

White as the Train

Bianco come il Treno

FEATURE DOC



It's been 120 years since the first White Train departed from Sicily headed to Lourdes, one of the most important places of Marian apparitions in Catholic world. Fifty hours journey of a train that still crosses the country "loading" sick people and pilgrims full of hope and pain, all united by one desire: to reach the promised land and to meet The Holy Mother. Maybe it was once the cheapest or the only way to reach the village, but now is different: who decides to embark on this odyssey is probably doing it for different reasons, looking for a different time. That goes for Rosanna, Francesca and Francesco, our main characters. Here's the thing though: this year ride will probably be the last.

[#anthropology](#)

[#religion](#)

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BIO TO B
INDUSTRY DAYS

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director
VALERIO FILARDO

Valerio Filardo is a Sicilian-born director and screenwriter. After attending schools in Palermo he moved to Bologna, where he graduated in Cinema and Media at DAMS, and then to Rome, where he attended the Cinecittà Film Academy specializing in Cinema Direction. Then it was London's turn, where he lived and worked as freelance filmmaker for several years before returning to Italy in 2016. In addition to several commercials and music videos (most of them broadcast both in MTV Italy and MTV UK), his filmography includes 3 short films: the last one, Olly Olly Oxen Free (2022) had its premiere at 52° Giffoni Film Festival. His first feature film, The Last Ride, is currently in pre-production.

Production Cinefonie S.c.a.r.l. (ITA)

Co-production Invisibile film srl (ITA), Webreak srl (ITA)

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producer
GABRIELLA MANFRÈ

Gabriella Manfrè founded the production company Invisibile film in 2006. In 2011 she received the David di Donatello nomination and won the Ciak d'oro as best producer for "Le quattro volte" by Michelangelo Frammartino. She produces "Mi chiedo quando ti mancherò" by Francesco Fei, "La variabile umana" by Bruno Oliviero, "Se un giorno tornerai" by Marco Mazzieri and "Schopenhauer" by Giovanni Maderna, as well as about twenty documentaries including "L'apprendistato" by Davide Maldì, "Gesù è morto per i peccati degli altri" by Maria Arena, "Il cielo stellato" by Caterina Erica Shanta, "L'importanza di essere scomodo: Gualtiero Jacopetti" by Andrea Bettinetti, "All'ombra della croce" by Alessandro Pugno.

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producer

MATTIA PULEO

Mattia has produced numerous short films, including the award-winning "Aida", "Herd", "Cupids", and "Apartment 15". He currently serves as President of the production company Cinefonie, based in Turin and operating at a national level. Among his works as an executive producer we find the fictional reenactment of the TV program "Il Terzo Indizio", which airs during prime time on Rete 4 and his first feature documentary "Dear Cochise", a milestone for his company. Additionally, he produced the documentary "Marco Rossi - un bambino al luna park" for DAZN. Despite his young age, Mattia has also the privilege of presiding over the local producers union CNA - Cinema e Audiovisivo of Piemonte.

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Pitching team



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producer
GABRIELLA MANFRÈ

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Team members' bio

production manager
FEDERICA NISI

From 2004 to 2013 she worked as a production coordinator both for external clients and internally within the company at Visuologie Srl, a renowned digital effects company based in Rome. Since 2014, she's been working as production manager and production supervisor for several national production companies. Especially in the last years she has specialized in producing documentaries and TV series, particularly for SKY Arte.

co-writer
DANIELE GAGLIANONE

Daniele Gaglianone - co-writer Born in Ancona in 1966, he made his debut in feature films in 2000 with "I nostri anni" (Quinzaine des Realisateurs, Cannes Film Festival 2001). His second feature film, "Nemmeno il destino" was released in 2004 (Tiger Award at the International Film Festival in Rotterdam in 2005). In 2008, he directed a documentary in Bosnia titled "Rata nece biti – la guerra non ci sarà" (David di Donatello 2009). His third fiction feature, "Pietro" was selected for the international competition at the Locarno Film Festival in 2010. In 2011, "Ruggine" was released, presented at the Giornate degli Autori of the Venice Film Festival, as well as "La mia classe" in 2013. In 2014, the documentary "Qui" was released, focusing on the struggle in Val di Susa against the high-speed Torino-Lyon railway line. In 2017, "Granma" a medium-length film shot in Lagos with Nigerian director Alfie Nze, was presented at the Locarno Film Festival. At the Torino Film Festival in 2018, he presented the documentary "Dove bisogna stare" born from collaboration with Médecins Sans Frontières and distributed in theaters by ZaLab.

