BRILLIANT
MEDIA
CRISTALDIPICS
OH PEN
ME, YOU
BY BILLE AUGUST
A Film based On The Novel
“Tu, Mio” by ERRI DE LUCA

SYNOPSIS

Ischia, 1955. In the waters of the island in the bay of Naples, Marco (16) spends his days sailing with Nicola (52), a hardened fisherman who tells stories about the sea and the war, that is still very fresh in his memory. Marco is different from the other boys, he prefers spending his time in the company of the hermetic Nicola rather than going to the beach, courting girls or bathing in the ocean like his peers. Shy and curious, he takes advantage of his holidays on the Italian island to fill his eyes with the images of a world that is so distant from his native London or from the gloomy boarding school in Scotland where his family sheltered Marco to protect him from the bombings.

On vacation with his parents at his maternal uncle's house, he will live a summer that will change him forever after meeting, within the group of friends of his older cousin Daniele (21), the enigmatic Caia (20), with whom he will fall in love immediately and for the very first time. Caia is not like the other girls either. Romanian and orphan of father and mother, her gaze carries the weight of a sadness that is difficult to hide. Marco wants to find out everything about her and, although he is aware of Daniele's interest in Caia, he begins to get closer to the girl. Their relationship gets stronger when Daniele rejects her after learning that Caia is Jewish. Marco does not have these prejudices, on the contrary, this discovery pushes him to delve into the girl's life even more. A beautiful complicity is established between the two in which Caia reveals her painful past, with a childhood stolen by the SS and a father who preferred to throw his daughter out of a train in Yugoslavia, rather having her to experience the horrors of a concentration camp.

Marco's gestures remind Caia of her father: his protective attitudes, the way he kisses her on the forehead, the sound of his voice when he pronounces her name in Romanian, Chaiele. Next to him she feels the presence of her father, even though Marco is just a slender boy 4 years younger than her. The stories of Nicola and Caia, meanwhile, will awaken in Marco an uncontrollable resentment for the SS, personified in a group of rude German tourists who tour the island, and through whom Marco will try to avenge Caia's pain.

A sweet and platonic love that will make Marco grow up under the intense sun and the blue sky of Ischia: unforgettable days during which he will discover the world of adults, the horrors of the war and will assist to the awaking of feelings he had never felt before.

NOTES
on a film adaptation

ME, YOU will be multi-lingual film. On this adaptation the protagonist is an English boy called Marco. His mother is Italian, married to an Englishman and they live in London. Every year the mother brings the family out to Ischia to visit her brother for the summer. Both families stay in the same villa, owned by the uncle, Daniele and Marco sharing a bedroom.

The fishing expeditions will be a new thing for Marco, allowed now because he's turned sixteen, so it's all a fresh learning experience for him, supervised by Nicola who becomes something of a father-figure to him, guiding him through the storm of his summer; a Hemingwayesque-type influencer.

Marco first lays eyes on Caia at a beach party early on in the film, observing Daniele flirting with her, and her with him. Marco falls hopelessly in love with Caia, but he adores Daniele, aspiring to be like him, so any girlfriend of Daniele's would seem like a goddess to Marco. But then, out of the blue, Daniele drops Caia. He tries to convince Daniele to go back to her but Daniele isn't interested, explaining she's Jewish and his parents would never let him go with a girl who isn't Catholic. Marco can't understand why such a silly difference would stop people from falling in love– but at the same time this opens the door for Marco, giving him expectations of what could develop between him and Caia. Or can they? This tension is what keeps the audience hooked throughout the film.

A note about Marco: In 1940, just before the bombing of London, Marco, along with 1.5 million other British children, was evacuated from his home and forced to live in the countryside, away from the danger of bombs. Marco spent four years in a rough, rural boarding school and hated every minute of it. Like Marco, Caia shares a similar sense of abandonment. Caia tells Marco of the moment she was separated from her father. This, in turn, opens the door for Marco to reveal his four 'lost years' and the letters he wrote to his mother, how he lied to her that everything was perfect when it wasn't. These confessions of a shared abandonment draw them closer to each other, making the impossibility of them ever falling in love even more tragic.

Things come to a head the night they go for dinner at the pizzeria, Caia breaking down when a table of Germans start singing the same SS anthem she heard in the train. A fight breaks out between the two parties, Marco throwing himself into the thick of it, his anger fuelled by his impossible love for Caia.

