



DOC SELECTION AT CAMPUS 2017



## *Sub Tuum Praesidium*

a film by  
**Carlo Manzo and Francesco Romano**

a production by



*A film developed under  
FILMAP - training and production centre Ponticelli Naples  
Atelier di cinema del reale*



## ***Sub tuum Praesidium***

documentary, Italy, 2017, 52'

a production by

**Parallelo 41 and Arci Movie**

written and directed by

**Carlo Manzo and Francesco Romano**

with

**Carmela, Concetta, Graziella and Francesco Sepe**

photography

**Carlo Manzo and Francesco Romano**

editor

**Alessandra Carchedi**

music

**"Sartoria" (Marco Cappelli, Andrea Monorchio)**

sound editing and mixing

**Giacomo Rende**

colour correction

**Simona Infante**

Produced by

**Antonella Di Nocera**

*A film developed under*

*Atelier di cinema del reale directed by Leonardo Di Costanzo*

*Tutors Carlotta Cristiani, Bruno Oliviero, Alessandro Rossetto*

***FILMAP - training and production centre Ponticelli Naples***

***Management Committee Antonio Borrelli Roberto D'Avascio Maria Teresa Panariello***

***Coordination Antonella di Nocera Technical Manager Giovanni Bellotti***

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## Logline

"You can't put the past in your pocket; you have to have a house for it" J.P. Sartre

## Synopsis

The film recounts a year in the life of an elderly family in a small settlement in the shadow of Monte Somma. The four core members (three siblings, Carmela, Concetta, Francesco and his wife Graziella) support themselves from the produce of the farmland beside the house. Carmela, the eldest of them and in poor health, is looked after by Graziella and Concetta as a mother would tend to her new-born child. Francesco spends most of his time in the fields looking after the crops. As a good head of the household, he feels the weight of responsibility and cannot tolerate things going wrong. The daily life of this family unfolds through situations that are repeated every day, like rituals. Two events, however, shatter the tranquillity of their lives: the trees in the hazelnut groves, the main source of the family income, are slow to germinate, thus putting Francesco in a state of crisis; and Carmela's condition suddenly deteriorates, without any apparent remedy.

## Director's goal

We both come from small villages in the Campania hinterland and we felt the need to recount our home places, focusing on our roots, indissolubly linked to a rural world fast approaching extinction. The idea was to enter the human sphere of people who still resist change, to ruminate on aspects such as religion (sincerely embraced in these places, often in spectacular form with the various votive demonstration of Christianity), the family (patriarchal, with adherence to hierarchies and unchanging values), the land (that same land as described by Verga but inevitably subject to the changes of our era), and isolation (an inevitable fact of provincial life, away from the city crowds). The film was created to broadly develop all these themes, but gradually became a journey in which our characters acted as ferrymen leading us through the last dimension of existence. Our gaze is focused in particular on caregiving, a testimony to the humanity that, borne up by the ancestral values of coexistence, remains staunch in the face of the crises that afflict interpersonal relationships of contemporary society. Care in this sense is at the heart of these values and becomes an expression of the characters' dogged defiance of death and concomitant attachment to life. It is a care that extends from the human sphere, inevitably fleeting, to nature (virtually eternal).

## Directors' biographies

### Carlo Manzo and Francesco Romano

Born and raised in the province of Naples, they met at the faculty of Visual Arts of the University of Salerno and began to work together at the Atelier di cinema del reale, directed by Leonardo Di Costanzo. On completion of their training they made first documentary short *Senilis*, which was shown in competition at the Naples Film Festival and received the "The Lantern Trophy 2016" (Genoa). *Sub tuum praesidium* is their first work.