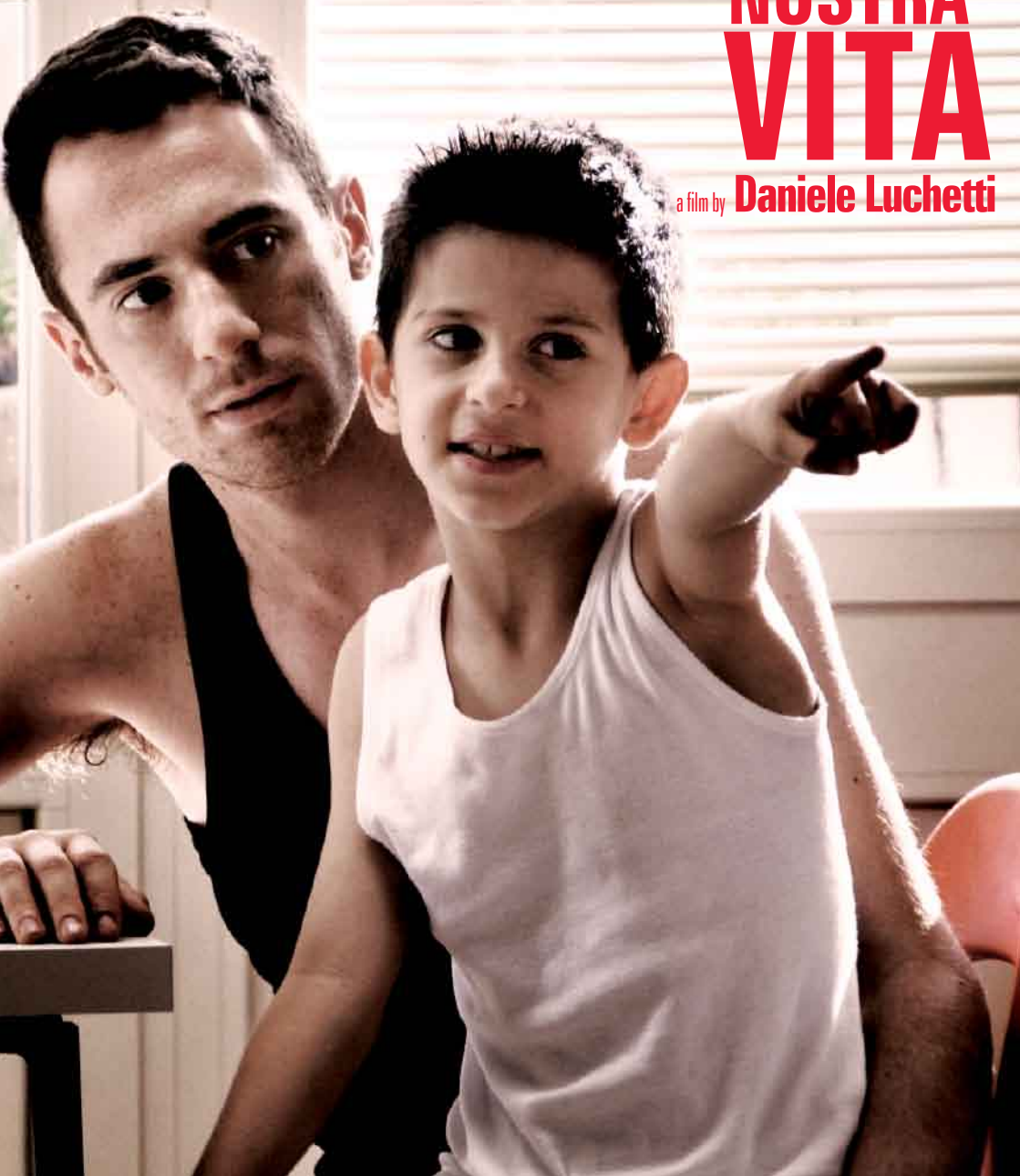




SÉLECTION OFFICIELLE
FESTIVAL DE CANNES
IN COMPETITION

LA NOSTRA VITA

a film by **Daniele Luchetti**



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SÉLECTION OFFICIELLE
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IN COMPETITION

