



THESSALONIKI
INTERNATIONAL
DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL
OFFICIAL SELECTION
2024
TiDF26

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO CIRETTA

A FILM BY CAROLINE VON DER TANN

A PARALLELO 41 PRODUCTION WITH LUCKY BIRD PICTURES WITH THE CONTRIBUTION OF REGIONE CAMPANIA AND FILM COMMISSION REGIONE CAMPANIA
DIRECTED BY CAROLINE VON DER TANN PRODUCED BY ANTONELLA DI NOCERA ASSOCIATE PRODUCER OLIVER SCHÜNDLER
WITH CIRO GRANADA "CIRETTA" AND WITH GIUSEPPINA ANDELORA "PERZECHELLA" ANGELO PICONE "CAPITANO" ANGELO GIORDANO
EDITING AND COLOR CORRECTION SIMONA INFANTE SOUND EDITING AND MIX ROSALIA CECERE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR CLAUDIA CANFORA
PARALLELO 41 PRODUZIONI TEAM GRAZIA DE MICCO ISABELLA MARI IRENE POMPEO GRAPHIC DESIGN LAURA FALLETI POSTER PHOTO COURTESY OF YANG GRÖTTRUP

WITH THE CONTRIBUTION OF



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO CIRETTA

2024 / 73' / Italy, Germany

LOGLINE

Ciretta, a streetwise kid from Naples, organizes a celebration for the Madonna while facing eviction from his temporary home in a theater space – earmarked for conversion to a B&B.

SYNOPSIS

Ciretta is a young guy caught between his huge talent and his own personal abyss. Cocooned in his own world of religion, fantasy and invention, he adores Our Lady of Sorrows - despite being a petty crook and a former prostitute. His makeshift home is a temporarily closed down theater in the historic center of Naples. Here he and Angelo Giordano, an elderly homeless man, benefit from the hospitality of Perzechella and Capitano, a couple who helped the poor and the homeless during Covid lockdown by lowering baskets of food from their balcony. This encounter with an hitherto unknown world leaves a deep impression on Ciretta.

Blessed with an extraordinary voice and performing talent, Ciretta decides to organize a big procession for his beloved Madonna and starts raising money by singing and performing on the streets and selling lighters. Now his thoughts are focused on commissioning his own full-size statues of the Madonna and the Dead Christ. But devastating news arrives. The theater place has been sold and its new owner wants to turn it into yet another B&B in the historic center of Naples. Perzechella and Capitano start fighting against their imminent eviction. After Ciretta's extraordinary procession has taken place, Perzechella sets up a little chocolate production in their theater space in order to earn some money. With eviction pending, Ciretta's main concern is the whereabouts of his Madonna. Will they succeed in their attempt to fight eviction? Will the old ways of Naples survive in a new world buffeted by tourism and real estate speculation?

TRAILER

https://youtu.be/Or_CII3WYU4



FULL CREDITS

directed by **Caroline von der Tann**

produced by **Antonella Di Nocera**

with *Ciro Granada "Ciretta"*

and *Giuseppina Andelora "Perzechella", Angelo Picone "Capitano", Angelo Giordano*

editing and color correction **Simona Infante**

sound editing and mix **Rosalia Cecere**

development coordinator **Claudia Canfora**

Parallelo 41 Produzioni team **Grazia De Micco, Isabella Mari, Irene Pompeo**

associate producer **Oliver Schündler**

graphic design **Laura Falletti**

poster photo courtesy of **Yang Gröttrup**

a *Parallelo 41* production with **Lucky Bird Pictures**

with the contribution of **Regione Campania**

and **Fondazione Film Commission Regione Campania**

PITCH AWARDS

Thessaloniki Documentary Film Festival - Agora Docs In progress 2023 / Neaniko Plano Award

Biografilm Festival Bologna 2023 - Bio to B Industry Days / Top Doc Special Mention

MARKET SELECTIONS

Dok.fest München – DOK. Forum Marketplace 2021

Mia Market Rome 2023 – Italians Doc it Better

De Rome à Paris 2024 – - Les Rencontres Professionnelles

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The film is a classic character-driven documentary. Everything revolves around the strong, charismatic main character. Ciretta could sell you anything, even the impossible: the good thief! A super saint! In this film we will find the Christian message amongst the poor, the homeless, the prostitutes.

Not with the wagging finger of an out-of-touch old priest, but from the perspective of Ciretta, a young sex god and dazzling entertainment popstar who evokes curiosity and amazement from all age-sets. The contradictory and therefore intriguing character of Ciretta – talented, witty and intelligent – is the USP of this film.

