



Lunia Film

Portami Lontano (Faraway)

directed by Federico Cappabianca & Flavio Ricci

Genre Fiction - Drama

Durata 90 minutes

Lingua Italian, French and Neapolitan

Winner of Development Regional Fund 2019



Production Contacts

luniamovie@gmail.com

+393490720279 (Luca Ciriello)

FB/IG: lunia film

VIDEO NOTES (3') <https://youtu.be/JkWcFwd9crl> (with English subtitles)

VIDEO NOTES (10') <https://youtu.be/Rqwkj4BTkz8> (with English subtitles)

LOGLINE

Sacha, a sixty-year-old man from Naples, searches for his spiritual fulfillment in the sea. He mentors Alessandro, a sensitive and tormented teenager who has no father. The troubled past of Sacha will swallow up their fragile serenity into a destructive turmoil.

SYNOPSIS

After thirty years of dissolute life in France, Sacha returns to Naples and he finds in the Gaiola sea an apparent relief from his grief. The echo of his criminal past and the apparent need for money persuade him to plan a fraud against an obscure vicar from Avignon.

Alessandro, a fifteen-year-old introvert teenager, finds a protection from the world in religion and a fatherly figure in Sacha. The boy is experiencing his first great love with Mariam, a Malian teenager. Sacha's plans are upset by the sudden arrival of one of his three Parisian sons, the sons he disowned in his previous life, sinking the good things he was building. Shocked at being abandoned by Mariam and by the discovery of his mother's involvement in the fraud planned by Sacha, Alessandro will be carried away by an irrational pain.

SUBJECT

Sacha's soul is decadent, shaped by a hard life and a past drug addiction. He is a sixtysomething street urchin who after thirty years in France has come back in Naples, where he has established an intense symbiotic relationship with the Gaiola sea. Fueled by boredom and the need for money, his inner troubles lead him back to his criminal past; in fact he meets again his old partner in crime Gennarino and proposes him to financially support a new fraud. His plan is to create a first contact with a vicar from Avignon by selling him some stolen sacred artworks, and then to sell him some counterfeit ancient books in a second meeting.

Alessandro is a fifteen-year-old boy whose tormented and fragile sensitivity stands out amidst the arrogance of his friends. He is a fervent believer and an altar boy at the Casale church, a popular neighborhood nestled in the heart of the aristocratic Posillipo area. Sacha is living here for several years, consuming a fleeting relationship with Marilena, the boy's mother, who lost her husband as a young woman. Sacha takes advantage of the influence he has on her to obtain the church keys (kept by Alessandro) and steal a relic during the patronal saint holiday substituting the original one with a fake copy. Despite his secret bad plans, Sacha recklessly cultivates a sincere friendship with the boy that acquires the nuances of an authentic father-son relationship.

Meanwhile Alessandro falls in love with Mariam, a lively teenager from Mali, and together they attend a theater class in a community center. Alessandro asks Sacha to teach him French language to communicate with the French-speaking girl. The first love was born between the two teenagers; a summer dream that unites them also through the common religious faith. Sacha involves his friend Pasquale, a truck driver, as an accomplice in his first trip to Avignon. After selling the stolen sacred object, they successfully return to Naples. Then, unexpectedly, a man arrives at Sacha's home; it is Vincent, the eldest of three sons Sacha had during the French years. Vincent is deeply disappointed by his father's evasive attitude; in fact Sacha has never replied to the messages that informed him of the serious health issues of his youngest son Jérémie. Alessandro is present at the confrontation, he is very disheartened and he starts to question the figure of Sacha and avoids the man in the days to follow.

About to leave for Avignon, Sacha comes to know that the Vicar has suddenly died; the fraud has fallen through. Hit by the disappointment inflicted on Alexander and disoriented by the sudden interruption of his shady businesses, Sacha is swallowed up again by his loneliness. At the Gaiola, the only place where he feels consoled, Sacha witnesses Pasquale's reunion with his daughter. This scene moves him deeply inside and arouses in him the sudden desire to go to Paris. At the building where Jérémie lives, Sacha sees himself reflected in a mirror; he definitively realizes that it is impossible for him to bend his rebellious nature to his fatherly responsibilities, so he gives up and comes back to Naples. Meanwhile Marilena cannot bear her sense of guilt anymore and so she decides to confess to Alessandro her involvement in the theft occurred in the church.

