





## Orizzonti Competition

INDIGO FILM and RAI CINEMA

present

# BURNING HEARTS

(TI MANGIO IL CUORE)

a film by

**PIPPO MEZZAPESA**

starring

**ELODIE, FRANCESCO PATANÈ,**

**FRANCESCO DI LEVA, LIDIA VITALE,**

with **BRENNO PLACIDO, TOMMASO RAGNO,**

and with **MICHELE PLACIDO**

produced by

**INDIGO FILM with RAI CINEMA**

in collaboration with

**PARAMOUNT +**

with the support of



**ITALIAN RELEASE SEPTEMBER 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022**

### SCREENINGS

PRESS SCREENING: Saturday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7:30 pm, SALA CASINÒ

PRESS SCREENING: Saturday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10:00 pm, SALA VOLPI

OFFICIAL SCREENING: Sunday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 pm, SALA DARSENA

ADDITIONAL SCREENING: Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 03:00 pm, SALA PALABIENNALE

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## **CREW**

Directed by **PIPPO MEZZAPESA**

Outline **CARLO BONINI, GIULIANO FOSCHINI,  
ANTONELLA W. GAETA, PIPPO MEZZAPESA,  
DAVIDE SERINO**

Screenplay **ANTONELLA W. GAETA  
PIPPO MEZZAPESA  
DAVIDE SERINO**

Freely adapted from ***Ti mangio il cuore* by CARLO BONINI, GIULIANO FOSCHI**  
Published in Italy by Feltrinelli Editore

Photography **MICHELE D'ATTANASIO**

Editing **VINCENZO SOPRANO**

Music **TEHO TEARDO**

Set Designer **DANIELE FRABETTI**

Costume **URSULA PATZAK**

Make-Up **DIEGO PRESTOPINO**

Hair stylist **MARIA SANSONE**

Sound **FABIO CONCA**

Sound engineering **FILIPPO BARRACCO**

Produced by **NICOLA GIULIANO  
FRANCESCA CIMA  
CARLOTTA CALORI  
VIOLA PRESTIERI**

Production **INDIGO FILM with RAI CINEMA**

With the support of **REGIONE PUGLIA, UNIONE EUROPEA,  
OPR PUGLIA FESR-FSE 2014/2020, FONDAZIONE  
APULIA FILM COMMISSION**

Domestic distribution **01 DISTRIBUTION**

World Sales **TRUE COLOURS**

Duration 115

Year 2022

Nationality Italian

Black/White

## CAST

**ELODIE**

**FRANCESCO PATANÈ**

**FRANCESCO DI LEVA**

**LIDIA VITALE**

**GIOVANNI TROMBETTA**

**LETIZIA PIA CARTOLARO**

**GIOVANNI ANZALDO**

**GIANNI LILLO**

and with

**BRENNO PLACIDO**

with

**TOMMASO RAGNO**

and the extraordinary participation of

**MICHELE PLACIDO**

Marilena Camporeale

Andrea Malatesta

Giovannangelo

Teresa Malatesta

Paky Malatesta

Immacolata Malatesta

Zigo Zago

Damiano Camporeale

Potito Montanari

Michele Malatesta

Vincenzo Montanari

## **SYNOPSIS**

The forbidden love between Andrea, the reluctant heir of the Malatesta family, and Marilena, the beautiful wife of the Camporeale boss, rekindles an old feud between two rival families. The fatal passion brings the clans back into war, in an ancient land, not so different from the far west, where only blood can wash out blood, following the ruthless codes of the local mafia. But Marilena, now cast out by the Camporeale and prisoner of the Malatesta, contended and reviled, with the strength only a wounded mother can have, will oppose to a destiny which seems already written.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

(Translator's note: in the document below, the movie's international title *Burning Hearts* has been changed with a literal translation of the original Italian title "*I'll Eat Your Heart*", which better conveys the director's meaning and intention.)

*I'll Eat Your Heart*, brings a PROMISE of death and a love CHALLENGE.

The title of the film contains the double soul of this story, made of ruthlessness and passion. The story of a bloody feud, of a war for revenge, rekindled by the impossible love between Andrea and Marilena, two young individuals struggling to save themselves, but sucked into evil by its inevitability.

For years I've been following with attention the phenomenon of the feuds bloodying the Gargano region, a rugged, raw promontory of entrancing beauty. Family skirmishes that often start from futile reasons, like cattle rustling, and turn into massacres that are dragged out for decades.

