



PARALLELO 41

in collaboration with
LUNIA FILM

presents

L'ARMÉE ROUGE

a film by Luca Ciriello



With the support of MiBACT and SIAE, within the program "Per Chi Crea"



Film developed in FILMaP (Atelier di cinema del reale) - training and production center Ponticelli (Naples)



L'ARMÉE ROUGE

(The Red Army)

Italy, 2020, 60 minutes

Original format color, 4K (3840 × 2160)

Original language Nouchi, French, Djoula, Italian

Subject, photography, direction Luca Ciriello
with Idrissa Koné aka Birco Clinton
and with Adjoss de Milan, Commandant Fankelé, Demsy Tal B, DJ Jean Paul, DJ Jeans Yves, Erik Le Diamantaire, Ib de Milan, Jagger Na Boué, Kady Prada, Le Prince Kara, Maï la Rose, Othman La Prière, Yanes la Joie, Yaya Le roi XII XII
Editing Simona Infante e Luca Ciriello
Sound Filippo Maria Puglia
Color correction Simona Infante
Sound editing and mix Rosalia Cecere
Produced by Antonella Di Nocera e Luca Ciriello
Production Parallelo 41 produzioni, Lunia Film
Production office Grazia De Micco, Claudia Canfora, Isabella Mari
Film developed in FilmaP – Atelier di Cinema del Reale di Ponticelli (Napoli)
With the support of MiBACT e di SIAE, within the program “Per Chi Crea”

TRAILER

<https://vimeo.com/480309048>

*“Il y aura pas de couscous où on manque de la sauce”
 (“It will not be a couscous where the sauce is missing”)*

Birco Clinton



LOGLINE

Idrissa Koné, aka Birco Clinton, lives in an asbestos container in the eastern suburbs of Naples and has a dream: to become the king of the *coupé décalé* music in Europe. To be able to succeed he has created *L'Armée Rouge*, a band of boys from the Ivory Coast that supports him and helps him to organize his big Christmas party.

SYNOPSIS

L'Armée Rouge is the story of a boy who wants to become the king of the *Coupé Décalé* in Europe and to do so he has created a group of “fighters of the show”. Arrived from the Ivory Coast in 2014, his name is Idriss Koné, but everyone knows him as Birco Clinton.

The film is set in two districts of Naples (Ponticelli and Vasto). Birco Clinton lives in one of Ponticelli's “Bipiani”, asbestos prefabs built in the 1980, while most of his time is spent in Vasto, the multicultural neighborhood near the Central Station, where he tries to organize his parties.

Birco arrived in Italy in 2014. After a short period in a reception center for migrants, he went to live in Ponticelli, where he began to cultivate his dream, organize parties and become famous. To do this, Birco has thought of a structure, *L'armée rouge*, a group of music-loving boys and girls who are responsible for supporting common expenses and supporting the Ivorian community of Ponticelli. Birco does many things to make ends meet, but above all he loves organizing parties and music videos. At parties he usually doesn't dance but watches others from afar surrounded by girls. His concern is to make ends meet and earn something. This is why everyone calls him *Le Barouba* of Naples, or the king of Naples.

The *dédicace* is the annual party that every promoter of the *coupé décalé* organizes in his own area and Birco this time he wants to invite famous people inside the Ivorian community, who can see how famous he is, so everything must go the right way.

The lexicon used in the preparation of the great party, the sweatshirts all the same as they were uniforms, the continuous telephone calls that Birco receives, the military roles within the band, carry us into the film, giving the organization of the *dédicace* a mysterious halo. Several times Birco calls his "soldiers" for the "final challenge", tells us that "it will not be a joke" and that "all the elements of the band" must be ready for the "battle".

The parties in Vasto are moments of escape from an everyday life often made of expectation and hope. In Vasto there are several refugee centers for asylum seekers and in this neighborhood many people await their destiny, some work for the day, others organize small business activities, there are those who fall into micro-crime and those who, like Birco, try to organize events, parties or small businesses. In Vasto there are the best dancers of *coupé décalé*.

