



BELLA E PERDUTA

a film by
PIETRO MARCELLO

written by
MAURIZIO BRAUCCI and PIETRO MARCELLO

with
TOMMASO CESTRONE, SERGIO VITOLO, GESUINO PITTALIS
and the voice of
ELIO GERMANO

produced by
AVVENTUROSA
and
RAI CINEMA
in association with
MARIO GALLOTTI
in collaboration with
FONDAZIONE CINETECA DI BOLOGNA and ISTITUTO LUCE CINECITTÀ
film of cultural interest supported by
MIBACT – DIREZIONE GENERALE PER IL CINEMA

distributed by
ISTITUTO LUCE CINECITTÀ

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SYNOPSIS

From the bowels of Vesuvius, Pulcinella, a foolish servant, is sent to present-day Campania to grant the last wish of Tommaso, a simple shepherd: he must rescue a young buffalo called Sarchiapone.

In the Palace of Carditello, an abandoned Bourbon residence in the heart of the 'Land of Fires' whose remains were looked after by Tommaso, Pulcinella finds the young buffalo and takes him towards the north. The two servants, man and animal, embark upon a long journey throughout a lost and beautiful Italy, at the end of which they will not find quite what they had expected.

CHARACTERS

SARCHIAPONE	Campanian buffalo
TOMMASO	shepherd and guardian of an abandoned place
PULCINELLA	traditional masked character, intermediary between the living and the dead
GESUINO	shepherd and poet

WITH

TOMMASO CESTRONE

SERGIO VITOLO as Pulcinella

GESUINO PITTALIS

ELIO GERMANO voicing Sarchiapone

CREDITS

Directed by	PIETRO MARCELLO
Produced by	SARA FGAIER, PIETRO MARCELLO
Written by	MAURIZIO BRAUCCI, PIETRO MARCELLO
Cinematography	PIETRO MARCELLO, SALVATORE LANDI
Edited by	SARA FGAIER
Produced by	AVVENTUROSA with RAI CINEMA
In association with	MARIO GALLOTTI
In collaboration with	FONDAZIONE CINETECA DI BOLOGNA and ISTITUTO LUCE CINECITTÀ
Film of cultural interest supported by	MiBACT – DIREZIONE GENERALE PER IL CINEMA
Supported by	ROLEX MENTOR AND PROTÉGÉ ARTS INITIATIVE SCAM – BOURSE BROUILLON D'UN RÊVE
Delegate producer	DARIO ZONTA
Distributed by	ISTITUTO LUCE CINECITTÀ
Nationality	ITALIAN
Year of production	2015
Running time	87 minutes
Format	16mm

«I learnt to look at Italy contemplating its landscape from trains, rediscovering time after time its beauty and its ruin. I have often thought about making an itinerant film that would cross the provinces to describe Italy: beautiful, yes, but lost. Leopardi described it as a woman crying with her head in her hands due to the burden of history, the atavistic evil of being too beautiful.

*When I chanced upon the Royal Palace of Carditello and the fairy tale—because it really is a fairy tale—of Tommaso, the ‘Angel of Carditello’, a shepherd who sacrificed everything to dedicate many years of his life to look after this abandoned artistic asset, I saw a powerful metaphor for what I felt compelled to describe. Following the premature and sudden death of Tommaso, *Bella e perduta*—initially conceived as a ‘journey through Italy’ intended to touch upon other regions—became a different film, marrying fairy tale and documentary, dream and reality.*

Carditello is the symbol of a lost beauty and the struggle of an individual, an orphan who refuses to surrender to a rotten mechanism of destruction and decay. And at the same time this story, deeply rooted in our country’s history, examines a subject which has never been so universal: the relationship between man and nature.»

Pietro Marcello

PIETRO MARCELLO

Born in Caserta in 1976, he attended the Academy of Fine Arts, where he studied painting. Self-taught, he has worked as a teacher in a Naples prison, and he organised and planned the CineDamm film season between 1998 and 2003 at the Damm in Montesanto, Naples. During that period he started making radio programmes (*Il tempo dei magliari*) and documentaries. In 2003 he made his first short films, *Carta* and *Scampia*.

The following year he completed *Il Cantiere*, a documentary that won the 11th edition of Libero Bizzarri. In 2005 he made the documentary *La Baracca*, which won the public prize at Videopolis. That year he also collaborated as a volunteer with an NGO in Ivory Coast to create the documentary *Grand Bassan*.

In 2007 he made the documentary *Il Passaggio della Linea (Crossing the Line)*, which was presented at the 64th Venice International Film Festival, and brought him international acclaim.

In 2009 his first feature, *La bocca del lupo (The Mouth of the Wolf)*, won Best Film and the FIPRESCI Prize at the 27th Turin Film Festival, the Prix International de la Scam at the Festival Cinéma du Réel in Paris, the Caligari Preis at the Berlinale, the International Jury Prize and the Signis Prize at BAFICI and many others.

In 2011, he made *Il silenzio di Pelešjan (The Silence of Pelešjan)*, which was presented as a special event at the 68th Venice International Film Festival and participated at many international festivals.