The eponymous investigation book by Carlo Bonini and Giuliano Foschini - which offers a detailed analysis of the Gargano criminal organizations and venture deep into the maze of a new, unknown and ruthless mafia - pushed me to completely immerse myself in this world, leading me to meet Rosa Di Fiore, the first collaborator from the Gargano mafia. A woman who, because of her uncontrollable love for a "forbidden" man, ends up captive of a rival family and, driven by the love for her children, seeks a path to salvation.

A Woman, a mother, who inspired the character of Marilena.

The movie aims to shed a light on an unprecedented and violent criminal world, which moves in an archaic, infested context, in a promontory of fear secluded from the world, inhabited by people who speak a raw language, permeated with sacredness, where the only law that ensures life or decrees death is the law of the mountain. At the same time, we want to show a love story that clashes so much with all of this and which – precisely for this reason - upsets the balance and leads to an inevitable war between two families.

Blood, passion, beasts. This is the scenario that makes the story unique, and while still drawing from the classical crime tropes, tells a romantic and desperate love story. Between two individuals of unusual beauty, so distant from the grim humanity that surrounds them that they may be able to free themselves, be something different elsewhere, but then get caught up in the blind rules of the feud.

Intrigues, betrayals and power struggles, in a black-and-white that was the choice for the

Movie right from the start. *I'll Eat Your Heart* had to be shot in black and white, I understood that right away. Black and white like the vital, visceral contrast that I wanted to put on the screen. Ancient, ancestral, animalistic. A world where blood is black.

And *I'll Eat Your Heart* is also a movie where blood gushes copiously, where the approach to action is marked by lasting rituals. My focus has been more on the wait before the ambush than on its actual unfolding, more on the repercussions, on the signs that affect the souls of the protagonists.

All in the vibrant awareness of walking on a still unexplored path, with the lively curiosity of those who explore and tell a magmatic matter, capable of producing a fiery and primitive tale.

Because *I'll Eat Your Heart* has been PROMISE and a CHALLENGE for me too.

## THE BOOK

Carlo Bonini, Giuliano Foschini

### **TI MANGIO IL CUORE**

**Into the Gargano abyss. A fierce tale.**

Published in 2019 *Ti mangio il cuore* was the first major investigation on the so-called “fourth mafia”, the one born and operating in the Gargano area and the province of Foggia, less known and talked about in Italy. The Pippo Mezzapesa movie was freely inspired by this book.

But what were the results of the trials?

Who was convicted?

Did the power of the Fourth Italian Mafia remain untainted?

These are some of the questions answered in the newly revised edition of the book published on the 30<sup>th</sup> of August.



For some time now, the Sicilian mafia, the Camorra and the 'Ndrangheta are no longer the only mob organizations in Italy. There is a fourth mafia, which made silence its strength, all while being the most powerful and the most ferocious of all of them. In the lands that extend from the Gargano region to San Severo, from Manfredonia to Cerignola, the families of the Foggia Society and the Montanari del Promontorio rule. Their spires have now extended into a huge international enterprise. Their violence is archaic and brutal. Their men “sign” their murders by shooting in the face of their victims, because disfigurement means erasure from memory. Some have been known to lick the blood of their victims, and some others got rid of the corpses by feeding them to pigs. People are born, grow up and die under the cult of revenge. Blood calls for more blood. Since the seventies, there have been more than four hundred murders, 80 percent of which are still unsolved. The numbers indicate a robbery a day, an extortion every forty-eight hours. It’s a mafia that knows no mercy even for children: it shoots to kill them, and uses them as a tool of revenge. It is a mafia that has focused on politics in order to control institutions. *"It's the biggest Italian criminal emergency, because it's the least known"*, as described by anti-mafia prosecutor Federico Cafiero De Raho.

In 2019 *Ti mangio il cuore* was a major exposé into this lesser known and told mafia in Italy. In recent years, many things have changed. Foggia and two other municipalities were dissolved for criminal infiltrations and then put under special administration. Finally, new collaborators appeared. The Luciani widows, the wives of innocent peasants killed in the massacre of San Marco in Lamis, have become the symbols of a battle and a rebirth. But the mafia doesn’t give up, and keeps shooting. It resists, always on the lookout for new business.

#### The Authors

Carlo Bonini was born in Rome in 1967, and he’s deputy director of the newspaper *La Repubblica*, where he arrived after working for *Il manifesto* and *Il Corriere della Sera*. He published two biographies: *La toga rossa* (1998), the story of judge Francesco Misiani, and *Il fiore del male* (1999), on the life of Renato Vallanzasca. He wrote the novelized reportage *Guantanamo* (2004), *Il Mercato della Paura*, written with Giuseppe D'Avanzo (2006), *ACAB. All Cops Are Bastards* (2009); *Suburra* (2013) with Giancarlo De Cataldo, *La notte di Roma* (2015); *Daphne Caruana Galizia. A State Murder* (2020, with Manuel Delia and John Sweeney). With Feltrinelli, he published *Il Corpo del Reato* (2016) and *L'isola assassina* (2018).

