



FESTIVAL DE CANNES

SÉLECTION OFFICIELLE

COMPÉTITION

Pyramide, le Studio Canal and Babe Films present
Domenico Procacci and Nicola Giuliano present

THE FAMILY FRIEND

a Paolo Sorrentino film

An Italo-French co-production
Fandango and Indigo Film
with Medusa Film

In co-production with
Babe Films and Studio Canal
In Collaboration with CANAL +

running time: 1h50

French Distribution: Pyramide

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Stills from the film can be downloaded from: www.lepublicsystemecinema.com

THE FAMILY FRIEND

Crew

DIRECTOR.....PAOLO SORRENTINO
ORIGINAL IDEA and SCREENPLAY.....PAOLO SORRENTINO
CINEMATOGRAPHER.....LUCA BIGAZZI
EDITOR.....GIOGIO' FRANCHINI
SET DESIGNER.....LINO FIORITO
COSTUME DESIGNER.....ORTENSIA DE FRANCESCO
SOUND.....DAGHI RONDANINI
EMANUELE CECERE
CASTING DIRECTOR.....ANNAMARIA SAMBUCCO
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR.....DAVIDE BERTONI
ORGANIZATION.....VIOLA PRESTIERI
PRODUCTION MANAGERGENNARO FORMISANO
PRODUCED BY.....DOMENICO PROCACCI
NICOLA GIULIANO
FRANCESCA CIMA
PRODUCERS.....FANDANGO and INDIGO FILM
with MEDUSA FILM
Co-producers BABE FILMS and STUDIO CANAL
In Collaboration with CANAL +

Italy 2005

Color

Running Time: 1h50

Format: Scope

THE FAMILY FRIEND

Cast

Geremia.....	Giacomo Rizzo
Gino.....	Fabrizio Bentivoglio
Rosalba.....	Laura Chiatti
Saverio.....	Gigi Angelillo
Geremia's mother.....	Clara Bindi
Bingo's grandmother.....	Barbara Valmorin
Attanasio.....	Marco Giallini
Belana.....	Alina Nedelea
Saverio's wife.....	Roberta Fiorentini
Teasuro.....	Elias Schilton
Montanaro.....	Lorenzo Gioielli
Girl.....	Valentina Ladovini
Massa.....	Giorgio Colangeli
Giacomo.....	Geremia Longobardo
Saverio's brother-in-law.....	Fabio Grossi
Tiziana.....	Barbara Scoppa
Bingo's grandson.....	Lorenzo Sorrentino
Silvia.....	Luisa De Santis
Cashier.....	Lucia Ragni

THE FAMILY FRIEND

Synopsis

Geremia de' Geremei is 70. A usurer, ugly, filthy, rich and tight-fisted, cynical and ironic. He has a sick and obsessional relation with everything: his mother, his father, money, women. Life itself. That's why he thinks he's lonely. But in fact he is not alone.

They're all like him. We are all like him.

Director's Note

A long time ago, in Siberia, when it was at least ten below, on an excursion that felt more like a deportation, I clung to my seat in the bus running a fever of over a hundred.

But not them.

The bus stopped, and no one batted an eye.

She was very old, her son not far behind.

They couldn't give a damn about any of it. They just wanted to stroll around the tundra. They defied the bitter cold, hand in hand, skating almost in slow motion over the ice. I saw them gliding intimately, from behind, through the snow-covered trees in the immaculate Siberian white. When they got back on the bus, happy and frozen, the man started talking to another participant, another misfit like himself, and that's when I stared staring at his mother. She had rolled herself up in a ball of profound sadness. A jealous mummy filled with rage. She was thinking, I'm certain of it, that she had just lost, in one fell swoop, a son and a partner.

That is how the film was born, observing on the sly, for just a moment, a morbid, pathological relationship, one that was degenerate but also funny. At that instant, the idea of a double somersault came to me: to make a film both sickly and nimble, comic and dramatic. And with joyful recklessness, I threw myself into what a film, in my opinion, should always embody: a somersault.

A double or triple is even better. A difficult dive, a dive into humanity and its degeneracy.

Which are in fact a hendiadys.

Paolo Sorrentino

Paolo Sorrentino

Paolo Sorrentino was born in Naples in 1970.

In 1994, he wrote and directed a short film entitled *Un paradiso*, for which he won the festival prize at *Palermo Cinema* in 1995.

In 1996, he wrote, with Antonio Capuano, *Polvere di Napoli*, directed by Capuano, with Silvio Orlando.

In 1997, he won the *Solinas* prize with a screenplay entitled *Napoletani*.