Marco's excessive ferocity during the fight sets off alarm bells for Caia and she begins to avoid him. Alone, Marco starts plotting revenge against the Germans, staking out their villa, stealing gasoline from his uncle's boat.

Daniele realises things are going too far between Marco and Caia and tells Marco to stop seeing her, that she's way too old for him and nothing will ever come of it, but this only serves to strengthen Marco's ifatuation.

Marco confronts Caia, asking why she's become so distant from him. She tells him it's better this way, that she'll be leaving the island after the festival of Ferragosto and they'll never see each other again, that it was destined to be like this.

Marco meets 16-year-old Eliana at a beach party, the young girl from Cologne clearly besotted with him, but he is oblivious to her overtures, his heart set firmly on Caia.

The finale takes place. Marco using the carnival atmosphere to disguise his assault on the German villa. At the height of the fire, the heavens burst open, releasing a torrent of rain that finally douses the fire – a Godsend of sorts for Marco.

The next day Marco says his final goodbye to Caia before she boards the ferry for the mainland, a bittersweet moment. Caia tells Marco he should speak to his mother about the letters and his four 'lost years'. He`ll do it. Essentially it is the gift Caia leaves behind for him.

Marco is walking on the beach with Eliana. She tells him that before her vacation she promised herself she wouldn't leave the island unless she had fallen in love. He asks if she has. Not yet, is her reply. They walk off into the sunset, a sense that life goes on…

