

WILDSIDE AND MEDUSA FILM PRESENT

**ANTONIO  
ALBANESE**

**VIRGINIA  
RAFFAELE**

# *A* **WORLD APART**

*A film by* **RICCARDO MILANI**

*Story and screenplay by*  
**MICHELE ASTORI  
AND RICCARDO MIILANI**

**VD** VISION  
DISTRIBUTION



**WILDSIDE and MEDUSA FILM**

present

# **A WORLD APART**

a film by

**RICCARDO MILANI**

**ANTONIO ALBANESE and VIRGINIA RAFFAELE**

Produced by **WILDSIDE**, a **FREMANTLE** company

with **MEDUSA FILM**

Produced by **Mario Gianani** and **Lorenzo Gangarossa** for Wildside  
in association with **Medusa Film**

Distributed by **MEDUSA FILM**

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**Fosforo Press Office – Milan**

Directed by	RICCARDO MILANI
Story and Screenplay	MICHELE ASTORI RICCARDO MILANI
Cinematography	SAVERIO GUARNA
Editing	PATRIZIA CERESANI FRANCESCO RENDA
Production Design	MARTA MAFFUCCI
Set Decorator	ELENA GANGEMI
Costume Design	ALBERTO MORETTI
Make Up	ERMANNIO SPERA
Boom Operator	ADRIANO DI LORENZO
Casting	ANTONIO ROTUNDI
Assistant Director	VANESSA POZZI ALESSANDRO DE ROSA
Production Coordinator	ROBERTO LEONE
Executive Producers	SAVERIO GUARASCIO MANDELLA QUILICI GIANLUCA MIZZI
Executive Producer	LUDOVICA RAPISARDA
Produced by	WILDSIDE, A FREMANTLE COMPANY and MEDUSA FILM
In association with	MEDUSA FILM
Produced by	MARIO GIANANI and LORENZO GANGAROSSA
Running Time	...

## CAST

MICHELE CORTESE

**ANTONIO ALBANESE**

AGNESE

**VIRGINIA RAFFAELE**

NUNZIO

**SERGIO SALTARELLI**

MARIA ANTONIETTA

**ALESSANDRA BARBONETTI**

## SYNOPSIS

Elementary school teacher Michele Cortese is about to start a whole new life. After 40 years of teaching in the metropolitan Roman jungle, he had to move to a village in Central Italy, to teach in a tiny school with just a few children aged 7-10. Struggling to overcome his urban inadequacy, he finds a friendly face in vice-principal Agnese and gradually manages to fit in, thanks to her and their spirited pupils. As everything seems to be falling into place, unwelcome news comes through: the school has failed to meet its student quota for the next year and will soon be shut for good.

It's the beginning of a race against time to save the school, whatever this may take.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

The idea for this film has developed over decades spent observing the small towns of the Abruzzi mountains being deserted by their people and going, over time, from 3000 to 1000 to 300 souls. About two years ago, on a winter day, I visited an abandoned school, populated only by piles of desks and old computers, giving me a cold sensation that felt like a grip on my stomach.

In the eyes of the person who opened the door and guided me around I could see a resigned, matter-of-fact look that acknowledged an unavoidable destiny in silent acceptance.

That look feels all too familiar to me. I know how complicated it is to shake it off, attempting to become a protagonist in your future. That visit marked the birth of this project.

**A World Apart** was entirely filmed in that very school, which we brought back to life, if only for a few weeks. Watching up close these small communities that are the fabric of the "real Italy," to which we so often refer, and of which, even more often, we know nothing, I soon realized how aware they are of imminent change.

I discovered how citizens and administrators jumped through hoops to find creative and sometimes less than fully lawful ways to keep the schools open, and that everyone was in the know. And many schools have been saved by the commitment to preserve what constitutes the backbone of our society.

It is a story happening in thousands of small towns, all around the country. The story that we may want to see happening everywhere in Italy.