Elio GERMANO
Raoul BOVA
Isabella RAGONESE
Luca ZINGARETTI
Stefania MONTORSI
Giorgio COLANGELI

a film by **Daniele Luchetti**

NOSTRA VITA

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Italy / 2010 / 98 min / Colour / Italian



SYNOPSIS

Claudio works on a site in the suburbs of Rome. He is madly in love with his wife who is pregnant with their third child. However, a dramatic event comes to upset this simple and happy life. In a rage for life, Claudio energetically fights against the injustice that fell upon him. Love and support from his friends and family as well as the laughter of his children will help him to triumph against the odds.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

How was “La Nostra Vita” born? I’d like to say: Whilst I was writing or filming, but that wouldn’t be true. This film almost certainly came about whilst I was making a documentary, for my own enjoyment, on how council accommodation was allocated to people in Ostia, people who had regular wages coming in, but which were too low to pay for normal housing. They weren’t poor, but they belonged to that population of Italians who only have one wage coming in which, at one time, would have been enough to live on correctly, but is nowadays insufficient. They have limited access to information – the television obviously being an exception to the rule – and they have no interest in culture. These families could well have been called “families in difficulty”. And yet, looking at them fairly, without bigotry, they have the same fears and doubts as anyone else. They talked about themselves and their lives with surprising irony and clarity, very rarely claiming they were victims. They might have been disillusioned but they were bursting with life.

Another inspiration: Israel, two years ago. I noticed lots of young families going for a walk, late in the evening. Couples who hadn’t yet reached their thirties but they already had two or three children. It is a beautiful utopia, unthinkable in our country. And that is how I decided to tell the story of a young family with three children, set in such a social class, which used to be called the working-class but no longer has a specific word to describe it today.

I felt that we hadn’t had a story about the life of such people told with honesty and objectivity for a long time. They had been present in our cinema for a long time, but nowadays we only see them sporadically.

As we wrote this story, Rulli, Petraglia and myself wanted to avoid giving a political message through our characters. We wanted to talk about them but we didn’t want to expound a social argument. Of course, a political interpretation, in the noble sense of the word, can be read into the film, but it is not the main motive. We have been extremely careful not to make our characters seem ridiculous, as has often been the case in Italian comedies.

We therefore decided to tell the saga of the De Rosa family, looking them straight in the eyes, as if we ourselves were part of their story. We gave them emotional processes that are usually only found in bourgeois family settings: grief, ambition, burning desire for revenge and denial of pain. We tried to get as close as possible to the truth and humanity of Claudio and his family. That is how we came to write, showing respect and affection, trying to avoid commiseration and indifference towards them, allowing the characters to make mistakes, letting them feel things sincerely without making them do things just to please us but simply letting them do what they were actually capable of doing, with their own strengths and weaknesses. That is how we made this film. During filming, the only motto was: breathe and live your characters freely. It is an organic story, a film that resembles a living organism.

I pretended to be the sole spectator of an event that was really happening, believing in the characters, listening to their reasoning, as if I hadn’t had a part in inventing them, choosing or directing them. It’s a film that doesn’t want to prove or explain anything, but it makes connections that I judge as fair. Using the camera as a thermometer, it might even gauge the country’s fever.

DANIELE LUCHETTI ON...

THE ACTORS

To interpret the three main families in the film, I tried to bring together a cast that would combine inner beauty and talent, a group of actors capable of bringing their own weaknesses and natural charm onto the set. There is Claudio's family (Elio Germano), Elena (Isabella Ragonese) and their children; Loredana and Piero (Stefania Montorsi and Raoul Bova), his brother and sister; the workman's family (Ahmhed Hafiene and Giorgio Colangeli); and finally the Romanian couple, made up of mother and son (Alina Madalina Berzunteanu and Marius Ignat) who play an important role in the main character's personal journey and achievements. I also wrote a biography for each character so that the actors could plunge into their past and present lives, and I asked them to use their own sensibility to develop on what was written in the screenplay.

THE SETS

The film sets are apartments that the characters would have personally chosen, in relation to how much they would cost to rent. Giancarlo Basili's sets reflect perfectly the lifestyle of people who earn a modest wage today.