In 1998, he wrote, with Umberto Contarello, a film entitled *La voce dell'amore*, produced by Rodeo Drive.

That same year, he wrote and directed a short film, *L'amore non ha confini*, that was produced by Indigo film. It was selected for the *Festival Cinema Giovani* in Turin, and the *N.I.C.E. Festival*, in both New York and San Francisco. It received the best short-film prize at the fifth edition of *Corto Circuito*.

He has written several episodes for the series *La squadra* for RAI-Pearson Television.

His first feature film, *L'Uomo in più*, won the "Made in Italy - Rai International" prize at *Solinas* (1999), was presented in competition in Venice in 2001, and received numerous prizes in Italy and abroad, including: the *Grolla d'oro* for best screenplay and best actor for Toni Servillo, who also recognition at the festivals of Annecy, Angers, and Seville; the *Nastro d'Argento* for best first film; *Ciak d'oro* for best screenplay; the *Amidei* prize for the screenplay; the *Casa Rossa* prize at the Bellaria Festival; the *Dolly d'Oro Giuseppe de Santis* at the Turin Festival; the *Linea d'Ombra* at the Salerno Festival; the jury prize at the Buenos Aires Festival.

In 2001, he wrote and directed *La notte lunga*, a short film presented at the Turin Film Festival.

In 2004, he wrote *Le Conseguenze dell'amore* ("The Consequences of Love"), presented in competition at the 57th Cannes Film Festival.

Among the many prizes received by the film in 2005: four *Nastri d'Argento* for best screenplay, best actor, best supporting actor, and best cinematography; five *David di Donatello* for best film, best director, best actor, best cinematography, and best screenplay; and five *Ciak d'oro* for best film, best director, best editor, best poster, and best cameraman.

Giacomo Rizzo

Giacomo Rizzo was born in Naples in 1939. He began acting in Portici at the *Arena Comunale* at the age of eight. He continued with Salvatore Golia presenting shows in the province of Naples.

He gave up the theater at 18 and started singing in nightclubs. He worked all over Italy, gaining experience as a dancer and as an MC of street theater.

In 1965, he joined the first *sceneggiata* (popular neopolitan drama) company organized by Leonardo Ippolito with Mario Merola. With "DAL VESUVIO CON AMORE" he returned to the theater in a more personal way, in comedy.

In 1967, before the death of Totò, he played a minor role in the film *OPERAZIONE SAN GENNARO*.

In 1968, he joined the Teatro Salone Margherita of Naples in the company of Rosalia Maggio. Sandro Bolchi called him in 1970 to offer him the role of Gennarenello in *Cappello del prete*. Also in 1970, the Naples TV center hired him for a big production, *IL BAMBOLOTTO*, directed by Eros Macchi. Then followed six films of the *Decameron*, and then a series of films with Edwige Fenech.

Still in 1970, he participated in Bernardo Bertolucci's *1900*, where he met a number of internationally renowned actors. After a few box-office hits, he worked with Nino Manfredi in *PANE E CIOCCOLATA* by Franco Brusati [Bread and chocolate].

He returned to his first love, the theater, in 1976. He had his first big success with *FRANCESCA DA RIMINI*, with the Giuffrè brothers. That same year, he worked in television with Ugo Gregoretti in *MA CHE COSE' QUEST'AMORE* with Roberto Benigni and Stefano Satta Flores. At the Sannazzaro theater, from 1981 to 1993, he worked with Luisa Conte and Carlo Taranto in nine very successful comedies, including: *CE PENSA MAMMÀ* by G. Di Maio, *SIGNORI BIGLIETTI*, *IMPRIESTEME A MUGLIERATA*, *ANGELAROSA SCHIAVONE*, and *LA FIGLIATA* by Viviani. In the early 1980s he also worked with Mario Merola in *ZAPPATORE*, *NAPOLI PALERMO NEW YORK*, *IL TRIANGOLO DELLA CAMORRA*, all by A. Brescia.

He made his debut as a theater director in 1987 with R. Ferrante at the SancaLUccio theater with *QUI SIAMO TUTTI PAZZI*, a life monologue with original music by Toni Sorrentino.

In the early 1990 s, he was taken on at the Delle Muse theater in Rome, where he directed three comedies: *TRE CAZUNE FORTUNATE - NON E VERO MA CI CREDO - QUARANTA MA NON LI DIMOSTRA*.

