



FORTY HORSEPOWER
a movie by Luca Ciriello

Subject, photography, direction and editing: Luca Ciriello

Live Sound: Luca Ciriello

Produced by: Za-lab, Giornate degli Autori, Lunia Film

With the support of: MiBACT and SIAE as part of "Per chi Crea" program.

In collaboration with: Comune di Chioggia, Pro Loco Chioggia Sottomarina, Fondazione Clodiense Onlus
Italy, 2020, 10 min., Color, Full HD, 1920x1080



"I was born in the sea, I'm not afraid of a storm. When it comes I say hello."

Stefanin

SYNOPSIS

The summer raids of a group of children from Chioggia, their dreams and their expectations living on the water. Stefanin, the protagonist, is a handyman, a small man who at 16 repairs engines and goes clam fishing. During the summer evenings, he goes around for fun with all his friends on small boats with 40 horsepower engines, loud reggaeton music and decorative LED lights. Sometimes they go to the lagoon to woo the girls waiting for them on the quay, other times they make a bridge of boats in the middle of the lagoon and bet on who will fish the most the following day. A world made of illusions, irony and energy, but also of dreams and hopes for the future.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

During the Project "Laguna Sud – L'acqua sotto i piedi", organized by Za-Lab and Giornate degli Autori, I met Stefanin on August 15th at 3:00 pm, while the canals and streets of Chioggia rested in the shade of immense heat. Stefanin, bent under the sun to repair the stereo of his boat with a 40 horsepower engine, seemed happy and smiling. I realized he was the person I was looking for to tell a secret world. The next day Stefanin introduced me to his group of friends aged 14 to 17. I saw and learnt their ways of doing things, their boats and their Chioggia dialect. Slowly I became part of their group and together we decided to tell an adrenaline-filled world full of energy and fatigue, where the desire to stay in Chioggia to be a fisherman prevails over that of emigrating.

I filmed alone, with a hand-held camera and integrated microphone, always moving on boats, bikes and through the streets of Chioggia, to tell the vitality and strong sense of orientation that these guys have in the waters of the Venetian lagoon. Before filming, I observed their world a lot, I told the boys about mine and I waited for them for hours and hours on the dock, until the trust grew between us.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Luca Ciriello (1988) graduates in Modern Literature with a specialization in Modern Philology and Didactics of Italian to Foreigners in 2013. In 2015 he works as educator and reporter for a NGO in a Tanzania village. In 2016 he completes the Cinema Specialization Course of *Pigrecoemme* Cinema School in Naples. In 2017 he works as camera operator for RAI television newscasts and, thanks to the *Cultura Crea* call of MiBACT, he founds the video production company *Lunia Film Srls* of which he is the sole administrator.

In 2018 he studies documentary cinema at *FilmAp* Real Cinema Atelier in Ponticelli (Naples) and his first short film is out, *Racconti dal Palavesuvio* (*Tales from Palavesuvio*, special mention at Lucania Film Festival and Festival dell'Isola di Roma *Mamma Roma*). In 2020 he produces his first film, a historical short film called *Eroi Perduti* (*Lost Heroes*). In 2020 his first documentary film will also come out, the full-length film *L'armée Rouge* (*The Red Army*, produced by Parallelo 41, Lunia Film and FILMaP). He speaks Italian, Spanish, English, French, Portuguese and Swahili.

