

BERNARDO

BERTOLUCCI



OFFICIAL SELECTION
OUT OF COMPETITION
FESTIVAL DE CANNES



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ME AND YOU (IO E TE)

a film by
Bernardo Bertolucci

Based on the novel "IO E TE" by Niccolò Ammaniti
(published by Giulio Einaudi editore)

A production Fiction and Mario Gianani for Wildside in collaboration with Medusa Film
in association with Intesa Sanpaolo S.p.A.
with support from Regione Lazio
produced by Mario Gianani

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SYNOPSIS

Lorenzo is a quirky 14-year-old loner who has difficult relationships with his parents and peers. He decides to take a break from it all by hiding out in his building's neglected basement. No one has a clue that clever Lorenzo will actually be abandoning a school ski trip to be alone. For an entire week, he will finally avoid all conflict and pressure to be a "normal" teenager. He plans to live in perfect isolation with his favorite music, books and ant farm, an interesting alternative to watching TV.

But an unexpected visit from Lorenzo's older half-sister Olivia changes everything. Away for years, she plummets into the small basement room in search of some forgotten possessions. A worldly 25-year-old beauty, her problematic and fragile state upsets Lorenzo's total escape from reality. Their forced cohabitation in the basement's confined space brings forth confrontation and old resentments, but also a need for affection and intimacy. A few emotional days and nights with his sister Olivia will inspire Lorenzo to see the world through new eyes.



COMMENTS FROM BERNARDO BERTOLUCCI

When my forced immobility became my normality, I thought that my filmmaking days were over. The idea of not doing any more films meant closing one chapter and opening another one, but I didn't know what. It was a struggle for me to swallow the fact that I needed a wheelchair to move about. Little by little I learned the "art" of accepting my condition, and from that moment I knew that it was possible to make films from a different position than usual. Seated rather than standing. Having shot ME AND YOU I feel I'm back on the run and I'm ready to make another film as soon as possible.

Two years ago Niccolò Ammaniti brought me his novella "Io e Te" ("Me and You"), hot off the press. It's been 30 years since I made a film in Italian. I longed to hear Italian spoken in a film of mine, with Italian actors and to shoot in Italy. Reading the first few pages of the book, I felt a spark... of a new project... to become inevitably a movie. The novella's storyline had to change somewhat and had to go through several transformations. That's why I wanted Ammaniti next to me in the writing of the script, together with Umberto Contarello and Francesca Marciano. But some of the biggest differences between the novel and the film were not even in the screenplay. They happened during the shoot. It's the magic of cinema.

I was fascinated by the idea of transforming the obvious "claustrophobia" of a small, stuffy basement room into a form of "claustrophilia", the love of confinement in enclosed spaces. In ME AND YOU, I made sure that this one cellar had a different look in every scene, a basement storage room designed to be transformed by the boy, Lorenzo, and by the lighting. I wanted the space to constantly have a different feeling to it, so that one could see something new as the story progressed.

It took months of research to cast Lorenzo and Olivia. I met with practically every Italian actress of the female protagonist's age, some very famous and others completely unknown. The truth is I liked the idea of finding two new faces, never before seen in cinema.... As for Lorenzo, I couldn't count the number of boys we met. It had been a long time since I had gotten to know adolescents so closely. I wasn't able to imagine the face of Lorenzo. But I had no doubts when I saw the big eyes of Jacopo Olmo, his hair like Robert Smith of The Cure, that little face that made me think a bit of a young Malcolm McDowell, but also, mysteriously of a Pasolini character.

ME AND YOU is about the longings, disappointments, struggles and dreams of two young people. I guess many of my films have dealt with the youth and their specific emotional issues and states, from the most obvious, like THE DREAMERS, STEALING BEAUTY, but also even films like NOVECENTO, THE LAST EMPEROR, LITTLE BUDDHA. Now that I am over 70 I continue to be intrigued, by youthful characters and by the challenge of capturing their vitality, curiosity. I really saw Jacopo Olmo grow up in front of the camera during the 10 weeks of shooting. Maybe I am a case of arrested development!

