

A FILM BY RÄ DI MARTINO

CONTRO FIGURA



DUGONG FILMS - SNAPORAZVEREIN - IN BETWEEN ART FILM - PRODUZIONI ILLUMINATI - HAUT LES MAINS - WAQ WAQ STUDIO PRESENT CONTROFIGURA (STAND-IN) || DIRECTED BY RÄ DI MARTINO
WITH CORRADO SASSI - FILIPPO TIMI - VALERIA GOLINO - YOUNÈS BOUAB - NADIA KOUNDA || AND WITH FABRIZIO BIZZARRI - VIRGINIE WEISENBURGER - NISRINE ADAM - AHMED ZAITOUNI - HAMID FARDJAD
CINEMATOGRAPHY GIAN CLAUDIO GIACOMINI - HASNAE EL OUARGA - GIULIO SQUILLACCIOTTI || EDITING GIOGIO FRANCHINI - BENEDETTA MARCHIORI || COSTUMES GRAZIA MATERIA || MUSIC ALBERGO INTERGALATTICO SPAZIALE - TELAIO MAGNETICO
PRODUCED BY MARCO ALESSI - RÄ DI MARTINO - FEDERICA MARIA BIANCHI - BEATRICE BULGARI - FEDERICA ILLUMINATI - KARIM AITOUNA & THOMAS MICOULET || INTERNATIONAL SALES SLINGSHOT FILMS

CONTROFIGURA

STAND - IN

A FILM BY RÄ DI MARTINO

Italy, France, Switzerland, Morocco | ov. Italian, English, Arabic, French | 74' | 2017



WORLD PREMIERE

74th Venice Film Festival
Cinema nel Giardino



MOSTRA INTERNAZIONALE
D'ARTE CINEMATOGRAFICA
La Biennale di Venezia 2017

Cinema nel Giardino

Winner of Eurimages Lab Award
Karlov Vary 2017

SYNOPSIS

A small crew is going around Marrakech and its surroundings looking for swimming pools to find locations for the remake of an American movie in which a man crosses a county, pool by pool, to reach his home. Corrado, a 'stand-in', tries the shots to find the path through the city and the pools that the main character will run and swim through. At the same time it's as if the need to become more than just a stand-in takes over him. Corrado feels all the dignity of an actor and he wants to demonstrate he could be as good as any other professional actor. And so, while we observe his struggles, we start seeing the real actors and crew working on set between doubts and shouts. A film looking for where the real film is.



CAST & CREW

THE STAND-IN Corrado Sassi

THE ITALIAN MALE STAR Filippo Timi

THE ITALIAN FEMALE STAR Valeria Golino

THE MOROCCAN FEMALE STAR Nadia Kounda

THE MOROCCAN MALE STAR Younès Bouab

DIRECTOR Ră di Martino

SCRIPT Ră di Martino, Marco Alessi

CINEMATOGRAPHY Gian Claudio Giacomini, Giulio Squillacciotti, Hasnae el Ouraga

EDITING Giogìo Franchini, Benedetta Marchiori

MUSIC Albergo Intergalattico Spaziale, Telaio Magnetico

PRODUCTION Dugong Films, Snaporazverein, In Between Art Film, Haut Les Main, Produzione Illuminati

DIRECTOR

Rä di Martino (Rome, 1975) studied in London where she has graduated with an MFA at the Slade School of Art and after spending a few years in New York she moved back to Italy. Her practice explores the passage of time, as well as the discrepancies that differentiate epic narratives from lived experiences. Her films have been shown in various festivals, including Venice, Locarno and Torino Film Festival amongst others and in institutions and museums such as: Moma-PS1, NY; Tate Modern, London; MCA Chicago; Museion, Bozen; Palazzo Grassi, Venice; Artists Space, New York. In 2014/15 she has participated to the Venice Film festival 2014, winning the SIAE award and Gillo Pontecorvo award, and a Nastro d'argento for best docufilm.



FILMOGRAPHY

The Show MAS Go On | 2014 | Doc | 30 min

Petite Histoire du plateaux abandonnée | 2012 | HD Video | 6 min

August 2008 | 2009 | 16mm | 10 min

The Nightwalker | 2008 | Video | 12 min

La Camera | 2006 | 16mm | 12 min

The Dancing Kid | 2005 | Video doppio-canale | 12 min

Untitled (rambo) | 2003 | Video | 3 min

NOT360 | 2002 | 16mm | 8 min

Between | 2001 | 16mm | 6 min

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

I have been forever fascinated by *The Swimmer*, apparently for all the wrong reasons: its mistakes, the suspended acting that reminds me of Beckett or Ionesco, its accidental auteur film quality with a feeling of irony where Hollywood Technicolor meets odd B-Movie.