THE COSTUMES

Maria Rita Barbera, the costume designer, decided to show the actors in a flattering light and make them attractive, occasionally taking things slightly to extremes, and by using brand names and colours. All of the characters in the film want to be attractive, and they all go to great lengths to achieve that, taking care of their bodies, taking care of their appearance, depending on their personal tastes.

PHOTOGRAPHY

With Claudio Collepicolino's natural light, a neighbourhood for a backdrop in which "Nobody has died", to quote Marquez from Macondo, the story naturally came to life in front of the camera. The children and workmen, who were mostly real workmen, gave the actors no option but to act naturally in the relaxed atmosphere on the set. Working with the camera was easy: I tried to capture everything that happened as if we were making a documentary. Ivan Casalgrandi's hand-held camera is fluid, curious and lively.

EDITING

Editing the film with Mirco Garrone was like putting together a new story because the material we had was full of nuances that were sometimes contrasting. It was about keeping the fine thread of a story that was almost a "non-story", letting it breathe and grow.

MUSIC

Franco Piersanti highlighted the subtle and hidden significations of certain scenes, without going overboard on effects, leaving room for the spectator's emotion and imagination.





DANIELE LUCHETTI

Director and scriptwriter

- 2010 LA NOSTRA VITA
Official Selection, Festival de Cannes, In Competition
- 2007 MY BROTHER IS AN ONLY CHILD
Official Selection, Festival de Cannes, Un Certain Regard
David di Donatello: best screenplay, best actor, best supporting actress, best sound
Nastro D'argento, best screenplay, best editing
- 2003 GINGER AND CINNAMON
- 2000 12 POMERIGGI (documentary-performance)
- 1998 LITTLE TEACHERS
Venice Film Festival, in competition
- 1995 LA SCUOLA
Annecy Film Festival
David di Donatello: best film of the year
- 1994 THE ONLY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD (collective film)
- 1993 ARRIVA LA BUFERA
- 1991 IL PORTABORSE
Official Selection, Festival de Cannes, In Competition
David di Donatello: best screenplay, best producer, best actor, best female supporting role
- 1990 THE WEEK OF THE SPHINX
San Sebastian Film Festival
- 1988 IT'S HAPPENING TOMORROW
Mention Caméra d'or at Cannes Film Festival
David di Donatello: best first film



SANDRO PETRAGLIA (screenplay)

- 2010 LA NOSTRA VITA by Daniele Luchetti
- 2009 FRONT LINE by Renato De Maria
- 2008 A PERFECT DAY by Ferzan Ozpetek
- 2007 MY BROTHER IS AN ONLY CHILD by Daniele Luchetti
- THE GIRL BY THE LAKE by Andrea Molaioli
- PIANO SOLO by Riccardo Milani
- 2005 ONCE YOU'RE BORN YOU CAN NO LONGER HIDE by Marco Tullio Giordana
- ROMANZO CRIMINALE by Michele Placido
- 2004 THE KEYS TO THE HOUSE by Gianni Amelio
- 2003 THE BEST OF YOUTH by Marco Tullio Giordana
- 2000 SUNDAY by Wilma Labate

STEFANO RULLI (screenplay)

- 2010 LA NOSTRA VITA by Daniele Luchetti
- 2007 MY BROTHER IS AN ONLY CHILD by Daniele Luchetti
- 2005 ONCE YOU'RE BORN YOU CAN NO LONGER HIDE by Marco Tullio Giordana
- KINGS OF CRIME by Michele Placido
- 2004 UN SILENZIO PARTICOLARE by Stefano Rulli
- 2003 THE BEST OF YOUTH by Marco Tullio Giordana

ELIO GERMANO (Claudio)