Being 20 years old, Ciretta is an integral part of the social media generation. During shooting Ciretta constantly ignores the iron rule of not taking notice of the camera and happily addresses the director and camera operator directly through the lens. He interacts smoothly with all kind of audiovisual media, thereby creating a casual everyday style. Ciretta is a natural performing talent in permanent flirt with the camera. While that could be a problem in a classic style documentary, in this case it consciously creates a new dynamic look that fits in with the social media era. Thus the visual concept mirrors the protagonists: vivid, close to the action and full of intense emotionality.

The ancient Mediterranean city of Naples is currently arousing worldwide interest, having been the setting for a variety of extremely successful blockbusters in film and literature. Part heaven, part hell, attractive and abhorrent at the same time, it is the ideal stage for the everyday human drama. Carefully constructed cinematographic moments that play with light and shadow, the divine and the profane, unfold in the back streets and ground floor dwellings of the old center of Naples. Presented as a mystic fairy tale set between the real and the imagined, the story follows a conscious decision to avoid the cliché image of Naples as the Gomorrah capital. Though that reality obviously exists, it has become too predominant in the narrative of Naples, neglecting its immense poetic and cultural quality.

Cinematography in this film tries to underline the poetic dimension of Naples. The main set, a temporarily closed down theater space, prides itself in possessing naturally strong accents of light and shadow, giving the place a particular visual intensity that could have been nicked from the famous painter Caravaggio, another Neapolitan character permanently troubled by genius, religion and criminality.

But this aspect of Naples, full of creativity, altruism and improvisation, is at risk. The recent tourism explosion has led to the exponential growth of holiday homes and B&Bs. A chronic housing crisis and the slow expulsion of the native residents from the historic center are the consequences. The film witnesses the mentality and lifestyle of the old Naples that is about to vanish.



CAROLINE VON DER TANN

Master in Soviet Studies at the London School of Economics, is an author and director who lives in Munich and Naples. She concentrates on biographical storytelling, history, religion and political reportage.

She started as a free-lance journalist and documentary film director working for several production companies and public and private TV-stations, including Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk (MDR), Sender Freies Berlin (SFB), Ostdeutscher Rundfunk Brandenburg (ORB), Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen (ZDF), RTL, MPR-Film Production and Kobalt Production GmbH. The documentary film *The big silence – brothels in concentration camps* (ARD) in 1995 was nominated for the Prix Europa.

From 2000-2006 she was a permanently employed editor at the private German TV channel Sat.1, where she was involved in the development and supervision of various TV-series and comedy programs. The sitcom production *Bewegte Männer* was nominated two times for the German Film Award "Deutscher Fernsehpreis", in 2003 and 2004.

From 2006-2011 she was a permanently employed editor at the public Austrian TV channel ORF. There she was responsible for the various TV-series and TV movies. The two-part TV movie *Das jüngste Gericht* was nominated in 2008 in three categories for the Deutscher Fernsehpreis, including the category best series.

In 2012 she took a sabbatical year and experimented with various creative forms such as writing, filming and painting. Thereafter she decided to return to her original passion: directing documentary films. With the documentary *Where you the last man to see Hitler?* an account of her stepfather's experiences in the Third Reich, she won the Jury Special Mention Award at the European Independent Film Festival in Paris 2013. *Tarantelle luterane* tells the story of the Lutherans in Naples for the exhibition "Maggio dei Monumenti" in Naples 2015. The narration *The Little Paradise* won the Literature price of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Italy in 2016. Her most recent films include: *Province for beginners*, arte.tv, 2021; *Strife on Italian Beaches*, arte.tv, 2022, also shown the same year at the Pianeta Mare Film Festival in Naples, and *With sculptures against trawls*, arte tv. 2023.

PRODUCTION COMPANY PROFILE

Founded in Napoli in 2002 by Antonella Di Nocera, Parallelo 41 Produzioni, nurtures young talent and produces independent audiovisual content based on local creativity and expertise, adopting an international outlook, particularly in *cinéma du réel*.

The lightweight filmmaking aesthetic predominates: digital technologies, small crews, street locations, and stories and narratives that recount and investigate the real world. Reality to write with, reality to write about: life in the movie we shoot, and cinema in the lives we film.

The work for the films produced (over 40 works including shorts, documentaries and fiction films) expresses a consistent focus on ethics and responsibility, sustainability and gender equality.