Ivan Graziani sings "Cut Off the Rooster's Head." Defend your identity, and be a protagonist in your country's life and future. Build a cultural defense against that common enemy which is indifference. Commit to a better future for yourself and your country.

And all this is down to both those who actively defend such a future, our teachers, and who embody it, our children.

I have seen teachers commute as far as 150 kilometers a day through stormy weather and snowy roads to be able to do their job. To protect it, some say. Sure, but also in the name of a strong commitment to their role, as educators.

I have seen a town defending education with communal strength, believing it provides the foundation for every community. A town that quietly tries to survive by exploiting what the land provides, a town that is saved thanks to the effort of each citizen, including those who joined in as foreigners and have become active elements in its development, demolishing human, political, and ideological barriers. Because some things can overcome political division. Because they are just.

And you leave no man behind, just like wild animals do, waiting for the slowest ones to catch up with the pack. A sense of community.

And you leave no man behind, just like the wild animals that populate this land do, waiting for the slowest ones to catch up with the pack. It is the sense of community.

Cesidio Gentile, aka "Jurico", whose name is engraved on the facade of the school where our story is placed, was a local poet and shepherd. He wrote: "Of virtues, we have plenty, of peace we have none." And this may well be the essence of our country.

I want to thank Wildside and Medusa, who firmly believed in this project.

Thanks to my film crew, for always being ready to follow me in uneasy conditions.

Thanks to Antonio and Virginia, who lived for months in this community, soaking in its sentiment and irony.

Thanks to the entire community of Alto Sangro, for agreeing to tell their story, even though this film is impregnated with my personal view on life, as usual.

As often happens, I am unsure which genre **A World Apart** belongs to.

My only hope, again as usual, is that it will reach my audience as a sincere and passionate film.

*Riccardo Milani*

## **ANTONIO ALBANESE**

*(Selected Filmography)*

### **Director**

2023 A HUNDRED SUNDAYS

2018 BACK HOME

2002 IL NOSTRO MATRIMONIO È IN CRISI

1999 LA FAME E LA SETE

1996 UOMO D'ACQUA DOLCE

### **Cinema**

2024 A WORLD APART directed by Riccardo Milani

2023 A HUNDRED SUNDAYS regia di Antonio Albanese

2023 THANK YOU GUYS directed by Riccardo Milani

2021 LIKE A CAT ON A HIGHWAY 2 directed by Riccardo Milani

2019 CETTO C'È - SENZADUBBIAMENTE directed by Giulio Manfredonia

2019 THE BEARS' FAMOUS INVASION OF SICILY directed by Lorenzo Mattotti (as Gedeone)

2018 BACK HOME directed by Antonio Albanese

2017 LIKE A CAT ON A HIGHWAY directed by Riccardo Milani

2017 MOM OR DAD? directed by Riccardo Milani

2016 THE BIG SCORE directed by Carlo Verdone

2013 L'INTREPIDO: A LONELY HERO directed by Gianni Amelio

2012 TUTTO TUTTO NIENTE NIENTE directed by Giulio Manfredonia

2012 TO ROME WITH LOVE directed by Woody Allen

2011 WHATSOEVERLY directed by Giulio Manfredonia

2009 A QUESTION OF THE HEART directed by Francesca Archibugi

2007 DAYS AND CLOUDS directed by Silvio Soldini

2006 MANUALE OF LOVE 2 directed by Giovanni Veronesi

Non-contractual credits

2005 THE SECOND WEDDING NIGHT directed by Pupi Avati  
2004 STORK DAY directed by Giulio Manfredonia  
2003 L'UOMO FLESSIBILE directed by Stefano Consiglio (documentary)  
2002 IL NOSTRO MATRIMONIO È IN CRISI directed by Antonio Albanese  
2000 HOLY TONGUE directed by Carlo Mazzacurati  
1999 LA FAME E LA SETE directed by Antonio Albanese  
1998 YOU LAUGH directed by Paolo and Vittorio Taviani  
1998 DEAD TRAIN directed by Davide Marengo (short)  
1998 ZORBA AND LUCKY directed by Enzo D'Alò (as Grande Topo)  
1996 UOMO D'ACQUA DOLCE directed by Antonio Albanese  
1996 VESNA GOES FAST directed by Carlo Mazzacurati  
1991 IL CONGEDO DEL VIAGGIATORE CERIMONIOSO directed by Giuseppe Bertolucci  
(short)