- 2010 LA NOSTRA VITA by Daniele Luchetti
- 2010 NINE by Rob Marshall
- 2009 LA BELLA GENTE by Ivano De Matteo
LA FINE È IL MIO INIZIO by Jo Baier
- 2008 AS GOD COMMANDS by Gabriele Salvatores
IL MATTINO HA L'ORO IN BOCCA by Francesco Patierno
IL PASSATO È UNA TERRA STRANIERA by Daniele Vicari
TUTTA LA VITA DAVANTI by Paolo Virzì
- 2007 MY BROTHER IS AN ONLY CHILD by Daniele Luchetti
NESSUNA QUALITÀ AGLI EROI by Paolo Franchi
- 2006 NAPOLEON AND ME by Paolo Virzì
- 2005 MARY by Abel Ferrara
MELISSA P by Luca Guadagnino
QUO VADIS, BABY ? by Gabriele Salvatores
ROMANZO CRIMINALE by Michele Placido
- 2004 SANGUE by Libero Di Rienzo
- 2003 CHE NE SARÀ DI NOI by Giovanni Veronesi
- 2002 LIBERI by Gianluca Maria Tavarelli
ORA O MAI PIÙ by Lucio Pellegrini
- 2001 RESPIRO by Emanuele Crialesi
ULTIMO STADIO by Ivano De Matteo
- 2000 UNFAIR COMPETITION by Ettore Scola



RAOUL BOVA (Piero)

- 2010 LA NOSTRA VITA by Daniele Luchetti
- 2010 SCUSA MA TI VOGLIO SPOSARE by Federico Moccia
- 2009 BAARIA by Giuseppe Tornatore
- 2008 15 SECONDS by Gianluca Petrazzi (actor and producer)
- ASPETTANDO IL SOLE by Ago Panini
- LA BELLA SOCIETÀ by Gian Paolo Cugno
- SBIRRI by Roberto Burchielli (actor and producer)
- SCUSA MA TI CHIAMO AMORE by Federico Moccia
- 2007 MILANO PALERMO - IL RITORNO by Claudio Fracasso (actor and producer)
- 2006 IO, L'ALTRO by Mohsen Melliti (actor and producer)
- Golden Globe 2007 Best Actor
- 3,87 by Valerio Mastandrea (producer)
- 2004 ALIEN VS PREDATOR by Paul W. S. Anderson
- LA FIAMMA SUL GHIACCIO by Umberto Marino
- 2003 FACING WINDOWS by Ferzan Ozpetek
- UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN by Audrey Wells
- 2002 AVENGING ANGELO by Martyn Burke
- 2000 I CAVALIERI CHE FECERO L'IMPRESA by Pupi Avati

ISABELLA RAGONESE (Elena)

- 2010 LA NOSTRA VITA by Daniele Luchetti
- 2010 DIECI INVERNI by Valerio Mieli
- 2009 OGGI SPOSI by Luca Lucini
- 2008 IL COSMO SUL COMO' by Marcello Cesena
- ASPETTANDO GODARD by Alessandro Aronadio
- VIOLA by Donatella Maiorca
- 2007 TUTTA LA VITA DAVANTI by Paolo Virzi
- 2005 GOLDEN DOOR by Emanuele Crialeso

LUCA ZINGARETTI (Ari)

- 2010 LA NOSTRA VITA by Daniele Luchetti
- 2010 NOI CREDEVAMO by Mario Martone
- IL FIGLIO PIÙ PICCOLO by Pupi Avati
- 2008 SANGUEPAZZO by Marco Tullio Giordana
- 2007 MY BROTHER IS AN ONLY CHILD by Daniele Luchetti
- TUTTE LE DONNE DELLA MIA VITA by Simona Izzo
- 2006 A CASA NOSTRA by Francesca Comencini
- 2005 NON PRENDERE IMPEGNI STASERA by Gian Luca Tavarelli
- 2004 I GIORNI DELL'ABBANDONO by Roberto Faenza
- 2003 L'ANELLO DI GOMMA by Ambrogio Lo Giudice
- ALLA LUCE DEL SOLE by Roberto Faenza
- 2000 TEXAS 1946 by Giorgio Serafini



STEFANIA MONTORSI (Loredana)

- 2010 LA NOSTRA VITA by Daniele Luchetti
- 2000 NORA by Pat Murphy
- 2003 GINGER AND CINNAMON by Daniele Luchetti

GIORGIO COLANGELI (Porcari)