I heard that "Ragazzo Solo, Ragazza Sola" for the first time a long time ago, on the radio of my car cruising down Los Angeles streets, without a destination. It was David Bowie singing in Italian and trying to contain his English accent. It was the Italian version of "Space Oddity". He sings "Ground Control to Major Tom, This is Major Tom to Ground Control, etc." In Italian, it becomes: "Tell me lonely boy where are you going because there's so much pain...". The Bowie science-fiction song turns into a romantic Italian song. The Italian lyrics are by Mogol whom I admire very much. He's a great lyricist and the Italian version of the song seems to have been written for that specific scene of ME AND YOU. In my movies, I always like to have a musical sequence. As the great American tradition of musicals taught us, music creates a unique moment where anything is possible.

I was excited to try out some new technologies that had evolved during my 10-year absence. I had even originally considered shooting ME AND YOU in 3D. We did several tests in Cinecittà. But the overall process is too slow for me. In my movies every shot gives birth to the next one, and that to the next one... There is no time for the laborious techniques involved in moving the two cameras of the 3D or simply changing the lenses. Maybe in a few years... I then considered shooting the film digitally. But that kind of uncontrollable sharpness was unbearable for me. I had never until then understood how much nostalgia for impressionism is contained in the 35mm so I decided to continue working with the old dear "pellicola".



BERNARDO BERTOLUCCI

Son of poet Attilio Bertolucci, Bernardo Bertolucci was born in Parma on March 16th, 1941. His family moved to Rome and Bernardo attended the College of Liberal Arts. In 1961, he served as Pier Paolo Pasolini's first assistant director for *Accattone*. Bertolucci made his directorial debut with *La commare secca* (The Grim Reaper), based on a subject by Pasolini. In 1964, he directed *Prima della rivoluzione* (Before the Revolution), a personal essay with which he begins to develop the subject of existential and political ambiguity which will continue in his movies in the '70s. The scandalous *Last Tango in Paris* marked the beginning of an enormous success which will continue with the historical epics *Novecento* (1900) and *The Last Emperor*, winner of nine Academy Awards. In the '90s, he returned to shoot in Italy with *Stealing Beauty* and *Besieged*. In 2003 he directed *The Dreamers*, a nostalgic return to 1968 Paris. Shortly after *The Dreamers*, severe back pain and several operations, rehabilitations and relapses prevented Bertolucci following through on any film. Every project, some very ambitious with big international casts, had to be shelved due to his medical condition. *Io e Te* (Me and You) is Bertolucci's first feature in 10 years, his first feature in Italian in 30 years. Bertolucci recently received a special Cannes Palme d'Or d'Honneur, a Venice Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement, and full retrospectives at London's BFI and New York's MOMA.



FILMOGRAPHY

1957	La Teleferica (The Cable) short
1958	La Morte del Maiale (Death of a Pig) short
1962	La Commare Secca (The Grim Reaper)
1964	Prima della Rivoluzione (Before the Revolution)
1966	La Via del Petrolio (Oil) documentary
1966	Il Canale (Canal) documentary
1968	Partner
1969	"Agonia" from omnibus film <i>Amore e Rabbia</i> (Love and Anger)
1970	Strategia del Ragno (The Spider's Stratagem)
1970	Il Conformista (The Conformist)
1971	I Poveri Muoiono Prima/La Salute Malata (The Poor Die First/Health is Sick) documentary
1972	Last Tango in Paris
1976	Novecento (1900)
1979	Luna
1981	La Tragedia di un Uomo Ridicolo (Tragedy of a Ridiculous Man)
1984	L'Addio a Enrico Berlinguer documentary
1985	Cartolina dalla Cina documentary
1987	The Last Emperor
1989	"Bologna" episode in omnibus film <i>12 registi per 12 città</i> (12 Directors, 12 Cities)
1990	The Sheltering Sky
1993	Little Buddha
1996	Stealing Beauty
1999	Besieged
2002	"Histoire d'eaux" ("History of Water") episode of omnibus film <i>Ten Minutes Older: The Cello</i>
2003	The Dreamers
2012	Io e Te (Me and You)



JACOPO OLMO ANTINORI in the role of LORENZO

Jacopo Olmo Antinori was born in Rome in 1997.