Birco, with his self-centered and sometimes clumsy way of doing things, manages to convince some of his friends to support him and the *coupé décalé*, a new millennial musical style born precisely in opposition to the regime's music spread in Ivory Coast. The group that he decides to create follows in the footsteps of the "Jet Set" (a group founded in 2003 in Paris by Douk Saga, the creator of the *coupé décalé*) and is called *L'Armée Rouge* because, as Birco states, "you have to be numerous and fast, like the Soviet Red Army".

They are a band of boys all under 30 who have no violent intent. "We are an army of the show, we don't know how to make war, we just want to have fun", reveals Birco. It is a social and organizational structure that is in part foreign to the contemporary Western world and it is for this reason that it is interesting to learn more about its operation, timing and methods of action. For example, many people donate money to those who organized the party during the "boucan" ceremony, as a sign of recognition and respect. This action is called "travailler", or "work", just like a work that is done for someone who has lent us a service. Moreover, within its mutualistic structure, the money received is from time to time put back into circulation at the following parties. "*C'est la famille qui compte, c'est le travail qui paye*", or "what matters is the family, what gives you a living is the work", says Birco Clinton.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

I've met the boys of the Ivorian community of Naples during a research carried out within the Atelier di Cinema del Reale di Ponticelli (FILMaP), later I spent one year together with Birco and his friends and for two months I went to live in the multicultural district of Vasto, where Birco spends his days and organizes the parties.

The story of Birco is mainly the story of a man who wants to turn his dream into reality, with determination and inventiveness, a 27-year-old boy whose models are the proponents of the Ivorian *coupé décalé* born in Paris in the early 2000s. The film's focus is on the present and the future, I have decided to tell only little about Birco's past, its story begins with the creation of the Armée Rouge, the group of "show guerrillas" who organize parties to the rhythm of *coupé décalé*.

My narrative point of view starts from a perspective of observation from within the Ivorian community, a linguistic and anthropological approach in a film where four languages are spoken (Nouchi, Djoula, French and Italian), which tries to reveal mechanisms and structures of a group of people that few know or frequent, a film set in an unseen Naples, made up of basements transformed into discos and containers transformed into houses.

I believe that the camera's eye can be close to the characters' gaze after so many months of observation and sharing, but also thanks to the linguistic approach. Speaking French and understanding nouchi (Ivorian argot), I had long chats with Birco and his friends, staying on the street with them, observing people, joking and sharing moments of our days. Through a gradual process of trust and acquaintance, I began to make the first research and studio shots. This period lasted about a year. When I decided to film to make "L'armée rouge" I felt that the trust between us was strong and consequently I chose not to give indications of actions to the characters, rather following the flow of events and inserting my point of seen between the plots of their lives.



THE DIRECTOR AND CO-PRODUCER

Luca Ciriello (1988). In 2013 he finished his studies in Modern Literature. He speaks Italian, Spanish, English, French, Portuguese and Swahili.

From June 2015 to June 2016 he worked as an educator and reporter for an NGO in a village in Tanzania. In 2016 he completes the Cinema Specialization Course of "Pigrecoemme" Cinema School in Naples. In 2017 he worked as camera operator, editor and colorist assistant for RAI television newscasts and founded the video-production company "Lunia Film Srls". In 2018 he studied documentary cinema at "Filmap – Atelier di Cinema del Reale" in

Ponticelli (Naples), with teachers: Bruno Oliviero, Leonardo Di Costanzo, Alessandro Rossetto. At the end of the course he made his first short documentary "Tales of Palavesuvio" (Special mention at the Lucania Film Festival and at the Festival dell'Isola di Roma "Mamma Roma"). Since 2019 he has been working with Francesco Lettieri's team for Liberato's music videos. In 2020 he created the backstage and all the extra contents for the film "Ultras", by F. Lettieri (produced by Indigo Film and Netflix).