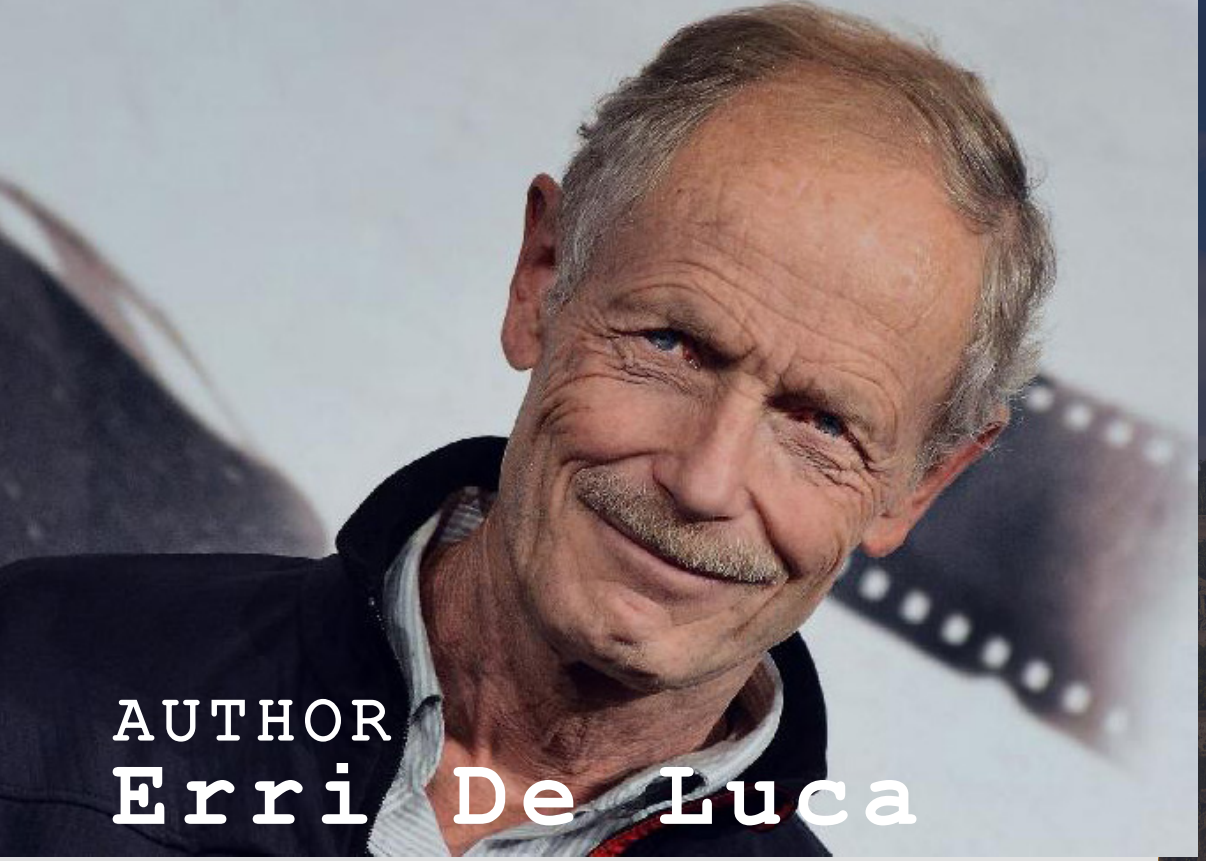
Bille August & Greg Latter

DIRECTOR
Bille August

(1948, Brede, Denmark)

Director and screenwriter in a career spanning over four decades. Making him one of the most acclaimed contemporary Danish filmmakers: Pelle the Conqueror (1987), Palme d'Or, Academy Award and Golden Globe Award. He is one of only eight directors to win the Palme d'Or twice.

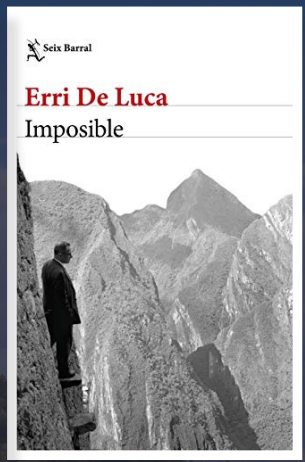
LES MISÉRABLES
GOODBYE BAFANA
DEN GODA VILJA
JEREMY IRONS
NIGHT TRAIN TO LISBON
WINNER
PELLE THE CONQUEROR
A FILM BY BILLE AUGUST
HILARY SWANK
HELENA BONHAM CARTER
55 STEPS
THE House OF THE Spirits
BILLE AUGUST
STILLE HJER
NETFLIX
A FORTUNATE MAN
CRYSTAL LIU
THE CHINESE WIDOW

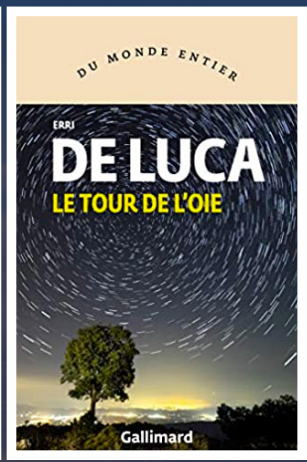


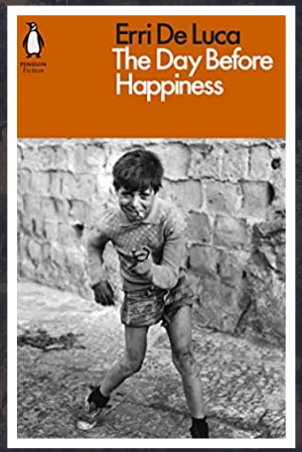
AUTHOR
Erri De Luca

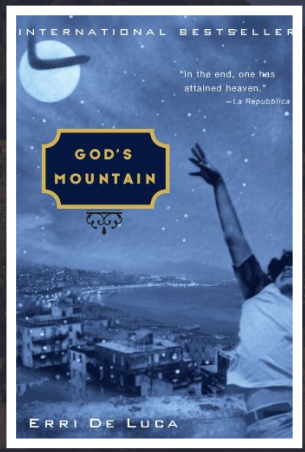
(1950, Naples)

Italian writer, novelist, story-teller, essayist, translator and poet. He has published more than 60 books, numerous collections of short stories and poems, translated in more than 30 languages. He is considered by many literary experts “a master of the Italian language of the past two decades”.









"An unforgettable tale of coming of age."

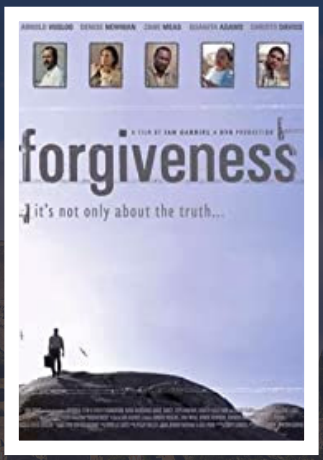
- San Francisco Book Review

"An alluring and poignant story...Brombert's translation ranges from clear to shimmeringly lyrical."