- 2010 LA NOSTRA VITA by Daniele Luchetti
- 2009 LA DONNA DELLA MIA VITA by Luca Lucini
- LA NOSTRA VITA by Daniele Luchetti
- VENTI SIGARETTE by Aureliano Amadei
- 2008 ALZA LA TESTA by Alessandro Angelini
- BUTTERFLY ZONE by Luciano Capponi
- CE N'È PER TUTTI by Luciano Melchionna
- LA DOPPIA ORA by Giuseppe Capotondi
- MARE PICCOLO by Alessandro Di Robilant
- SI PUÒ FARE by Giulio Manfredonia
- 2007 COLPO D'OCCHIO by Sergio Rubini
- GALANTUOMINI by Edoardo Winspeare
- IL DIVO by Paolo Sorrentino
- LA SIGNORINA EFFE by Wilma Labate
- PARLAMI D'AMORE by Silvio Muccino
- SONO VIVA by Filippo and Dino Gentili
- 2006 CARDIOFITNESS by Fabio Tagliavia
- L'ARIA SALATA by Alessandro Angelini
- David di Donatello: 2007 best male supporting role
- 2005 IL GIORNO PIU' BELLO by Massimo Cappelli
- THE FRIEND OF THE FAMILY by Paolo Sorrentino
- 2004 DENTRO LA CITTÀ by Andrea Costantini
- GENTE DI ROMA by Ettore Scola
- L'ORIZZONTE DEGLI EVENTI by Daniele Vicari
- 2003 LAVORARE CON LENTEZZA by Guido Chiesa
- OGNI VOLTA CHE TE NE VAI by Davide Cocchi
- 2002 IL RONZIO DELLE MOSCHE by Dario D'Ambrosio
- PASSATO PROSSIMO by Maria Sole Tognazzi
- 2001 UN VIAGGIO CHIAMATO AMORE by Michele Placido
- 2000 UNFAIR COMPETITION by Ettore Scola

ALINA MADALINA BERZUNTEANU (Gabriela)

- 2010 9° IN PARIS by Peter Kerek
- ADALBERT'S DREAM by Gabriel Achim
- MORGEN by Marian Crisan
- LA NOSTRA VITA by Daniele Luchetti
- 2009 THE POLICE (T.V.) dir. Dragos Buliga
- 2009 BEFORE AND AFTER 22.12.1989 by Andrei Cohn
- 2008/2009 WAR OF THE SEXES (T.V.) dir. Peter Kerek
- 2008 THE DEATH OF MISTER LAZARESCU by Cristi Puiu
- 2008 THURSDAY by Hadrian Marcu
- 2007 OCCIDENT by Cristian Mungiu
- 2006 GRIGORE AND MARIETA by Catalin Cocris

MARIUS IGNAT (Andrei)

- 2010 LA NOSTRA VITA by Daniele Luchetti is his first film

AWA LY (Celeste)

- 2010 LA NOSTRA VITA by Daniele Luchetti
- 2008 BLACK AND WHITE by Cristina Comencini
- 2009 SLEEPLESS by Maddalena De Panfilis
- 2009 FRONT LINE by Renato De Maria
- 2010 VENTI SIGARETTE by Aureliano Amadei

EMILIANO CAMPAGNOLA (Vittorio)

- 2010 LA NOSTRA VITA by Daniele Luchetti
- 2001 VOCI by Franco Giraldi



CREW

A Film By
Screenplay

Daniele Luchetti
Sandro Petraglia
Stefano Rulli
Daniele Luchetti

Production designer Giancarlo Basili
Costume designer Maria Rita Barbera
Director of photography Claudio Collepicollo
Sound Bruno Puppato
Film editor Mirco Garrone
Music Franco Piersanti
Co-producer Fabio Conversi
Line producer Matteo De Laurentiis
Executive Producer Gina Gardini

Production CATTLEYA
In collaboration with RAI CINEMA
An Italian-French co-production with BABE FILMS
With support from CANAL+
With support from CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA CINEMATOGRAPHIE
ET DE L'IMAGE ANIMEE

Producers Ricardo Tozzi
Giovanni Stabilini
Marco Chimenz



CAST

Elio Germano (Claudio)
Raoul Bova (Piero)
Isabella Ragonese (Elena)
Luca Zingaretti (Ari)
Stefania Montorsi (Loredana)
Giorgio Colangeli (Porcari)
Alina Madalina Berzunteanu (Gabriela)
Marius Ignat (Andrei)
Awa Ly (Celeste)
Emiliano Campagnola (Vittorio)

