

Director's notes

Time seems to have stopped at the Industrial Revolution in the 800's. It is the historic centre of the Magna Graecia surrounded by a contaminated air, ground and sea with its past floating back up to the surface. The backdrop is that of the steel-work hub in Taranto. The largest in Europe and also the most polluted, with levels that are approaching those of the world's most polluted cities (most of which are in China). Before becoming the unified midden of Italy, with more than two hundred smoking chimney-stacks, refuse dumps, refineries, petro-tankers and shipyards, life here navigated between two seas that encase both the isle of the old town and the new district. Due to the presence of dioxin in the mussels over the past two and a half years, mussel cultivators are forced to throw their harvest away. The CNR (National Research Center) carry out severe tests to prevent the emission of contaminated products, that could be harmful to peoples' health, from getting onto the market. Despite the presence of large industries, there is an army of unemployed in Taranto: around 110 thousand people, around 40% of the entire population. Today, agriculture is forbidden within a 20 km radius from Ilva while livestock is put down because it contains dioxins and many people ironically ask themselves if the same fate awaits them, too. The European Union has opened an infringement procedure against Italy concerning the Ilva affair in Taranto. Brussels has said that Italian national authorities had not guaranteed conformity on the subject of requirements regarding industrial emissions, with serious consequences for human health

and the environment. The government is also considered to be in default as regards standards for environmental responsibility. The plants in Taranto have been at the centre of a tug of war between magistracy and government. Acts of corruption, concussion and various other offenses have taken place, hypothesized within the inquest "Environment Undersold", carried forward by the Public Prosecutor in Taranto. Now, behind bars, the authors of the disaster are beginning to go under, being at the centre of a massive turnover that played dirty with the health of the citizens: the mayor of Taranto and the governor of Puglia region are also under investigation, respectively for abuse and omission of acts of office and bribery. According to medical and epidemiological studies, in the historic centre of Magna Graecia a rise of 30-40% of all cancerous forms (some neoplasie have risen by 100%) have been recorded, along with illnesses that are correlated to pollution from dioxins and asbestos. Therefore, many families are torn between the need to work and that of safeguarding their children's health. In the Tamburi district there is a ruling by the Mayor which prohibits children to play in the few green areas that still exist on the outskirts of the neighborhood. For a while it hasn't even been possible to bury their dead in the local cemetery. Taranto is a defeated city but one ready to face a new beginning, to incarnate in a multitude of men who, whether in silence or shouting their own convictions, marching or during a protest, call for justice for the wrongs they have suffered.





Synopsis

Time seems to have stopped at the Industrial Revolution in the 800's, amid decadent buildings together with the traditional fascination of the fishermen that result in a neorealist postcard image. It is the historic centre of the Magna Graecia surrounded by a contaminated sea with its past floating back up to the surface. The backdrop is that of the steel-work hub in Taranto. The largest in Europe and also the most polluted. Where illnesses that are correlated to pollution from dioxins destroy the lives of so many families, torn between the need to work and that of safeguarding their children's health.

Director's biography

Matteo Bastianelli, 29-years-old, is a freelance photographer and documentary film director. Above all he works on personal long-term projects related to social, political and environmental issues in Italy, Europe and the Balkans. His images have been published by some of the major national and international magazines, including International New York Times, Lens - The New York Times, Internazionale, Left, L'Espresso, L'Europeo, Life force magazine e Burn. His projects have been awarded in Italy and abroad and shown in Iran, Italy, France, Germany, Estonia, Turkey, The Netherlands and Usa. "The Bosnian Identity" is his first book and documentary film, "Vittorio de Seta" prize for the director of the best documentary film at BIF&ST- Bari International Film Festival 2013. He is currently a contributor photographer at Getty Images.

Filmography

MaldiMare (Seasickness), 71', Italy, 2014
The Bosnian Identity, 52', Italy, 2013
Home sweet homeless, 5' Italy, 2012
A silent scream for life, 5', Italy, 2011
Back and forth, 5', Italy - Usa, 2010



Country of production: Italy
Length: 71'
Year of production: 2014
Sound: Dolby 5.1
Standard: Pal

Original language: Italian
Subtitles: English
Aspect ratio: 16:9
Color/BW: Color
Website: www.maldimare-film.com



written and directed by
MATTEO BASTIANELLI

editing **DANIELE LIANKA CARLEVARO** sound recordist **GIUSEPPINA TOTI**
sound designer **FEDERICO TUMMOLO** shooting and cinematography **MATTEO BASTIANELLI**
original music written and arranged by **SIMONE DELL'ORCA** original music **GIANLUCA REBUZZI**
artistic production for "Salina" **CHRISTIAN LISI** graphic design **DANIELE ZENDRONI**
web designer and developer **DAVIDE DI DOMENICO** produced by **MATTEO BASTIANELLI**
co-produced by **CPA-UNIVERSITY OF ROMA TRE** post-produced at **MAWI STUDIOS**

cast

ETTORE BOCCUNI **GIULIA RUSSO** **TOMMASO D'IPPOLITO** **ACHILLE D'IPPOLITO**
AURELIO REBUZZI **LOREDANA CHIAPPARINO** **ANTONIO LENTI**

together with

FABIO MATACCHIERA **GIUSEPPE D'ANDRIA** **ALESSANDRO MARESCOTTI**
FRANCESCA D'IPPOLITO **VALENTINA D'IPPOLITO**

DOLBY
DIGITAL

5.1

Full HD
1080



with the contribution of

