



Volturno
a film by
Ylenia Azzurretti



a production by



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



Volturno

documentary, Italy, 2017, 42'

a production by **Arci Movie – FilmaP Parallelo 41 produzioni with Bronx Film**

written and directed by **Ylenia Azzurretti**

with **Antonio Di Iorio Castrese Papa Alessio Usai**

Photography **Vincenzo Riccio**

Editor **Rosa Maietta**

Music **Rosalie Cecere**

Sound editing

Sound mixing **Giacomo Rende**

Editing and colour correction supervisor **Simona Infante**

Artistic supervision **Romano Montesarchio**

Produced by **Antonella Di Nocera**

Associate producer **Gaetano Di Vaio**

Production collaborators

Serena Brancuti Monaco, Irene Fox, Grace De Micco

Translations and subtitles **Raggio Verde**

Film developed and produced under the

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**

FILMAP is an Arci Movie initiative supported by Fondazione CON IL SUD, SIAE, Intesa Sanpaolo charitable donations and SEDA with the participation of DOC/it and UCCA

Logline

"The murmuring river passes. And that which doesn't pass belongs to us, not the river". The rediscovery of one of Southern Italy's major rivers, through the eyes of those close to it; unlike its presumed image, changed, and somehow forgotten, the back country river Volturno flows, the world's last poem.

Synopsis

A delicate blend of simple and inward looking stories, echoes that reveal nature: the Volturno.

A tale of images interwoven with the river that ceaselessly flows through Molise and Campania; among forgotten provinces, fragile skeletal territories, unfathomable and often voiceless; a story of the few men and the many creatures that inhabit it and still interact with a waterway that has always represented life itself.

Director's note

"Observation, not seeking to be anything, is everything": the observation of things and letting them be, that they may flow to where they need to go: this is the narrative principle behind the story on and of the Volturno, which was first the wind, then God and then became water.

The Volturno is the main river and the most intensely exploited electricity-producing waterway in Southern Italy. The ancient Romans named it *Vulturnusrapax* or *Vulturnusceler* for the speed of its flow, which covers a distance of approximately 185 km from the springs of Rocchetta al Volturno, in the province of Isernia, to the mouth of the river at Castel Volturno (the ancient *Vulturnus*) in the province of Caserta. The film's itinerary is a long journey from the source to the mouth of the river.

A kind of road movie from mountain springs to the sea. Perhaps it could then be more accurately described as a river movie.... A tale of images interwoven with the river that flows ceaselessly through Molise and Campania; it literally splits both these regions in two, creating two coexisting natures. In the Molise half, the river is still alive and healthy, part of the magnificent and unspoiled scenery of a land that still retains many primordial aspects. Yet man has managed to contaminate even this scenario, with the presence of a number of hydroelectric plants in the territory. After an impressive Roman bridge called "the 25 arches" the Volturno winds its way into Campania. The river separates the north-western part of the region from the rest, and here its appearance changes as it approaches the Lower Volturno area. This is a vast territory that pretty much stretches from the town of Capua to the river's end. The lower Volturno area appears depressed, somewhat forgotten, battered by floods, by breaking its banks, by illegal waste spills and the poor operation of sewage treatment plants. At some points in the Cancellone and Arnone area the Volturno resembles little more than a quagmire. This martyrdom continues until the river's end at Castel Volturno. A life that changes with the lands that stretch to its banks.

Three main characters – a naturalist, a clam fisherman and a farmer – accompany us along this path of discovery of the Volturno. All three have the Volturno in common; they are witnesses to territories with a range of problems, places like the Lower Volturno or the Volturno Valley.

The intention of the film is to restore the image of a humanity that has at times given up and forgotten about the river beyond the levee, which in turn becomes the Trojan horse of the story. From Molise to Campania; different ways of relating to the river, different lives and different harvests recounting

different stories; stories of people, of villages, of entire regions. The river as a carrier, as a mirror of the territories that stretch to its banks. The only one able to disclose in confidence, in a whisper, the customs of the different communities, its rapport with the land, and with its origins: with life itself.

Teaser

<https://vimeo.com/227920998/ee2197c111>

Director's biography

Ylenia Azzurretti, daughter of a family from an agricultural background, was born and raised in the province of Caserta in 1989. At the age of 15 she became interested in literature and began writing short stories. She moved to Naples to enrol at the Faculty of Arts at Federico II University and became involved in film as an assistant director and co-screenwriter. She later found her ideal form of expression in documentary cinema, through participation in the first edition of the FILMaP Atelier di Cinema del Reale taught by Leonardo Di Costanzo. This experience resulted in her first short film "Cristian Diorio" (Italy, colour, 15'), winner of the special prize for the best Italian short film at the "A corto di donne" Festival in 2016. She then wrote, developed and shot the documentary "Volturno".