Since 1994, he has had a continuous series of successes at the Cilea theater, including: *ECCO FRANCESCA DA RIMINI* (that he entirely readapted) *UN MESE DI VILLEGGIATURA*, *QUANTA MBRUOGLIE PE NU FIGLIO*, *'E NEPUTE D'O SINDACO*, *SAN GIOVANNI DECOLLATO*, *IL MALOCCHIO*, *MISERIA E NOBILTA'*, *NON E' VERO MA CI CREDO* et *CAVIALE E LENTICCHIE*.

During the summer, he tours with several shows, including: *CIN CIN VARIETA'*, *A GENTILE RICHIESTA*; not to mention two more films: *PACCO*, *PACCOTTO E CONTROPACCOTTO*, directed by Nanni Loy, and *AITANIC* written and directed by Nino D'Angelo.

Laura Chiatti

Laura Chiatti was born in Castiglione del Lago, Perugia, in 1982.

She is best known in Italy for her participation in numerous sitcoms, including "Un posto al Sole" broadcast by Rai Tre (1999); "Angelo custode" (2000); "Compagni di scuola" and "Padri" (2001).

In 2002 she played in the television series "Casa Famiglia," and in 2003 she played the lead in the sitcom "Arrivano i Rossi" broadcast every evening in April on Italia Uno, as well as the lead in "Diritto di difesa," directed by Francesco Lazzotti and Donatella Maiorca.

In 2004 she takes part in the famous commercials for LAVAZZA coffee, with Luca Laurenti and Paolo Bonolis.

In 2005, she was voted "best young actress" at the Giffoni Film Festival.

FILMOGRAPHY:

- 1997: "Laura non c'è" with Rogers Nicolas and Nek
- 1998: "Pazzo d'amore" directed by Mariano Laurenti
- 1999: "Vacanze sulla neve" directed by Mariano Laurenti
- 2000: "Via del Corso" directed by Adolfo Lippi
- 2004: "Mai più come prima" by Giacomo Campiotti
- 2004: "Passo a Due" by Andrea Barzini
- 2006: "A casa nostra" by Francesca Comencini

Fabrizio Bentivoglio

Fabrizio Bentivoglio was born in Milan on January 4, 1957
He studied at the *Piccolo Teatro* school in Milan in 1976 and 1977

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

- 1990 **"UN AMERICANO ROSSO" (Red American)**
 directed by Alessandro D'Alatri
- 1992 **"LA FINE E' NOTA" (The end is known)**
 directed by Cristina Comencini
 grolla d'Oro for the film
 "UN'ANIMA DIVISA IN DUE" (A split soul)
 directed by Silvio Soldini
 coppa Volpi for best actor at the 50th Venice Film Festival
 grolla d'oro for the film
 ciak d'oro for best actor
- 1994 **"UN EROE BORGHESE" (Ordinary Hero)**
 directed by Michele Placido
- 1995 **"LA SCUOLA" (School)**
 directed by Daniele Luchetti
 "LIVER AIN'T CHEAP" (The Real Thing)
 directed by James Merendino
 "LE AFFINITA' ELETTIVE" (The Elective Affinities)
 directed by Paolo and Vittorio Taviani
 "PIANESE NUNZIO: QUATTORDICI ANNI A MAGGIO" (Sacred silence)
 directed by Antonio Capuano
- 1996 **"TESTIMONE A RISCHIO" (An eyewitness account)**
 directed by Pasquale Pozzessere
 David di Donatello for best actor
- 1997 **"LA PAROLA AMORE ESISTE" (Notes of Love)**
 directed by Mimmo Calopresti
 "DEL PERDUTO AMORE"
 directed by Michele Placido
- 1998 **"L'ETERNITA' E UN GIORNO" (Eternity and a Day)**
 directed by Theo Angelopoulos
 "THE MISSING"
 directed by Manuela Alberti
- 1999 **"LA BALIA" (The Nanny)**
 directed by Marco Bellocchio
 "THE MAGICIANS"
 directed by James Merendino
- 2000 **"LA LINGUA DEL SANTO" (Holy tongue)**
 directed by Carlo Mazzacurati
- 2002 **"A CAVALLO DELLA TIGRE" (Riding the Tiger)**
 directed by Carlo Mazzacurati
- 2003 **"RICORDATI DI ME" (Remember Me)**
 directed by Gabriele Muccino
- 2004 **"L'AMORE RITORNA" (Love returns)**
 directed by Sergio Rubini

- 2005 "LA TERRA"
directed by Sergio Rubini
- 2005 "L'AMICO DI FAMIGLIA" (The Family Friend)
directed by Paolo Sorrentino