On television, Jacopo appeared in the *Raccontami 2* (dir. Riccardo Donna and Tiziana Aristarco). At the age of 10, he made his theatre debut in Shakespeare's "The Winter's Tale", a 2007 production by The Company/Teatro Silvano Toti Globe Theatre, directed by Francesco Manetti. In 2008 he appeared in the production of Aristophanes' "Plutus" by Teatro di Roma, directed by Massimo Popolizio and in 2009 in Brecht's "The Good Person of Szechwan" with Mariangela Melato, a production of Genova Teatro Stabile directed by Elio De Capitani and Ferdinando Bruni.

Jacopo is currently attending high school.

Bernardo Bertolucci's *Me and You* is his first film.

Listening to him I wondered if he was really only 14 years old like he said. From that moment on, he continued to open up. He was a kid but also a born actor, remarkably capable of comprehending direction. Only in the midst of his 14 years, but I've met few actors as professional as him.

BERNARDO BERTOLUCCI



TEA FALCO in the role of OLIVIA

Tea Falco was born in Catania, Italy. She started photography at the age of 13 when her mother gave her a Zenit camera. As a photographer she has won one of the most prestigious contemporary art awards in Italy: the Basilio Cascella Award in 2011. Her photographs have been exposed in the US, Greece and widely in Italy.

As an actress Tea appeared in several theatre productions between 2004–2008. She also appeared in a couple films, *Un angelo per amico* (2005, dir. Adriano Chiaramida) and *I Vicerè* (2007, dir. Roberto Faenza). Tea has a degree in Science of Communication and lives in Rome.

Olivia in Bernardo Bertolucci's *Me and You* is her first leading role.

The first time I met Tea Falco, I asked her: "What are you thinking?" And she replied: "That it would be nice not to have points of view. We would never argue." I ended up putting that line in the movie. She's really a very special girl.

BERNARDO BERTOLUCCI



MAIN CAST

Lorenzo	Jacopo Olmo Antinori
Olivia	Tea Falco
Arianna (The Mother)	Sonia Bergamasco
The Grandmother	Veronica Lazar
Ferdinando	Tommaso Ragno
The Psychologist	Pippo Delbono

MAIN CREW

<i>director</i>	Bernardo Bertolucci
<i>screenplay</i>	Niccolò Ammaniti, Umberto Contarello, Francesca Marciano, Bernardo Bertolucci
<i>based on the novel "IO E TE" by</i>	Niccolò Ammaniti (Giulio Einaudi editore)
<i>cinematography</i>	Fabio Cianchetti
<i>editing</i>	Jacopo Quadri
<i>production design</i>	Jean Rabasse
<i>costumes</i>	Metka Kosak
<i>music</i>	Franco Piersanti
<i>sound</i>	Remo Ugolinelli, Alessandro Palmerini
<i>casting & assistant director</i>	Barbara Melega
<i>production manager</i>	Fulvio Rossi
<i>line producer</i>	Olivia Sleiter
<i>producer</i>	Mario Gianani
<i>a production of</i>	Fiction and Mario Gianani for Wildside
<i>in collaboration with</i>	Medusa Film
<i>in association with</i>	Intesa Sanpaolo S.p.A.
<i>with support from</i>	Regione Lazio
<i>Italian distributor</i>	Medusa Film

2012, ITALY, 97 minutes, color

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