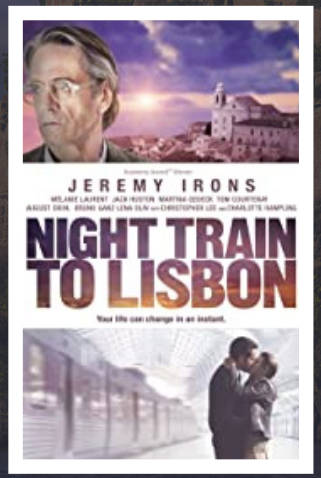
- Publishers Weekly

"The harsh beauty of a wounded and willfully innocent Italy unable to come to grips with its role in the Holocaust."

- New York Times Book Review



Other collaborations with Bille August



WRITER
Greg Latter

(1955, South Africa)

Writer and director who has worked all over the world. He is the recipient of the Thomas Pringle Award for Creative Writing (1982), the Sithengi Best Screenplay Award (2005), the SAFTA Best Screenplay Award (2007) and the Naledi Best Play Award (2011). In a career spanning 35 years, he has had 22 feature films, 11 television series and 5 plays produced.

CASTING

MARCO (16-18)

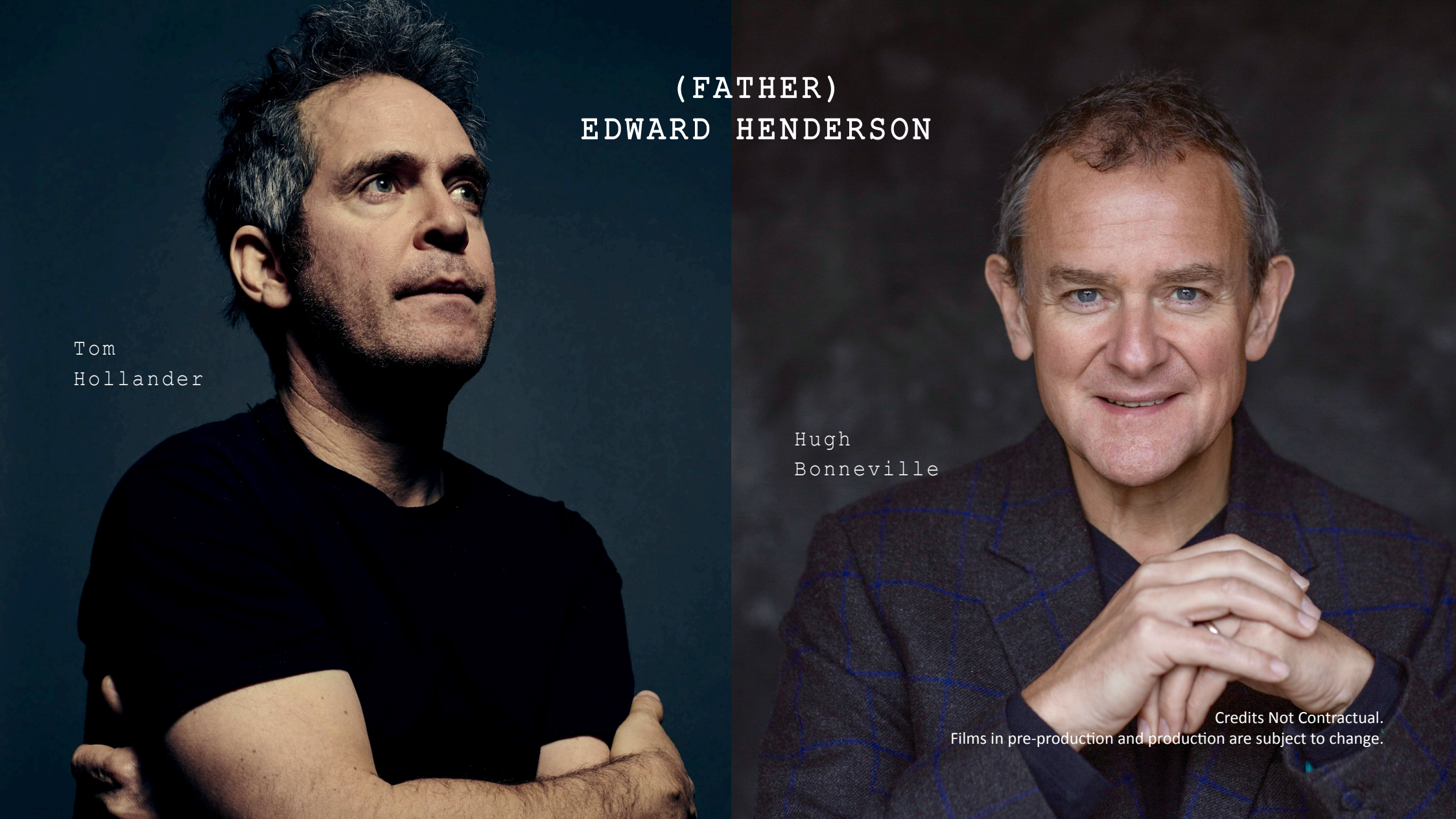
CAIA (18-23)