Alessandro experiences another drama that throws him into despair; Mariam, who has not been replying to his messages for days, has left for Germany. Out of his mind after the umpteenth provocation by another boy from the Casale, Alessandro attacks him, stabbing him and stealing his scooter. Alessandro furiously runs to the Gaiola and starts swimming on a surfboard towards the open sea. On the train back from Paris, Sacha gets to know about Alessandro's disappearance; totally crushed, he obfuscates his great pain through drugs. At the Gaiola, Sacha leaves the shore on his surfboard. After swimming non-stop and having reached the open sea, a dreamlike and unreal sea, Sacha sees Alessandro again, serene and smiling.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Faraway is a tale of fragile souls at the mercy of their spirituality, exposed to the slow and silent fury of Fate. The visceral nature of the characters traces a genuine and consistent story that reaches a tragic epilogue by compressing and rarefying the movements of the theater and of the Neapolitan classic play. It is an intimate story outside of the oleographic or critical and polemical logic towards the status quo of Naples, this story does not insist on diegetically narrating the dynamics of the place that acts as its stage, nor does it seek some stratagems for a social analysis. This is a story of mixed feelings, a small odyssey of great lives scattered in the space of emotion. The city of Naples loses its connotation of place and it acquires that of a maternal figure, a mother with an indecent, warm, disordered and infamous belly, a mother who leaves little room for the possibility of a fatherly figure, fighting against its materialization and fulfillment. Through its characters, the film thus reflects the existential crisis of the fatherly role, the failure of who is a father and the anguish of those who seek a father. *Faraway* is a kaleidoscope of real lives, it is a fictional story written by the reality. Its genesis is the consequence of the metamorphosis of a documentary based on the character of Sacha, who is not the result of any fantasy, he is in fact a real person, alive and well. Of that initial work, we have the editing of the video notes we organized after the first three months we spent "chasing" him.

Federico Cappabianca (Naples, 1987). He has worked as assistant director (*The Story of a New Name* and *The brilliant friend* by Saverio Costanzo; *La vacanza* by Enrico Iannaccone; *The Happy Prince* by Rupert Everett). As assistant director he has also worked for short films and web commercials and videos for The Jackal and for Netflix Italia. As director, he realized the short film *Il Signor Acciaio*.

Flavio Ricci (Naples, 1986). He works as a teacher and film-maker. As a cinema teacher he has realized several school short films including the award-winning *So' vivo!*. He has made the *Sic Est* documentary S in collaboration with the *Maestri di Strada* association. He also worked with the photographer Stefano Schirato and the director Giovanni Piperno.

PRODUCTION

Lunia Film is a video-production company, founded in 2017 by Luca Ciriello and recognized among the best companies of the MiBACT "Cultura Crea" project. It is based in Naples where it conceives, produces and post-produces short films, feature films, documentaries, music videos and commercials. In addition to the founder, there is also Daniele De Stefano (1984), producer, d.o.p. and camera operator. Graduated in Literature (Luca Ciriello) and Sociology (Daniele De Stefano), they work in close contact with the territory and the people, focusing on creativity, professionalism and sharing. The team collaborates daily with video and cinema professionals to expand its network and skills, in Italy and abroad.

Main productions: *L'Armée Rouge* (60', Festival dei Popoli, Laceno D'oro - 2020), directed by Luca Ciriello; *Quaranta Cavalli* (10', Giornate degli Autori, Capri Hollywood Festival, Vertigo Film Fest, Accordi e Disaccordi Festival, Corto Dorico - 2020), directed by Luca Ciriello; *Eroi Perduti* (14', RIFF, LIFF - 2020), directed by Lorenzo Giroffi; *Bardo* (9', Lucania Film Festival - 2020), directed by Daniele De Stefano; *Il nostro paese* (TV2000 documentary series, 2019), produced by LADOC (associated production), directed by Matteo Parisini; *Una scuola a colori* (7', Napoli Film Festival Special Mention Winner, 2019), directed by Luca Ciriello.

