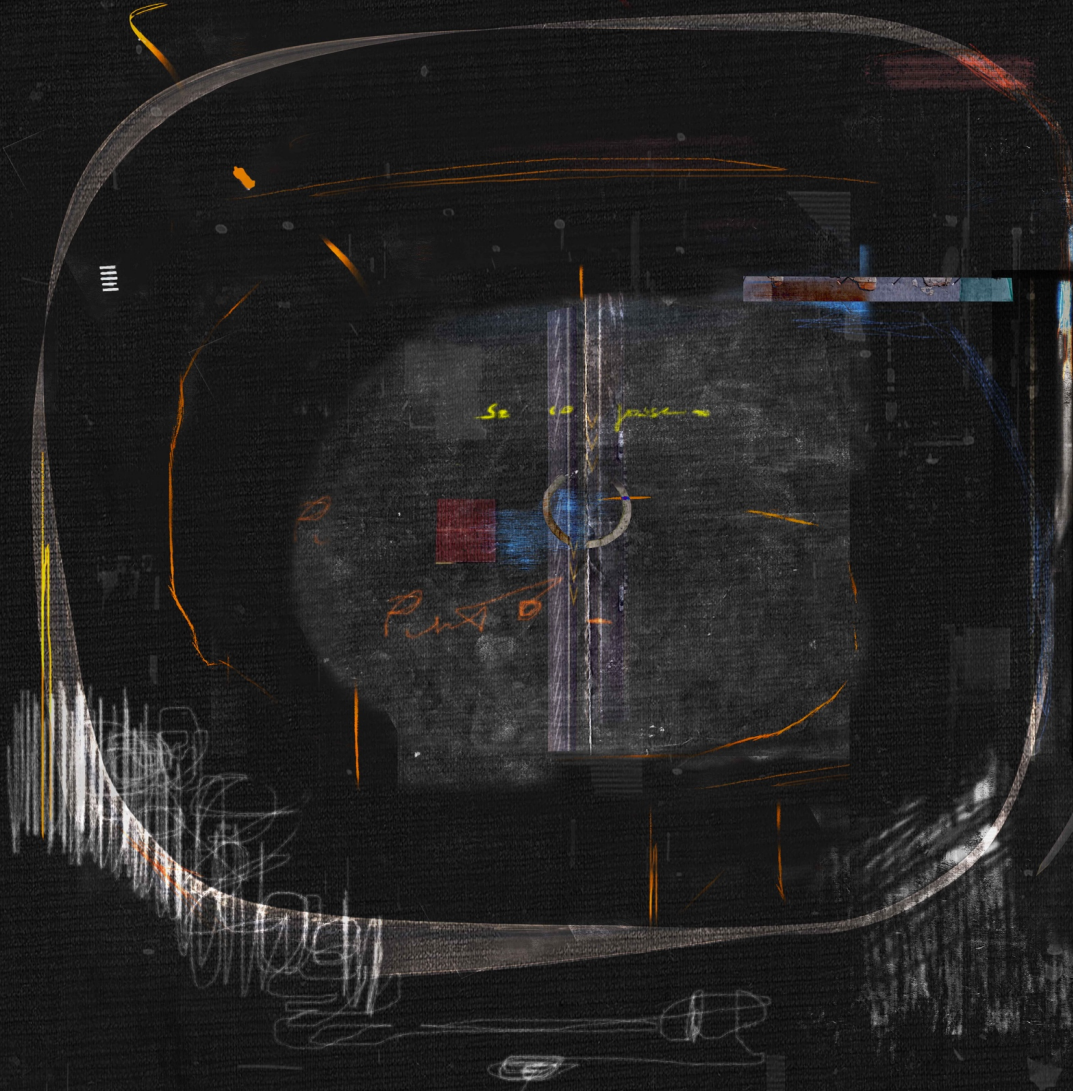


Karlovy Vary
International Film Festival
Documentary Films - Competition

A FILM BY NAZARENO M. NICOLETTI



UP TO DOWN



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Arci Movie
with **Parallelo 41 Produzioni**
present

UP TO DOWN

(Giù dal vivo)

a film by
Nazareno Manuel Nicoletti

Italy 2019, 74 min.

Produced by **Antonio Borrelli**
Associate Producer **Antonella Di Nocera**

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**arciMovie**

PARALLELO 41
il cinema leggero

PLOT outline

Up to Down is an underground world, right under the skin. It's a globalized suburb: a place where lives together dark and mocking portraits of characters who seem unable to live in this world.