Thanks to the Campania Region Cinema Fund, he produces his first film, the historical short-movie "Lost heroes", directed by Lorenzo Giroffi (that makes its premiere at the Rome Independent Film Festival). In September 2020, he participates at Giornate degli Autori (as part of the 77th Venice Film Festival) with the short documentary "Forty Horses" (Laguna Sud Award).

FILMOGRAPHY

L'armée rouge [The red Army] (documentary, 60', 2020), produced by da Parallelo 41 and Lunia Film – 61st Festival dei Popoli (Italian competition)

Quaranta cavalli [Forty horsepower] (documentary, 10', 2020), produced by Lunia Film, Za-Lab, Giornate degli Autori. Presented at the 77th Mostra del Cinema di Venezia (Giornate degli Autori).

Ponticelli Terra Buona [Ponticelli Good Land] (collective documentary, 50', 2020), produced by Apulia Film Commission, Fondazione con il Sud and Parallelo 41 - Festival Visioni dal Mondo 2020 (Milan).

Una scuola a colori [A color school] (fiction, 7', 2019) | winner of Napoli Film Festival (DireGiovani Prize – shortmovies with schools). Selected at Giffoni Film Festival (Road to Giffoni) and at Identity Film Festival (Alatri, Frosinone)

We Care (documentary, 31', 2019), produced by Less Onlus and Lunia Film.

Racconti dal Palavesuvio [Tales of Palavesuvio] (documentary, 14', 2018) - Festival dei Popoli (Firenze), Laceno d'Oro (Avellino). Winner special mention at Lucania Film Festival (Pisticci) and at Festival dell'Isola di Roma "Mamma Roma".

In-Sanity (fiction, 3', 2018), second classified at Garnenet Prize, promoted by Anci Association and Naples Municipality.

THE PRODUCTION

LUNIA FILM



Lunia Film is a video-production company, founded in 2017 by Luca Ciriello, recognized among the best companies of the MiBACT "Cultura Crea" project. It is based in Naples where it deals with the conception, production and post-production of: short films, feature films, documentaries, video clips and promotional spots. In addition to the author Luca Ciriello another member of the company is Daniele De Stefano (1984), producer, d.o.p. and camera operator.

Graduates in Literature and Sociology respectively, Luca and Daniele work in close contact with the territory and people, focusing on creativity, professionalism and sharing. The team collaborates daily with professionals in the sector to expand its network and skills, in Italy and abroad.

In addition to Luca Ciriello's films, the company has produced:

Bardo [Bard] by Daniele De Stefano (fiction, 9', 2020) - Lucania Film Festival – South and Magic Project

Eroi Perduti [Lost heroes] by Lorenzo Giroffi (fiction, 14', 2020) – Rome Independent Film Festival

Il nostro paese [Our country] by Matteo Parisini (documentary series), broadcast on TV200, produced by LADOC (associated production for episodes "Anna" e "Mariya").

PARALLELO 41 PRODUZIONI

Parallelo 41 was founded by Antonella Di Nocera in 2002 to promote young talents and develop independent contents in film and audiovisuals, seeking opportunities for local creative professionals, towards unexplored actions along that ideal bridge of the 41st Parallel which is the same in Napoli and New York. 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.

Parallelo 41 is also promoter and founder of the film reviews *Venezia a Napoli. Il cinema esteso* since 2011 and is a partner of FILMaP Atelier of cinema of the real in Ponticelli. It also curates various film reviews for schools and collaborates with institutional partners such as the University of Naples, the French Institute and Goethe Institute.