Casting in process

(MOTHER) ISABELLA

Penélope Cruz

Credits Not Contractual.
Films in pre-production and production are subject to change.



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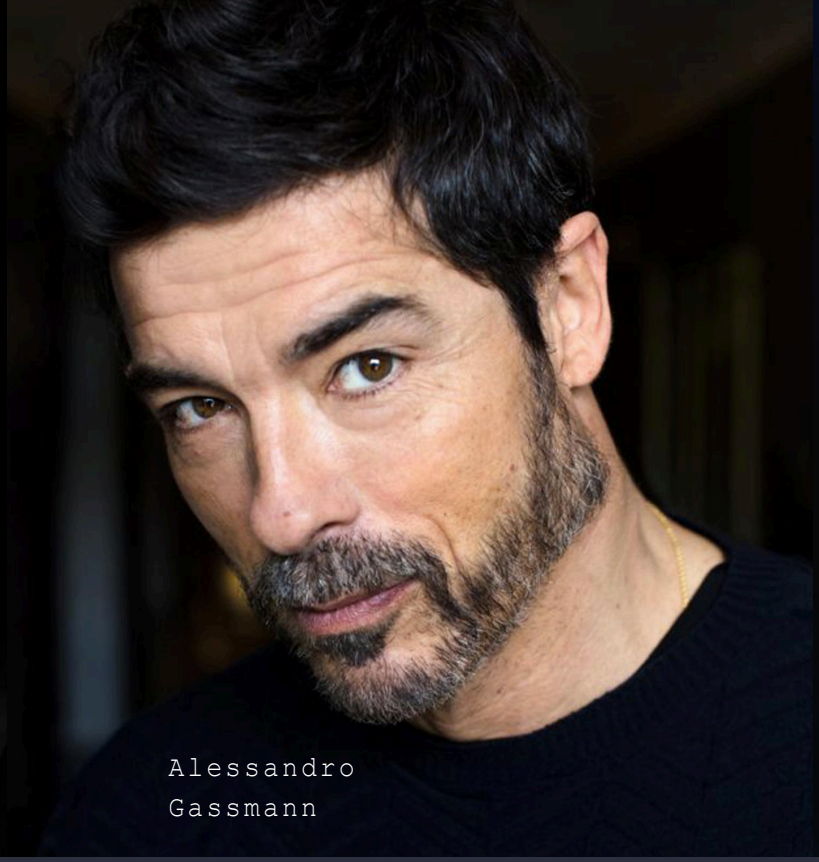
Sergio
Castellitto



Alessandro
Gassmann

Elio
Germano

(FISHERMAN)
NICOLA

Credits Not Contractual.
Films in pre-production and production are subject to change.

(AUNT)
SOFIA

Micaela
Ramazzotti

(UNCLE)
ALESSANDRO

Raoul
Bova

Credits Not Contractual.
production and production are subject to change.

(GRANDMOTHER)
VITTORIA

Stefania
Sandrelli

Credits Not Contractual.
Films in pre-production and production are subject to change.