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Team members' bio

In March 2019, together with artists Lina Fucà and Paolo Leonardo, he inaugurated the exhibition "Solo da bambini" at the Fondazione Merz in Turin, on display until May of the same year. In 2020, he presented the play "Cinque Minuti di Gazzarra" at the Teatro delle Muse in Ancona, produced by MarcheTeatro. In 2021, he presented the documentary "Il tempo rimasto" at the Torino Film Festival, produced and distributed by ZaLab. In 2022, he presented the documentary "Se fate i bravi" at the Venice Nights of the Giornate degli Autori in Venice, co-directed with Stefano Collizzoli. In 2023, at the Biographilm festival in Bologna, he presented the documentary "Come scintille nel buio" set in the city of Carbonia.

DOP and camera operator

MARTINO PELLION DI PERSANO

Camera operator since 2010 and Director of Photography since 2017 for advertising commercials, as well as for music videos and short films. His feature documentaries production includes "Maradonapol", directed by Alessio Maria Federici for Cinemaundici, and "De Andrè#De Andrè", directed by Roberta Lena for Nexo Digitale and presented at the Venice Biennale - Out of competition.

camera assistant

SIMON LUCA CHIOTTI

Assistant Operator since 1998, he has worked for national and international film productions, television series, commercials, and music videos. His film production as Director of photography includes the documentaries "Numero Zero: alle origini del rap italiano" (2015) directed by Enrico Bisi and "Terra desiderata" by Caterina Erica Shanta (still in production). He's also teacher of photography and cinematography.

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sound

GIOVANNI CORONA

Currently freelancing in the field of cinema and television as a boom operator, mixing engineer, and sound designer, Giovanni Corona holds a Master's degree in Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology, obtained from the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Turin. After graduating he attended the course in Sound Technician and Digital Informatics at the Music Lab in Settimo Torinese and gained numerous experiences in the field both as a boom operator and in the studio activities (recording, audio post-production, and audio for cinema). Thanks to numerous work experiences with production companies, companies, and associations dealing with cinema he has gained professional experience as a boom operator, mixing engineer, and sound designer. He has long been involved in Sound Art and ethnographic research on the territory, experimenting with the sonic languages of virtual reality and 360 audio.

editor

ENRICO GIOVANNONE

Born in Chieri in 1978, he founded BabyDoc Film in 2007. He produced and edited, among other things, the documentaries "There Will Be No War" by Daniele Gaglianone, winner of the David di Donatello 2009 award, "The Future of the World Passes Through Here" by Andrea Deaglio, winner of the Joris Ivens Prize at Cinema du Reel, "Recovery Lives" by Enrico Verra, aired on Rai2 "Tracce", the fiction film "Pietro" by Daniele Gaglianone, screened at the Locarno Film Festival, International Competition. He also edited the film "Rust" by Daniele Gaglianone, produced by Fandango, an official selection of the Giornate degli Autori/Venice Days. In 2016, he founded Malfé Film.

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composer

LUCA MACALUSO

Luca Macaluso is a guitarist and music composer for visual media since 2011. In the same year, he released an LP titled "In fast we trust" with the band Granpa and he composed his first soundtrack for the short film "Luna Quotidiana" by Valerio Filardo. Between 2012 and 2016, he recorded several jingles for web commercials and short films. In 2014, he released an EP titled "Red" under the pseudonym "El Pannocchia" accompanied by a live studio recording of the EP. In 2016 he continued his work on TV and web commercials for various national film companies. In 2017, he composed the original soundtrack for "L'oro del Sud" directed by Valerio Filardo and in the meantime he becomes a music teacher at the Ricordi Music School in Bologna. He also starts working in music video games production, specifically for some "advergames" by the emerging company "It's a Joke". He continued his collaboration with Valerio Filardo by working on his last short films "Sarino" (2019) and "Tana libera tutti" (2022).