THEATER

- 1978 "TIMON OF ATHENS" by William Shakespeare
directed by Carlo Rivolta
"THE TEMPEST" by William Shakespeare
directed by Giorgio Strehler at the *Piccolo* in Milan
- 1979 "LES PARENTS TERRIBLES" by Jean Cocteau
directed by Franco Enriquez at the *Quirino* in Rome
- 1980 "PRIMA DEL SILENZIO" by G. Patroni Griffi
directed by Giorgio De Lullo at the *Eliseo* in Rome
- 1981 "L'AVARE" by Molière
directed by Mario Scaccia
- 1982 "LA VERA STORIA" by L. Berio and Italo Calvino
directed by Maurizio Scaparro at *La Scala* in Milan
"GLI AMANTI DEI MIEI AMANTI SONO MIEI AMANTI"
written and directed by G. Patroni Griffi
- 1983 "METTI UNA SERA A CENA"
written and directed by G. Patroni Griffi
- 1985 "D'AMORE SI MUORE"
written and directed by G. Patroni Griffi
- 1987 "ITALIA GERMANIA 4 A 3" by Umberto Marino
directed by Sergio Rubini
- 1999/2000 "THE TEMPEST" by William Shakespeare
directed by Giorgio Barberio Corsetti

Luca Bigazzi
CINEMATOGRAHER

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

- 1992 "Morte di un matematico napoletano" directed by Mario Martone
(Death of a Neapolitan Mathematician)
- 1993 "Un'anima divisa in due" directed by Silvio Soldini **(A split soul)**
- 1993 "Veleno" directed by Bruno Bigoni
- 1994 "L'America" directed by Gianni Amelio
- 1995 "Lo zio di Brooklyn" directed by Daniele Ciprì, Franco Maresco **(The Uncle from Brooklyn)**
- 1995 "L'amore molesto" directed by Mario Martone **(Nasty Love)**
- 1995 "Un eroe borghese" directed by Michele Placido
- 1996 "Correre contro" directed by Antonio Tibaldi **[Running against]**
- 1996 "Testimone a rischio" directed by Pasquale Pozzessere **[An eyewitness account]**
- 1996 "Luna e l'altra" directed by Maurizio Nichetti
- 1997 "Le acrobate" directed by Silvio Soldini **[The acrobats]**
- 1997 "I vesuviani" directed by Antonio Capuano, Pappi Corsicato **[The Vesuvians]**
- 1998 "L'albero delle pere" directed by Francesca Archibugi **[Shooting the moon]**
- 1998 "Così ridevano" directed by Gianni Amelio **[The Way We Laughed]**
- 1998 "Totò che visse due volte" directed by Daniele Ciprì, Franco Maresco
[Toto Who Lived Twice]
- 1998 "Claudine's return" directed by Antonio Tibaldi **[Kiss of fire]**
- 1998 "Il mare di sotto" directed by Sandro Dionisio
- 1999 "Tipota" directed by Fabrizio Bentivoglio
- 1999 "Questo è il giardino" directed by Giovanni Davide Maderna
- 1999 "Fuori dal mondo" directed by Giuseppe Piccioni **Not of This World**
- 2000 "Domani" directed by Francesca Archibugi
- 2000 "Lupo Mannaro" directed by Antonio Tibaldi
- 2000 "Pane e tulipani" directed by Silvio Soldini **Bread and Tulips**
- 2000 "Preferisco il rumore del mare" directed by Mimmo Calopresti
I Prefer the Sound of the Sea
- 2002 "La forza del passato" directed by Piergiorgio Gay **[The power of the past]**
- 2001 "Le parole di mio padre" directed by Francesca Comencini
- 2001 "Brucio nel vento" directed by Silvio Soldini **[Burning in the wind]**
- 2001 "Un altro mondo è possibile" [directed by Divers Auteurs **Another world is possible]**
- 2002 "Un viaggio chiamato amore" directed by Michele Placido **[A journey called love]**
- 2003 "Le chiavi di casa" directed by Gianni Amelio **The Way We Laughed**
- 2003 "Le conseguenze dell'amore" directed by Paolo Sorrentino - **The Consequences of Love**
- 2003 "Mi piace lavorare (Mobbing)" directed by Francesca Comencini **I Like to Work**
- 2003 "Carlo Giuliani ragazzo" directed by Francesca Comencini **Carlo Giuliani, Boy**
- 2004 "Ovunque sei" directed by Michele Placido
- 2004 "L'amore ritrovato" directed by Carlo Mazzacurati **An Italian Romance**
- 2005 "Romanzo Criminale" directed by Michele Placido
- 2005 "La Guerra di Mario" directed by Antonio Capuano