LOCATIONS

Ischia

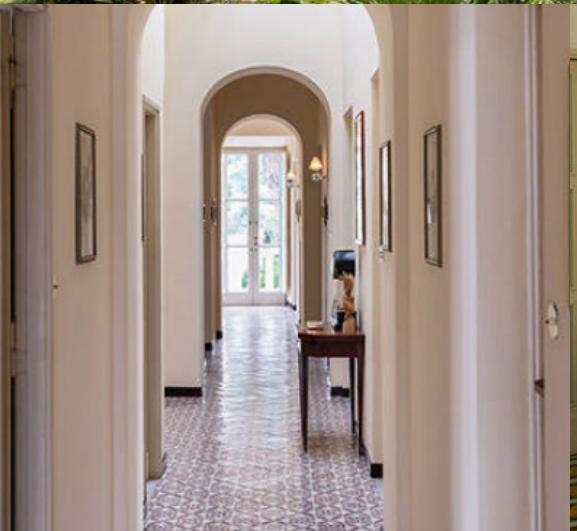
CASA – RIDENTE
MARGHERITA
634

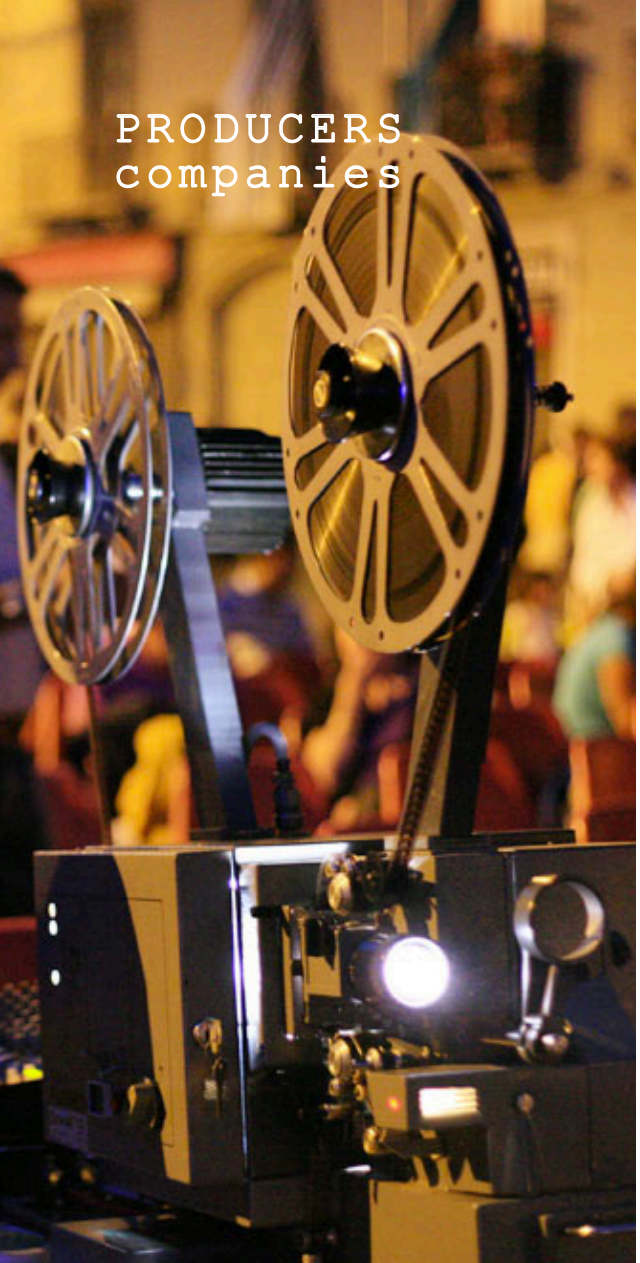
S.A.S.S.O.

Gel

QUI PEPPINO
CUCINA MARINARA
SPECIALITA'
ARAGOSTE COZZE
POLLO CONGELAO
ZUPPA DJ PESCE
VJNJ SPECJALJ
HUMMER MUSCHELN
HUHN

BORELLI`S HOUSE





PRODUCERS companies

Combining 30 years in sales and media content management, BRILLIANT PICTURES is the joint-venture of notable film producer Sean O'Kelly and veteran sales agent Marc Bikindou. The company encompasses worldwide sales, marketing, production, finance and distribution for film and TV. With offices in London and Rome, Brilliant specializes in high end, commercially orientated, talent driven content that appeals to audience appetites globally.