## VIRGINIA RAFFAELE

Virginia Raffaele is an actress, impersonator, and host for radio and TV. She graduated in 1999 from Accademia Teatrale Europea del Teatro Integrato Internazionale and studied ballet and modern dance at Accademia Nazionale di Danza, as well as acrobatic arts.

She is an extremely talented impersonator, and her performances include famous people such as Ornella Vanoni, Sabrina Ferilli, Carla Fracci, Donatella Versace, Belén Rodríguez, and crime scientist Roberta Bruzzone.

In 2001, she started the comic trio *Due interi e un ridotto*, followed by a career in theatre that saw her on stage in plays such as *Le nuvole di Aristofane*, directed by Vincenzo Zingaro, *L'amore di Don Perlimplino con Belisa nel giardino* by Federico García Lorca, directed by Pino Ferrara, *Plautus* by Plauto, starring Carlo Croccolo, *Doppia coppia* by Max Tortora, and *Iressa* by Lorenzo Gioielli. She performed many times with famous duo Lillo & Greg in *The Blues Brothers – Il plagio*, *La baita degli spettri*, *Far West Story* e *Intrappolati nella commedia*.

Around the same time, she started her television career starring in *Bla Bla Bla*, *Lillo e Greg - The Movie!*, and *Quelli che il Calcio*. In 2009, she was cast in *Mai dire Grande Fratello*, and successfully impersonated the guests from Big Brother's house and other renown people from the show business. Virginia also hosted several radio programs, such as *610 – Seiunozero* for Radio2 and *Pelo e Contropelo* for Radio Kiss Kiss. In the same year, she was cast in *Victor Victoria* on La7, while in 2010 she worked alongside Luca Barbarossa, hosting *Radio 2 Social Club*.

On the silver screen, she worked in many films with big names such as Giovanni Veronesi, Lillo e Greg, and many others. Among her many talents, she also performed as a stuntwoman in *Romanzo Criminale*, in 2005.

In 2010, she was part of the team in *Quelli che il Calcio*, where she performed as a parodist bringing to life characters that became famous all around the country.

She hosted the yearly *Concerto del Primo Maggio* alongside Francesco Pannofino, on Rai 3 as well as the MTV Awards next to Ubaldo Pantani. She was cast by Antonio Ricci to host the show *Striscia la notizia*, with Michelle Hunziker.

In February 2015, she was on the stage of the Sanremo Music Festival, hosted by Carlo Conti. As a parodist, she was a recurrent guest on Maria Filippi's show *Amici*. At the same time, she toured the stages around the country with her incredibly successful one-woman show *Performance*, featuring a series of her most famous impersonations.

She was back in Sanremo in 2016 with Carlo Conti as a co-host alongside Gabriel Garko and Madalina Ghenea. In the same year, she participated in *Stasera a Casa Mika* on Rai 2.

In 2017, she created and hosted her first TV show, *Facciamo che io ero*, and in 2018 she wrote and starred in her innovative TV series *Come Quando Fuori Piove*. In 2019, she co-hosted the Sanremo Music Festival with artistic director Claudio Baglioni and actor Claudio Bisio.

In the same year, she lent her voice to Morticia Addams in *The Addams Family* by Greg Tiernan and Conrad Vernon, distributed by Eagle Pictures. The following year, she worked as a dubber in *Croods 2*.

In 2020, she debuted in the show *Samusà*, directed by Federico Tiezzi, with Marco Rossi as Production Designer, Giovanna Buzzi as Costume Designer, and Gianni Polini as Light Designer. In 2023, she starred in the film *Tre di Troppo* alongside its director Fabio De Luigi, and in *Denti da Squalo*, by Davide Gentile.