41 produzioni coop.
parallelo41produzioni@gmail.com
www.parallelo41produzioni.com
 antonella di nocera tel. 3355826163

MeanMinds

original title

MaLaMèNTI

a production

Terranera

Parallelo 41 produzioni



Recognized film of cultural interest with economic contribution
of the Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Tourism and Tourism Cinema Directorate General

Italy, 2017, 13' - Fiction, experimental

produced by

Francesco Di Leva, Adriano Pantaleo and Antonella Di Nocera

written and directed

Francesco Di Leva

screenplay

Francesco Di Leva, Ciro Petrone

with

Francesco Di Leva, Ciro Petrone

with the friendly participation

Sergio Rubini, Nicola Di Pinto

editing

Gianluca Paoletti

music

Francesco Forni

sound

Stefano Grosso

scenography

Carmine Guarino

assistant director

Giuseppe Miale di Mauro

production director

Giuseppe Gaudino

photographer and graphic

Carmine Luino

costume design

Giovanna Napolitano

press office

Valeria Aiello

Logline

What is the thirst for power? A crucifix or instinct of human nature? What can two criminals get obsessed with the pervert of scorn and the fear of not being the strongest when they defeated all the other beings in the world? Always win at all conditions until you have more battles to fight.

Sinossi

What is the thirst for power? An aberration or a basic human instinct?

Ciccio "O' Pazz" and Ciruzzo "Pesce bello", are two powerful, blood-soaked underworld characters. The legacy left to them was thus: a violent, depraved narrative of murderous dominion over the weak. But still, enemies muscling their way into this realm of the wretched. These apparently harmless enemies are nevertheless viewed as potential usurpers by Ciccio and Ciruzzo, who, alienated by their imposed surroundings, develop a deep paranoia towards two animals ... These "enemies" are Severino the Donkey, leader of the famous donkeys of Campu Perdu, and Piero the Boar, top boar around the Olive field area. The day of reckoning is near. There has to be a showdown. They have to get rid of the two animals. There's no way around it. A letter is delivered. A Pinter-like ultimatum with a crystal-clear demand: it's you or us. Men or animals. Coexistence is out of the question. Power has room for only one big chief.

The final, inevitable apocalypse draws near. In this particular world - even if it's just a patch of land in the sea - there can be one master and one master alone. It's like a stand-off from an old western, against the backdrop of a scorched Sardinian landscape. Then two figures spring out of nowhere; it's unclear whether they really exist. They recite verses from the Oresteia, the use of which serves the purposes of the story and gives weight to the impending showdown. The death of two animals consecrates the absolute power of the humans. As the victors awake the next day, in that little world, in that little patch of land, peace and tranquillity reign supreme. Finally, they are the absolute masters.

But history teaches us that there have never been two masters, that power is a solitary endeavour. This is the thought that burrows into the brain of Ciccio 'o Pazzo: two is not a perfect number. "Me alone! It has to be me alone! The world is mine!"

Director's note

The germ of this short film grew from a contemplation of organised crime and society, a re-imagining of Harold Pinter's one-act play "The Dumb Waiter" as a multi-hued but disintegrating vision of humanity. Hence the use of the short film form for this story of two organised crime Camorra leaders, Ciccio "O' Pazz" and Ciruzzo "Pesce bello". They find themselves alone on the island of Asinara, having already exterminated all other inhabitants of the place. The island is in fact the habitat of donkeys and wild boar: Severino the Donkey, undisputed leader of the donkeys of Campu Perdu, and Piero the Boar, top boar in the Olive field area. Ciccio and Ciruzzo, totally obsessed by their mania for power, don't accept that men* can be leaders and therefore refuse to accept that the island might contain other "bosses" even if they are non-human forms of life. So they start a turf war to carve up the territory. As a child, I naively thought that if we isolated the mafiosi, left them free to mix with only their own kind, and if everyone else went away and left them to their own devices like they were in a vacuum, then the power of organised crime would end. This thirst for power is like a disease: men blinded by monomania, always looking for a rival, someone to challenge and crush, to show their dominance over others. A compulsion towards ruthless domination, as if driven by an invisible force, a feeling of power beyond reason that descends into degeneration and madness. This short film was also intended as a kind of sociological experiment: take a couple of hoodlums, the usual tyrannical, low-life gangsters from the projects, obsessed with money and power - and leave them adrift and completely alone on a desert island so they can throw their weight around in the middle of a parched, endless desert. This project has already attracted the interest of actor Ciro Petrone (previously in *Gomorra* by Matteo Garrone), who worked with me on the script, and also Sergio Rubini and Nicola di Pinto, who have declared themselves eager to be involved in the project. This short was shot on mobile phone and a "comic strip" filter was applied to the images to accentuate the theme of omnipotence and to stimulate curiosity and empathy in the viewer. Often the realism of video images, so sharp and crystalline, takes us aback; this doesn't happen so much with cartoon animation, which provokes an instinctive desire to know, even when based on reality.

Francesco Di Leva



Francesco Di Leva (1978) was born Naples. He graduated in dramatic art at a school sponsored by the ETI and the Ministry of Cultural Goods and Activities *Il filo di Arianna* between professors Michele Monetta, Alfonso Santagata, Enzo Toma, Massimiliano Farau, Gigi Gherzi, Enzo Moscato, and many more. Among his most important works for the big screen are: *Una vita tranquilla* by C. Cupellini; *Pater familias* by F. Patierno; *Vento di terra* by V. Marra; *Certi bambini* by Frazzi brothers; *Rosa Funzeca* by A. Grimaldi, *Segui le Ombre* by L. Gaudino. On television he starred in: *Il clan dei camorristi*, *Squadra antimafia*, *Tutti pazzi per amore*, *Distretto di polizia*. He works in theater with Luca De Filippo, Mario Martone and Francesco Rosi. He was one of the protagonists of *Gomorra*'s theatrical adaptation and one of the protagonists of *Educazione siberiana*. He is one of the founders of the Nest-Napoli Teatro Est. In 2010 he was nominated for David of Donatello as Best Actor, winning the L.A.R.A. Prize As Best Italian Interpreter at the Rome Film Festival and then the Biraghi Prize at the 68th Venice Film Festival as Best Revelation in 2010. In 2017 he was one of the protagonists of the

theatrical adaptation of the "Sindaco del rione sanità" directed by Mario Martone at Nest-Napoli Teatro Est. *MalaMènti* is his debut film as a director.