Giuliano Foschini is from Apulia, he was born in 1981 and is a special correspondent for the newspaper *La Repubblica*, where he has worked since 2006. He wrote *Quindici passi* (2009), *Lo Zingaro e lo scarafaggio* with Marco Mensurati (2012); he edited and curated *Il Contrario della Paura*, written by district anti-mafia prosecutor Franco Roberti (2016) and with Fabio Tonacci wrote *Jihadisti Italiani* (2018).

## **PIPPO MEZZAPESA**

Pippo Mezzapesa is a director and screenwriter. After a series of documentaries and short films – such as *Zinanà*, winner in 2004 with the David di Donatello award - in 2007 pens *Pinuccio Lovero* – *Sogno di una morte di mezza estate*, presented as a special event at the Critics' Week and then in competition at the IDFA. In 2011, his movie *Il paese delle spose infelici*, based on the eponymous novel by Mario Desiati, was selected for the Rome Film Festival, where Mezzapesa returns in 2012 with *Pinuccio Lovero - Yes I can*, within the Prospettiva Italia section. In 2018 he writes *Il bene mio*, presented at the Venice Film Festival during the Giornate degli Autori showcase.

2022 *Burning Hearts* (Ti mangio il cuore)

2018 *My Own Good* (Il bene mio)

2018 *La giornata* (short film)

2012 *Pinuccio Lovero Yes I can* (doc)

2012 *SettanTA*(doc)

2011 *Annalisa* (Il paese delle spose infelici)

2007 *Pinuccio Lovero – Sogno di una morte di mezza estate* (doc)

2006 *Like Cassano* (Short Film)

2004 *Zinanà* (Short Film)



## **ELODIE**

Elodie was born in 1990 in Quartaccio, a neighborhood on the outskirts of Rome. Music has been part of her life since childhood, and it's a passion that grows with her. Over the years, she has deepened her knowledge of different repertoires, experimenting with multiple styles and genres.

After participating in the 2015-2016 edition of the tv program "*Amici di Maria De Filippi*", in 2017 she competes for the first time in the Sanremo Festival with the song "Tutta colpa mia". Three years later, she competes again with "*Andromeda*" which marks her definitive consecration to the public. In the following months, the record project "*This is Elodie*" (which goes platinum) reaches the very important milestone of year's best-selling album from a female artist, and Elodie sets the record for Spotify's most listened female artist in 2020.

Over the years, Elodie has established herself with her results in terms of streams and certifications, and as of now she has already 20 platinum certifications. Critics and the general public have now learned to recognize her style, appreciating her versatility and talent.

In 2021 she's co-hosted the second evening of the 71st edition of the Sanremo Song Festival, during which she wins over the audience and consolidates her figure as a complete artist, capable of entertaining not only through her music. In the fall, she releases the single "*Vertigine*" (platinum) which is one of the hits of the season, and she begins her experience on the set of the movie "*Burning Hearts*" which represents the artist's feature debut.

Elodie opens 2022 with the single "Bagno a Mezzanotte" (double platinum) which tops the radio airplay charts for four weeks straight.

In June, she's the godmother of Rome's Pride March, of which "Bagno a Mezzanotte" is the anthem, and she releases "Tribale" (gold record), Elodie's summer hit and the artist's seventh consecutive single to reach the # 1 spot on radio charts.

## **FRANCESCO PATANÈ**

Francesco Patanè was born in Genoa in 1996. He began acting as a child at the La Quinta Praticabile school for acting, at the age of 21 he obtained an actor's diploma at the Scuola del Teatro Stabile in Genoa and was featured in various theatrical productions between Genoa and Rome.

At the age of only 26, Patanè has performed and starred in over 40 theatrical productions, including *Antigone* with Massimo Venturiello at the Ancient Theater of Taormina, *Eracle* at the Na Strastnom theater in Moscow, *Gradiva* by W. Jensen, directed by Daniela Ardini for the Lunaria theater.

The movie *Il Cattivo Poeta* by Gianluca Jodice, in which he performs alongside Sergio Castellitto, marks his debut on the big screen, and earns him the nomination for Best Supporting Actor at the Nastri d'Argento awards. *Il Cattivo poeta* has run in numerous festivals and at the Magna Grecia Film Festival, Patanè was awarded the Best Actor Award.

Pippo Mezzapesa's *Burning Hearts* is his second feature film.