The company gives a great attention to development of ideas and projects and that is why It's also involved in training programs. Thus, development and production activities go along in a framework of passionate approach which aims to lead local talents and stories to cross borders and work for international cooperation.

Among the film produced, many received awards:

Corde, 2010 and *La seconda natura*, 2012 by Marcello Sannino (both award winners at the Torino Film Festival). *Il segreto*, 2014 by cyop&kaf (David di Donatello - Best Documentary nomination | Cinéma du Réel - Best First Feature and Young People's Jury Special Mention | PravoLjudski Film Festival, Sarajevo - Extra Muros Prize | DocLisboa - Special Mention | Fronteira International Festival, Brazil - Jury Prize | Torino Film Festival - Special Jury Mention | Bellaria Film Festival - Casa Rossa Doc Prize). *Le cose belle*, 2013 by Agostino Ferrente and Giovanni Piperno (Nastri d'Argento - Best Docufilm | Doc/it Professional Award - Best Italian Documentary | Salina DocFest - First Prize | MedFilm Festival - Special Mention | Tétouan Mediterranean Film Festival, - Prix Azzeddine Meddour | Annecy Cinéma Italien - Young Jury Prize). *Pagani*, 2016 by Elisa Flaminia Inno (Cinéma du Réel | Filmmaker Festival | Terre di Cinema | Lovers Film Festival). *MalaMènti*, 2017 by Francesco Di Leva (Venice Festival Critics' Week and Nastro d'Argento for innovation). *Aperti al pubblico*, 2017 by Silvia Bellotti (Jean Rouch International Festival - Grand Prix Nanook | Visioni Italiane, Bologna - Best Documentary | Dok Leipzig - Honourable Mention); *Non può essere sempre estate*, 2018 by Margherita Panizon and Sabrina Iannucci (Extra Doc Festival - Biblioteche di Roma Award | Annecy Cinéma Italien). *Rosa pietra stella*, 2019 by Marcello Sannino (IFFR Rotterdam | Giffoni Film Festival | Pesaro Film Festival | Matera Film Festival - Best Film and Best Actress Ivana Lotito | Annecy Cinéma Italien | Carbonia Film Festival | Festival de Villerupt | Braunschweig International Film Festival | Wiesbadener Kino festival). *Ponticelli Terra Buona*, 2020 by the students of FILMaP, Atelier di cinema del reale (Visioni dal mondo | Lacedo D'Oro - Audience Award | Corto Dorico Film Festival). *Agalma*, 2020 by Dorian Monaco (Venice Days | San Diego Film Festival | PriMed -

Festival de la Méditerranéeen images | Amiens Archaeology Film Festival). *L'Armée Rouge*, 2020 by Luca Ciriello (Festival dei Popoli – Laceno D'Oro | FICNC - Cotonou International Digital Film Festival | African Asian and Latin America Film Festival). *Lievito*, 2021, cyop&kaf (Torino Film Festival). *30 anni di cinema a Ponticelli*, 2022, by Isabella Mari (Biografilm Festival International Celebration of Lives | Modena Via Emilia doc fest). *Limes*, 2022 by Caterina Biasiucci - coproduction (Locarno Film Festival - "Let's make something"- Film Spring Academy). *Gli ultimi giorni dell'umanità*, 2022, by enrico ghezzi and Alessandro Gagliardo - coproduction (Out of Competition Venice Film Festival). *La Giunta*, 2022 by Alessandro Scippa (Torino Film Festival | Laceno D'Oro | Ischia Film Festival). *Procida*, 2023, by the students of *Procida Film Atelier 2022* supervised by the director Leonardo Di Costanzo (Locarno Film Festival - Pardo Ricola Special Mention, Filmmaker Festival Milano, Medfilm Festival Roma, Festival de Cine Italiano de Madrid, Nomination Nastri D'Argento - Best documentary).



PRODUCTION TEAM CONTACTS

PRESIDENT AND PRODUCER

Antonella Di Nocera
antodinocera@gmail.com

PROJECT MANAGER AND ADMINISTRATION

Grazia De Micco
parallelo41produzioni@gmail.com

DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

Claudia Canfora
sviluppo.parallelo41@gmail.com

FILM EDITOR AND DATA MANAGER

Isabella Mari
isabella.mari@hotmail.it

DISTRIBUTION

Irene Pompeo
prenotazionip41@gmail.com

parallelo41produzioni@gmail.com

www.parallelo41produzioni.com

#parallelo41produzioni