The idea of a once successful man parading around in a swimming costume trying to get home swimming from pool to pool works well in Cheever's short story but in a film it's very hard to pull off, especially if you use a famous actor like Burt Lancaster.

These and more things stayed with me over the years and I've always wondered if it could be looked at

from another angle, if one could do a remake.

Until my recent trips to Marrakech. While talking to people who live there and going around the city I became more and more astounded at the number of hotels, swimming pools, golf clubs there were. Cities tend to cater to certain demographic but Marrakech wants to please everybody, from the super rich Russians, Arabs or Europeans that each build a private paradise walled off and secured, to ex-hippies and new hippies that wander through the old city in search of nostalgia. Ryanair mass tourists roll in from everywhere: young backpackers, new-type ex-

pats that want to change everything during a mid-life crisis, tax-evaders, people that want to live in the sun but can't afford the Seychelles all year round, sex-tourists and so on. This new presence has transformed the landscape profoundly with hundreds of swimming pools scattered around a city.

And it is there that I imagined a man, suffering a mid-life crisis man inhabiting Cheever's character for us once again.

This is the swimmer now in 2017: a westerner running half naked through an Arab city in a very delicate moment in history for the relationship between these two cultures.

THE MUSIC SCORE

The music score of *Controfigura* comes from two bands helmers of the progressive music from the 70': *Albergo Intergalattico Spaziale* and *Telaio Magnetico*, as a direct reference to the myths of the past, and the childhood of the author, being her parents members and founders of these bands. The choice marks again the playful spirit of the film, where quotes, references and real life come into a lively relationship.



PRODUCTION COMPANIES

DUGONG FILMS

The Dugong is a large marine mammal belonging to the Sirenia order. Some believe that Dugongs were the inspiration for ancient sea-faring tales of mermaids and sirens. From this creature Dugong takes its name, a Rome based production company focused on the blurred line between art and documentary. Dugong productions have been shown in festivals such as Venice, Locarno and Rotterdam, and were exhibited in art galleries such as the Tate Modern or Art Basel.

SNAPORAZVEREIN

Snaporazverein (verein stands for «association») is a way/an idea to live the present starting from the inseparable Fellini roots. The aim is to stimulate the free flow of imagination and curiosity; it's the desire of complicity – side by side with the artists – in the creation of art projects and performances, in which various arts emerge into each other's melting away borders and genres. It's the willingness to unfold visions and other worlds which will involve the audience in a journey that would transcend the daily life... not to escape from it, but instead to fully understand it and live it consciously.

IN BETWEEN ART FILM

In Between Art Film, formally launched in 2012 by Beatrice Bulgari, is a film production company dedicated to providing artists, filmmakers and directors with the possibility of freely exploring the uncertain territories of moving images.

In Between Art Film has been supporting leading institutions and promoting cultural partnerships including: vice versa Italian Pavilion, 55th International Art Exhibition of Venice Biennale (Venice, 2013); Biennale de l'Image en Mouvement (Centre d'Art Contemporain Geneva, 2016); Miart (Milan 2016 – 2017); Tate Film (London 2017); Maxxi Videogallery (Rome, 2017); *Il Mondo Magico* Italian Pavilion, 57th International Art Exhibition of Venice Biennale (Venice, 2017); Documenta 14 (Athens - Kassel, 2017).

HAUT LES MAINS

Founded by Karim Aitouna & Thomas Micoulet and Based in Lyon, HAUT LES MAINS PRODUCTIONS is an independent production company who produce director-driven films with captivating stories that focus on social and multicultural matters.

PRODUZIONE ILLUMINATI

Produzioni Illuminati was founded in 2004. Among its projects there is a collection of eight shorts titled "Giovani talenti alla 61° Mostra Internazionale del Cinema di Venezia". In 2014 at "Giornate degli Autori" the documentary "The Show MAS Go On" was previewed by artist Rä di Martino, cast includes Iaia Forte, Sandra Ceccarelli, Maya Sansa and Filippo Timi; winner of Siae Award, Gillo Pontecorvo and special mention at Nastri d'Argento 2015. In 2015 produces two videos by Rä di Martino "A Day of Wonder" the fashion movie for the brand Piazza Sempione and "I mondi di Gauguin" video-reading for Il Sole 24 Ore Cultura. In 2015 together with Taodue film and Wider produces "Harry's bar" by Carlotta Cerquetti, a documentary on Arrigo Cipriani and his legendary Venetian bar.



CONTACTS

SLINGSHOT FILMS

Slingshot Films

info@slingshotfilms.it

www.slingshotfilms.it