SYNOPSIS

An old road runs along a railway modernized in the 70s, in the heart of the desolate Eastern outskirts of Naples. At the edge of the neighbourhood lies a rundown social housing development, big red buildings are swallowed up by acres of concrete, ruins of unfinished public projects and hospitals remain untouched. Embedded in this fabric are the lives of a man and his desire to go elsewhere, a girl and her return home, a masked boxer locked in his room observing the other characters through his TV. Looks and lives touch, dreams cross with hallucinations and dissipate, returning to the starting point, or maybe not.

MAIN THEMES AND CHARACTERS

The film is a descent into the psychiatric disorders, exploring the boundaries between reality and fiction, trying to shape dreams, nightmares, fears and desires of the protagonists starting from their daily lives.

THE MASKED BOXER was in the OPG (Secure mental health hospital) He went through the suicide of his father, a divorce which left him separated from his son. He has obvious paranoiac traits: he wants to stay anonymous. Therefore he wears masks that have been designed based on his drawings. He projects a hard exterior, a virile and muscular body, a fully tattooed body, where uncontrollable fragility is hidden. He alternates between periods of lucidity and anger towards others and of depression and social withdrawal. Today he lives in a small house with his sister in Ponticelli in public housing. Here he trains, sleeps and lives in a little room.



PASQUALE lives with his father in San Giovanni a Teduccio (eastern suburb of Naples), both share and addiction to gambling. They also share Margherita a polish woman, their caregiver, who hides under her own neuroses and her own family wounds. Beyond his father there are Pasquale's sisters who live in Milan, while his mother died after several suicide attempts. At 20, Pasquale separated from

his girlfriend and went through an acute phase of anorexia. He stopped touching food and became diabetic and suffered from hallucinations. Pasquale found himself alone, he put himself into the care of his father and burnt bridges with friends and women. Over time he has become chronic, alternating between moments of happiness and bouts of depression in which he does not wash, does not leave home and does not speak.

NUNZIA lives and sleeps at the "Santa Rosa", local health center for mentally ill people. She left home and was taken into care of a tutor until the age of 18. She has a twin brother who lives in Dortmund, with whom she has a tender and fragile long-distance relationship. The lives of her father and mother are spent



between psychiatric rehabilitation and detox centers. Nunzia expresses her feelings through aggression. She's a self-harmer, everything she has inside she vomits out or she expresses it through cuts on her legs, arms and face.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Three years ago I had other ideas: *Up to Down* had another title, I had identified other protagonists and the stories had another focus. I started with film and photography workshops in Ponticelli, in a day center of mental health. And every morning I passed by San Giovanni, Lotto Zero and the public housing blocks. I was looking for something. However I did not want to talk about mentally ill people, at least as I knew them. There is already too much literature, cinema and television which can cloud one's judgement of mental health. I wanted reality to betray my feelings on the matter, I wanted to surprise myself finding something different from what I already knew. I met my protagonists and I started rolling, letting myself be guided by my subject's desires and my instinct. Then, during shooting, I realized the film was becoming something else, much more complex. I let in all I could. The film was about the outskirts. Naples, Milan and even Dortmund all look the same. One might believe it is enough to film these spaces to capture everything: the deprivation, misery and pain, but for me there is something elusive. At every street corner you tell yourself that the next junction is the way out; yet the streets suffocate you and always bring you back to the starting point. Like a maze. At the end, In the film we speak only about ourselves. Today I can say that *Up to Down* talks about an obsession, perhaps my own obsession. Like in the passage of time, like in the everyday life of my protagonists: we find ourselves floating in the present. Back and forth, as if nothing could interfere. As if everything was a false movement.

AUDIOVISUAL REFERENCES

There is the cinema and then there is everything else. The distinction between reality and fiction isn't of interest. In *Up To Down* I became influenced by what fascinates me. I wanted to express my affection for my characters, and in many moments I tried the right distance with the goal, while in others I wanted to have fun, and I let the irony take over. During the process I fed on Depardon's empathy in his beautiful *San Clemente*, I let myself be seduced by the humour of Lynch, by the rigor of Seidl and by the magnificent ambiguity of Von Trier.