Terranera

TERRANERA is a young film production held by Francesco di Leva (1978) and Adriano Pantaleo (1983) who have a 20-year experience in cinema and theater, collaborating with Lina Wertmuller, Antonio Frazzi, Claudio Cuppelini, Riccardo Milani, Mario Martone, just to name a few. They are also founders "Nest Napoli est Teatro", an experience with a strong social and cultural impact that has been active for over 7 years in the outskirts of Naples, where TERRANERA was born and is located. It is precisely their strong radicalization on the territory, and the city of Naples that inspires the first productions, with stories and protagonists coming from these places, investigating and interrogating them from unusual points of view and perspectives.

Filmography

***Filmstudio Mon Amour* by Toni D'Angelo (2015, 68 m.)** winner Nastro d'Argento 2015

***MalaMènti* by Francesco Di Leva (2017, 13 m.)**

***Sensazioni d'amore* by Adriano Pantaleo**, co-produced with O'GROOVE by Pierpaolo Verga (in post-production)

Parallelo 41 produzioni

Parallelo 41 produzioni was founded in 2002 with the goal of developing young talent and independent contents, as well as promoting international output and relations from Naples in audiovisuals. A notional bridge spanning geographic distances to seek out opportunities for collaboration and creativity based on local expertise and professionalism, looking towards unexplored potential for production, workshops, educational and cultural events. Aesthetic principles are informed by digital technologies, minimal crews, street locations, characters and stories that originate in reality and narratives that question and recount it. Since 2013 the cooperative is a partner of FILMAP, training and production centre located in Naples, and it coordinates the productions of the *Atelier di cinema del reale* directed by Leonardo Di Costanzo.

Among the projects produced by Antonella Di Nocera for Parallelo 41:

***Pagani* by Elisa Flaminia Inno (2016, 52 m.)**

Selection: Filmmaker Festival 2016 | Cinema du Reel 2017

***Il Segreto* by Cyop&kaf (2013, 89 m.)**

Nomination Best Documentary 2014 | David di Donatello; Jury Special Mention TFF 2013 and Special Mention - Joris Ivens Prize | Best Debut Film Cinema du Reel 2014; Young Jury Special Mention | Cinema du Reel 2014; Best Film Festival Terra di Cinema | Tremblay in France 2014; Jury Special Mention | Bellaria Film Festival 2014; Special Mention | Doc Lisboa; Special Prize of the Jury | 1st Fronteira - International Festival of Documentary and Experimental Film; Best Film | Napoli Film Festival 2014.

***Le cose belle* by Agostino Ferrente e Giovanni Piperno (2013, 88 m.)**

Best Film | VI Edition Salinadocfest 2013; Best Italian Documentary 2013 | Doc/It Professional Award 2013 And Italian Audience Award and International Audience Award; Special Mention | XVIII Edition Medfilm Festival; Azzeddine Meddour Award | International Festival of Mediterranean Film in Tetouan 2013; Special Mention Italia Doc Festival | Bellaria Film Festival 2013; Special Mention | Casa Rossa Doc; Special Mention | Visioni Fuori Raccordo Film Festival 2013; Young Jury Prize | Annecy Cinéma Italien 2013; Best Documentary | Festival dei Popoli e delle Religioni 2013; Special Mention | Rencontres du Cinéma Italien à Toulouse 2013; School of Cinema's Award | Festival del Cinema Italiano di Como 2014; Cariddi Award for Best Italian Documentary of the Year and Golden Cariddino Award Students Jury Agiscuola – Anec | Taormina Film Fest 2014; Best Production Award to Antonella Di Nocera; Grand Prix | Faito Doc Fest 2014; Audience Award and Special Prize "Own Air" | Siciliambiente Documentary Film Festival 2014.

***La seconda natura* by Marcello Sannino (2012, 58 m.)**

Italian Doc Jury Special Mention | Torino Film Festival 2012; Ucca Venti Città Award | Torino Film Festival 2012; First Prize of the Jury | Territori-Contest 013 Nuovo Cinema Aquila Roma.

***Corde* by Marcello Sannino (2009, 62 m.)**

Special Prize of the Jury | 28° Bellaria Film Festival; "Casa Rossa Doc" Best Documentary | Bellaria Film Festival 2010; Special Prize of the Jury | Italiana Doc - 27° Torino Film Festival; Avanti Award (agency for the valorization of the new italian authors) | 27° Torino Film Festival; Special Mention Ucca | 27° Torino Film Festival; Second Price | Indox 2010 Festival; "Casa Rossa Doc" - Vesuvio Award for Best Director – Napoli Film Festival 2010; Special Prize of the Jury | Euganea Film Festival 2010; "Tasca d'Almerita" Award for the Best Documenary Film | Salinadocfest 2010; "Selection Award – Documentary in Theatres" Cinema.Doc | Salinadocfest 2010; Special Mention | Obbiettivi sul lavoro 2010 ; Special Prize of the Jury for the Best Film | Festival Terra di Cinema 2011-Tremblay-En-France.