Main filmography 2014-2020 (* the complete filmography is available on the website www.parallelo41produzioni.com)

***L'Armee Rouge* by Luca Ciriello, 60'** - doc with Lunia Film supported by Siae

61. Festival dei popoli 2020

***Agalma* by Doriana Monaco, 70'** - doc coproduced with Ladoc, The National Archaeological Museum of Naples and Regione Campania Film Fund

17. Giornate degli Autori - Venice Day at 77. Venice Film Festival | Artecinema Napoli 2020

***Rosa pietra stella* by Marcello Sannino, 90'** - fiction with Bronx Film, PFA Films and Rai Cinema

Official Selection - Sect. Voices IFFR 2020 | Giffoni Film Festival 2020 Generator +18 | Mostra Internazionale del Nuovo Cinema di Pesaro 2020 | Annecy Cinéma Italien 2020 Official Selection | Best film and Best actress Ivana Lotito at Matera Film Festival 2020 | 2020 Carbonia Film Festival | 2020 Braunschweig International Film Festival | 2020 Wiesbadener Kinofestival / Exground Filmfest | 2020 Via Emilia Doc Fest

***Ponticelli terra buona* by the students of FILMaP - Atelier del cinema del reale, 50'** - doc with Apulia Film Commission Fondazione con il Sud and Arci Movie

Official Selection 6. International Documentary Festival Visioni dal Mondo

***Giù dal vivo* by Nazareno Manuel Nicoletti, 75'** -doc with Arci Movie

Visions du Réel 2018: "Rough Cut Lab" – Best Rough Cut Lab Project | Karlovy Vary International Film Festival 2019: Documentary Films – Competition

***Come si scrive ti amo in coreano* by Giovanni Piperno, 20'** - short film with the students of Liceo Statale Don Milani Festival Alice nella città 2020

***Io so vivo* by Flavio Ricci, 9'** - short film

21° Napoli Film Festival – Schermo Napoli Scuola Best short film Over 13 and Vesuvio Award

2017 - 2018

***Porta Capuana* by Marcello Sannino, 65'** - doc

36° Torino Film Festival- ITALIANA. DOC

***Aperti al pubblico* by Silvia Bellotti, 60'** - doc (with Arci Movie and Rai Cinema)

Festival dei Popoli Firenze 2017 – Audience Award Best Italian Documentary | Visioni Italiane Bologna 2018 - Best Documentary | International Leipzig Festival for Documentary and Animated Film DOK - Healthy Workplaces Film Award - Honorable Mention | Jean Rouch International Film Festival 2018 - Grand Prix NANOOK| Ischia Film Festival 2018 – Special Mention | Lucania Film Festival 2018 Official Selection Doc Section - Best Topic and Special Mention of Popular Jury | Fipa International Competition Biarritz 2018 | Sguardi Altrove Milano 2018 | Linz Crossing Europe 2018| Krakow Film Festival 2018 | Napoli Film Festival 2018 | Fauto Doc Festival 2018 | N.I.C.E. San Francisco 2018 | Italian Cultural Institute Paris 2019 | CNRS Institut des sciences humaines et sociales Paris 2019 | Filmer le Travail Poitiers Cedex 2019 | N.I.C.E. Festival Russia 2019

***Volturno* by Ylenia Azzuretti, 42'** - doc

Festival Visioni dal Mondo Milano 2017 | Ischia Film Festival 2018 | Procida Film Festival 2018

***Sub tuum praesidium* by Carlo Manzo and Francesco Romano, 52'** - doc

Festival dei Popoli 2017 | Trame 2018 (Magic Vision Napoli)

***Appunti sulla mia famiglia (Notes about my family)* by Caterina Biasiucci, 48'** - doc

Best Doc Napoli Film Festival – Schermo Napoli Doc 2018 Festival Filmmaker – Concorso Prospettive 2017 |

Non può essere sempre estate (It can't always be summer) by Margherita Panizon and Sabrina Iannucci, 62' - doc
Extra Doc Festival 2018 Roma – Prize of the young critics of the Libraries of Rome | Anancy Cinéma Italien 2018 |
Shorts International Film Festival 2018, Trieste 2018| Viva il Cinema!, Tours (France) 2019 | Festival du nouveau
cinéma italien, Tremblay-en-France, 2019

MalaMènti by Francesco Di Leva, 13' - fiction

Best film of Mediterraneo XV International Journalism & Art Award 2017 Unione Nazionale Cronisti Italiani Settimana
della Critica Venezia| Best short film Gran Galà of fiction in Campania 2017|Nastro d'argento corti del futuro 2018 for
innovation