MARC BIKINDOU - Producer

Born in France, Marc began his career in 1987, working as an assistant director with Gerry Fisher, Pascal Thomas and Academy Award winner Régis Wargnier. He collaborated on over 35 projects. His first feature is Deception (1999), directed by Max Fischer. Shortly after, Marc released in theaters Vendetta aka Segreti di Famiglia (2001) directed by Dennis Berry. The movie was filmed between Venice, Rome, and New York. The cast included Joe Mantegna, Emmanuelle Seigner, Henry Cavill, with the special appearance of Sergio Castellitto. Following, Marc co-produced Den of Lions (2003), which was shot in Hungary, a movie by James Bruce starring Stephen Dorff, Bob Hoskins, and Laura Fraser. In 2007 he produced Breaking Point , starring Tom Berenger, Busta Rhymes and Armand Assante. In association with Jay Julien (King of New York) he produced Smile (2009), teen horror movie shot in Morocco. The same year, was released The Bleeding, starring Michael Madsen. Separately, he has led a successful career as sales agent working with MILLENNIUM MEDIA (formally NU IMAGE), selling franchises such as RAMBO, EXPENDABLES, OLYMPUS HAS FALLEN, MECHANIC and 100's more.

SEAN O'KELLY - Producer

With over twenty years of experience in film & TV sales and distribution, O'Kelly has a solid track record in delivering rapid growth within independent business propositions. O'Kelly's credits include: award winning film Iron Sky (2012), which he sold worldwide and executive produced, and the Oscar nominated Margin Call (2011). Among his many films as an executive producer are the blockbusters The Passion of War, adaptation of Albert Cohen's novel; the political thriller Damascus Cover; the British action-comedy Gun Shy with Antonio Banderas; Donovan's Echo starring Danny Glover; as well as the second and third part of the successful trilogy Rise of the Footsoldier. As a specialist in sales and distribution, O'Kelly has acquired, distributed and sold hundreds of films worldwide including Martin Scorsese's Casino, Steve Jobs, Garfield, The Mission, Death Race 2000, Killing Fields, Jane Eyre and Anna Karenina to name but a few.

CRISTALDIPICS

CRISTALDI PICS (formerly CRISTALDI PICTURES) was founded in 1993 by Massimo Cristaldi mantaining Franco Cristaldi's approach to film-making, focusing on both quality and commercial criteria, thus merging art with industry.

MASSIMO CRISTALDI - Producer

Massimo Cristaldi began his career in film production in 1976 as a production assistant for his father, legendary Italian producer Franco Cristaldi. From 1983 he worked as Production Manager and Production Supervisor as well as Executive Producer for CRISTALDIFILM on numerous features involving renowned Italian and international directors, including Federico Fellini, Giuseppe Tornatore, Francesco Rosi, Gillo Pontecorvo, Sergio Corbucci, Nanni Loy, Luigi Magni, Giuliano Montaldo, Duccio Tessari, Marco Vicario, Carlo Carlei, Sergej Bondarchuk, Michael Anderson and Alexandre Arcady. Following Franco Cristaldi's death in 1992, Massimo Cristaldi took over CRISTALDIFILM and oversees the sales of its film library of more than 200 classic titles. Besides countless Italian and European awards, CRISTALDIFILM is a three-time Oscar winner with Pietro Germi's Divorce Italian Style, Federico Fellini's Amarcord and Giuseppe Tornatore's Cinema Paradiso. (www.cristaldifilm.com). In 1993 Massimo Cristaldi founded CRISTALDI PICTURES (currently CRISTALDI PICS). After many productions, including feature films, TV miniseries and short films, CRISTALDI PICS latest productions are Sicilian Ghost Story (Opening film of La Semaine de la Critique - Cannes Film Festival), Salvo (Grand Prix and Prix Révélation - La Semaine de la Critique - Cannes Film Festival), Tiberio Mitri - The Boxer and the Beauty Queen (TV miniseries - Festival de Télévision de Monte-Carlo), Rita (110 International Film Festivals - 37 Awards), L'Amour Caché (Toronto International Film Festival).

MARK HAMMOND - Director/Producer

Since attending NYU Film School, Mark Hammond has worked as a producer, director and writer of films and theatre for the past 30 years. Past feature productions include The Great Goose Caper, One Love, Stolen Song, Johnny Was and in association with Cristaldi Pics he also produced L'Amour Caché, a French-language feature starring Isabelle Huppert and Mélanie Laurent. More recently he directed Pharmacide, a four-part documentary series on the trafficking of counterfeit medicine and he also co-wrote and directed The Traitor, a 1971-set political thriller. Based in Rome, Mr. Hammond currently works as Cristaldi Pics' head of fiction.

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