DIRECTOR - BIOGRAPHY

Nazareno M. Nicoletti was born in 1988 on the island of Ischia in the Bay of Naples. After completing a degree in literature he worked as a voluntary assistant director on Susanne Bier's film *Love Is All You Need* (2012), produced by Zentropa. In 2012 he was admitted to the course in film reporting at the CSC film school in L'Aquila. His work to date includes *Suono Piano* (2012), *Blackout* (2014) and some shorts. In 2015 *Moj brate – My brother* his first full-length feature was premiered at 68th Locarno Film Festival.

FILMOGRAPHY

2015 **Moj Brate – My Brother** | documentary, Italy, 78'

2014 **Blackout** | documentary, Italy, 44'

2013 **Suono Piano** | documentary, Italy, 30'

2012 **No Exit** | short, Italy, 6'

2011 **Ranjani** | short, Italy, 5'

ARCI MOVIE

The cultural association was founded in 1990 in Ponticelli (an Eastern suburb of Naples) in order to save the Pierrot Cinema Theater. In almost 30 years of activity Arci Movie has committed itself to the spread of cinema, organizing film clubs, events and exhibitions. In 2014 Arci Movie founded "FILMaP - Atelier of Cinema del Reale", a training and production center co-ordinated by Leonardo Di Costanzo and run by with Alessandro Rossetto, Bruno Oliviero and Carlotta Cristiani. In the first four years of existence students have made 21 documentary short films. Arci Movie produced 5 feature-length documentaries, developed in during FILMaP sessions and co-produced by Parallelo 41 Produzioni, along with contributions from national production companies such as *Rai Cinema*, *Figli del Bronx*, *Teatri Uniti* and *Indigo Film*. These movies have been successful, winning awards and being selected by many important film festivals such as Torino Film Festival, Visions du Réel in Nyon, Festival dei Popoli in Florence, FIPA in Biarritz, Dok Leipzig, Annecy Cinéma Italien, Thessaloniki Documentary Festival, Jean Rouch International Film Festival, NICE – New Italian Cinema Events in San Francisco and New York, etc.

www.arcimovie.it

PRODUCER: ANTONIO BORRELLI

A member of the Arci Movie, Antonio Borrelli deals with cultural planning, organization of film events and production. Since 2009 he has directed the documentary festival “AstraDoc - Viaggio nel Cinema del Reale”. In 2014 he was one of the founders of FILMaP, a training and film production center. From 2009 to 2014 he was Film Competition Coordinator for the Human Rights Film Festival in Naples. Since 2014 he has been part of the Selection Committee for the Ischia Film Festival and for the Naples Film Festival. He’s a consultant for the Fauto Doc Fest.

PARALLELO 41 PRODUZIONI

Parallelo 41 produzioni was founded in 2002 to develop young talents and independent content, as well as promoting international output and building relationships in audio-visual field. A notional bridge spanning geographic distances to seek out opportunities and collaboration based on local creative professionals, looking towards unexplored potential for production. The company's greatest asset is its the twenty-year experience in the promotion of film, education and culture. Its aesthetic principles are informed by digital technology, minimal crews, street locations, characters and stories that originate in reality and narratives that question and recount it. Since 2014 the cooperative is partner of “FILMaP” to coordinate the productions of the “Atelier di cinema del reale”.

www.parallelo41produzioni.com

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER: ANTONELLA DI NOCERA

Educator, producer, curator of events, exhibitions and various cultural initiatives since the nineties. In 2002 she founded *Parallelo 41* an independent production company based in Naples with the mission of promoting film culture and linking local talents with the international film scene, particularly focus on documentaries. She has produced many award-winning films. In 2014 she was one of the founders of “FILMaP – Atelier del cinema del reale” in Naples, coordinated by Leonardo Di Costanzo. She is co-coordinator of the courses and of the productions made at the school.

CREDITS

Written and directed by

Nazareno M. Nicoletti

Cinematography and Editing

Nazareno M. Nicoletti

Hypnotist (*Voice over*)

Massimiliano Gallo

Music

Marco Messina, Sacha Ricci

Assistant Director and Sound Recording

Giuseppe Riccardi

Color Grading

Simona Infante

Sound Design

Marco Saitta, Nazareno M. Nicoletti

Mask Design

Maica Rotondo

Artwork

Davide Ciaramella

Organization

Maria Teresa Panariello

Produced by

Antonio Borrelli

Associate Producer

Antonella Di Nocera

A production by

Arci Movie

A co-production by

Parallelo 41 Produzioni

With the financial support of

Regione Campania

In collaboration with

Film Commission Regione Campania

Country

Italy

Year

2019

Duration

74 minutes