2016

Pagani by Elisa Flaminia Inno, 52' - doc

Filmmaker Festival 2016 | Cinéma du Reel Paris 2017 | Terre di Cinema 2017 – Tremblay-en-France | Lovers Film
Festival 2017 – Torino | Films Femmes Mediterranee 2017 – Marsiglia | IDFA – Docs for sale 2017 | Amsterdam
MasterDoc film festival 2018 | Los Angeles - Best Religious Documentary | MAV 2018 - Materiali di Antropologia
Visiva | Italian Film Festival Cardiff 2018 | Altri Sguardi, Festival Cinema del Reale, Lecce 2018

2013

Le cose belle by Agostino Ferrente and Giovanni Piperno, 88' - doc

Nastri D'Argento 2014 - Special Mention Best Docufilm Doc/it Professional Award 2013- Best Italian Documentary and
Italian Audience Award and International Audience Award| Best film VI edition SalinaDocFest 2013 | Special Mention -
XVIII edition MedFilm Festival | Azzeddine Meddour Award -International Festival of Mediterranean Film in Tetouan
2013| Young Jury Prize- Anancy Cinéma Italien 2013 | Special Mention - Rencontres du Cinéma Italien à Toulouse
2013 | Special Mention Italia Doc Festival and Special Mention Casa Rossa Doc -Bellaria Film Festival 2013 | Best
Documentary- Festival dei Popoli e delle Religioni 2013 | Cariddi Award for Best Italian Documentary of the Year and
Golden Cariddino Award Students Jury Agiscuola – Anec- Taormina Film Fest 2014 | Special Mention - Visioni Fuori
Raccordo Film Festival 2013 | School of Cinema's Award| Festival del Cinema Italiano di Como 2014| Best Production
Award to Antonella Di Nocera- Laceno D'Oro 2014 | Grand Prix- Fauto Doc Fest 2014 | Siciliambiente Documentary
Film Festival 2014 | Audience Award and Special Prize "Own Air"

Il Segreto by cyop&kaf, 89' - doc

Nomination Best Documentary 2014 - David di Donatello| Joris Ivens Prize- Best Debut Film - Young Jury Special
Mention, Cinéma du reel Paris 2014 | | Best Film Pravo Ljudski Film Festival 2014, Sarajevo | Special Mention - Doc
Lisboa, 2014 | Best Film Festival Terra di Cinema - Tremblay-en-France 2014| Special Mention - Euganea film festival |
Best Film Napoli Film Festival 2014 | Best Documentary- Sciacca Film Festival 2014 | Special Mention- Fauto Doc fest
2014 | Special Prize of the Jury - 1st Fronteira - International Festival of Documentary and Experimental Film, Brasil |
Special Mention- Casa Rossa Award- Bellaria Film Festival 2014 | TFF 2013 -Jury Special Mention and Special Mention
UCCA | Nomination best documentary Doct/it Professional award

2012

La seconda natura by Marcello Sannino, 58' - doc

30° Torino Film Festival- Italian Doc Jury Special Mention, Ucca Venti Città Award | First Prize of the Jury - Territori-
Contest 013 Nuovo Cinema Aquila Roma

2009

Corde by Marcello Sannino, 57' - doc

27° Torino Film Festival- Special Prize Of The Jury, Avanti Award (Agency for the Valorization of the New Italian
Authors), Special Mention Ucca | 28° Bellaria Film Festival- Special Prize of the Jury "Casa Rossa Doc" Best
Documentary | Indox 2010 Festival - Italiana Doc Second Prize | Salinadocfest 2010 - "Tasca D'almerita" Award For
The Best Documentary Film | Obiettivi sul lavoro 2010- "Selection Award Documentary In Theatres" Special Mention
| Festival Terra di Cinema 2011-Tremblay-En-France - Special Prize of the Jury for the Best Film | Napoli Film Festival
2010- Vesuvio Award for Best Director | Euganea Film Festival 2010- Special Prize Of The Jury.

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