



Domenico Procacci presents

a Fandango production in collaboration with Rai Cinema

ANNALISA


(Il Paese delle Spose Infelici)

a film by

Pippo Mezzapesa

Produced with the support and assistance of the Apulia Film Commission



In association with Intesa San Paolo in accordance with the tax credit requirements **INTESA  SANPAOLO**

Running Time: 82 minutes

International sales: Fandango Portobello
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CREW

Directed by PIPPO MEZZAPESA
Written by ANTONIO LEOTTI
ANTONELLA GAETA
PIPPO MEZZAPESA
Based on the book "IL PAESE DELLE SPOSE INFELICI" by Mario
Desiati
Produced by DOMENICO PROCACCI
Director of Photography MICHELE D'ATTANASIO
Production Designer SABRINA BALESTRA
Editor GIOGIO' FRANCHINI
Music By PASQUALE CATALANO
Costume Designer FRANCESCA VECCHI
ROBERTA VECCHI
Sound VALENTINO GIANNI'
Production Supervisor VALERIA LICURGO

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The film was made with the contribution of
the Cultural and Environmental Heritage Ministry – Italian Cinema Office



Iniziativa cofinanziata dal Fondo Europeo
di Sviluppo Regionale (FESR) della U.E.

Soundtrack is available on CD produced by Radiofandango

CAST

Veleno	NICOLAS ORZELLA
Zazà	LUCA SCHIPANI
Annalisa	AYLIN PRANDI
Cimasa	COSIMO VILLANI
Capodiferro	VINCENZO LEGGIERI
Natuccio	GENNARO ALBANO
Vito Cicerone	ANTONIO GERARDI
Graziano	ROBERTO CORRADINO
Veleno's father	ROLANDO RAVELLO
Veleno's mother	VALENTINA CARNELUTTI
Cenzoum	NICOLA RIGNANESE
Natuccio's mother	TERESA SAPONAGELO

LOGLINE

Beautiful and tragic Annalisa leaps from a church roof and into the lives of teenagers Veleno and Zazà.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

In a southern factory town, where opportunities are few and boredom a daily challenge, new arrival Veleno (15) becomes unlikely friends with Zazà, a talented young footballer hoping to be spotted by a major team. One day, Annalisa, a mysterious, tormented and beautiful woman, tries to jump off the church roof becoming an instant legend among the locals and a source of wonder and passion for the boys. They become devoted to taking care of her until the unwanted advances of a drug dealer forces Zaza to protect her and damn his future.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Veleno and Zazà are two teenagers who live completely opposite lives yet become best friends.

Veleno is from a well-to-do family. He wants to get dirty, get hurt and taste life before he grows up and settles into a responsible career.

If Zazà can keep up his training and follow the teachings of his football coach, Mr. Cenzoum, he may escape a future in organized crime and drug dealing, the destiny of so many boys from this area.

But when you're fifteen years old and your only guide is your instinct, everything becomes harder, including staying out of trouble.

Annalisa is a stray Madonna, full of sensuality and mystery, flaunting a death wish while simultaneously demonstrating a great capacity for life. Her soul is full of anguish, yet her smile is irresistible and her body longs for comfort. When she jumps into the boys' lives, she upsets the balance of their friendship and hormones. Death hangs over her head and yet thanks to her, they are able to understand life a little better, to act with more maturity than they could before her arrival.

Veleno, Zazà, Annalisa, and all of the kids of the Cosmica Football Club, their team, and Coach Cenzoum are everyday heroes battling for a better life. Though frequently suffering or struggling to justify themselves, they have a lust for life and they never give up. They never give in to a daily life where failure is right around the corner and the fear of losing oneself is greater than the joy of life. The teenagers act like men and the men try to hang on to their adolescent irony which they need to survive.

This junction of destinies develops in a town in southern Italy which was raped by a ferocious, blind race towards industrialization and then abandoned. The corners of the town are represented by apocalyptic emblems, forests of smoking iron chimneys and conveyor belts, where even the blue skies and golden beaches are violated by the threatening rust-colored clouds that darken the sky.

It is a place of contrasts, of ugliness and beauty, strengthening even the souls of the characters of the film, who plug their noses and close their eyes, as they walk through the blanket of smoke to reclaim their lives and continue the race.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Pippo Mezzapesa

Short films:

- L'Altra Metà (short film a part of the Per Fiducia 2 project patronized by Banca Intesa San Paolo – prod. by Casta Diva , 2009) – director and writer
 - *Nomination David di Donatello 2010
 - *Nomination Globo d'Oro 2010
 - *Nastri d'Argento 2009 – Director's Special Mention
- Come a Cassano (prod. by Beppe Caschetto for I.T.C. Movie, 2006) –director and writer
 - *Nastri D'Argento 2006 – Writer's Special Mention
- Zinanà (prod. by River Film/Fanfara Film, 2004) – director, writer, producer
 - *David di Donatello 2004 – Best Short Film
 - *Nomination Nastri d'Argento 2004
- Lido Azzurro (prod. by Fanfara Film, 2001) – director, writer, producer.

Documentaries

- Pinuccio Lovero – Sogno di una morte di mezza estate (prod. by Fanfara Film – Makò – Vivo Film, distributed by Fandango/Cecchi Gori HV 2008)-director, writer, producer
 - *Venice International Film Festival- Critic's Week
 - *Italian Dvd & Blu Ray Award – best documentary film 2009
 - * Martini Premiere Award 2009 Special Mention
- Produrre Consumare Morire (prod. by Fanfara Film/Artisti x Nichi, 2005) – director and writer

In 2008, he was in charge of creating Rumori di Fondo, about the making of of the film Il Passato è una terra straniera, directed by Daniele Vicari, produced by Fandango/R&C Produzioni.

Annalisa is his first feature film.

ABOUT THE BOOK

“IL PAESE DELLE SPOSE INFELICI” by MARIO DESIATI

Apulia 1980s, Domenico and Francesco, nicknamed Zaza' and Veleno, are two kids who play football among the gorges and typical “trulli” houses together with a group of unforgettable characters together with whom they'll become men. Zaza' and Veleno come from two totally different backgrounds: Zaza' lives in a working class neighborhood and Veleno is the son of well-to-do parents. They then run into Annalisa, an extremely beautiful girl whose life is anything but normal. Annalisa hangs out with the outcasts of the town, she dresses démodé , talks only with very old men and has a reputation which events will dramatically validate as the story unwinds. Yet her unique charm seems to haunt the two friends like a curse and their lives are full of mishaps and resounding twists and turns.

The Author

Mario Desiati (1977), was born in Martina Franca and lives in Rome. He is the editor-in-chief of Fandango Libri. He was awarded the Paolo Volponi Community Involvement Award in 2006 for his book “Vita Precaria e Amore Eterno”(published by Mondadori 2006). “Il Paese delle Spose Infelici” was published by Mondadori in 2008 and won the Mondello Book Award 2009. He then wrote “Foto di Classe” (published by Laterza 2009). His third novel, “Ternitti” was published in March 2011 and was a finalist in the Strega Book Award.