

ROSAMONT RAI CINEMA and STARAGARA

in collaboration with
MINIMUM FAX MEDIA and TUCKER FILM

PRESENT

WHAT A LIFE

DIRECTED BY
GIUSEPPE BATTISTON

inspired by Gustave Flaubert's novel
"Bouvard and Pécuchet"

WITH
Giuseppe Battiston
Rolando Ravello
Teco Celio
Diane Fleri
Ariella Reggio
Alfonso Santagata

International sales: Fandango Sales

non-contractual credits

WHAT A LIFE

CAST

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Fausto Biasutti</i> | GIUSEPPE BATTISTON |
| <i>Fausto Perbellini</i> | ROLANDO RAVELLO |
| <i>Father Walter</i> | TECO CELIO |
| <i>Seraphine</i> | DIANE FLERI |
| <i>Mrs. Gina</i> | ARIELLA REGGIO |
| <i>Santucci</i> | ALFONSO SANTAGATA |
| <i>Atos</i> | MAURIZIO FANIN |
| <i>Folco Ghiandola</i> | GIOVANNI FRANZONI |
| <i>Remigio</i> | ROBERTO ABBIATI |
| <i>Maicol</i> | PIERLUIGI CANTINI |
| <i>Perbellini's Mother</i> | IDA MARINELLI |
| <i>Khadija</i> | EVELINA MEGHNAGI |
| <i>Library Boy</i> | FILIPPO TIRABASSI |
| <i>Ghiandola's Assistant</i> | SERENA COSTALUNGA |
| <i>Arturo</i> | MICHELANGELO VITULLO |
| <i>Library Girl</i> | LUCIENNE PERRECA |
| <i>Tavern Owner</i> | GABRIELE BENEDETTI |
| <i>Serafine's Child</i> | CHLOE DI BLASI |
| <i>Serafine's Child</i> | RAMI DANIEL SAMIR GRASSET |
| | |
| | and with |
| <i>Tree Woman</i> | CLAUDIA DELLA SETA |
| | |
| | with the participation of |
| <i>Demetrio Zagolin</i> | ROBERTO CITRAN |

WHAT A LIFE

CREDITS

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|--------------------------------|---|
| <i>Directed by</i> | GIUSEPPE BATTISTON |
| <i>Written by</i> | MARCO PETTENELLO |
| | GIUSEPPE BATTISTON |
| <i>Inspired by the novel</i> | “Bouvard and Pécuchet” by Gustave Flaubert |
| <i>Director Of Photography</i> | DUCCIO CIMATTI |
| <i>Production Designer</i> | MAJA MORAVEC |
| <i>Costume Designer</i> | SALVATORE ARESU |
| <i>Sound</i> | GIANDOMENICO PETILLO |
| <i>and</i> | GIANLICA COSTAMAGNA |
| <i>Editor</i> | GIUSEPPE TREPICCIONE |
| <i>Music</i> | PASQUALE CATALANO |
| <i>Produced by</i> | ROSAMONT |
| | RAI CINEMA |
| | STARAGARA |
| <i>Producers</i> | MARICA STOCCHI for ROSAMONT |
| | MIHA ČERNEC for STARAGARA |
| <i>Length</i> | 104 minutes |
| <i>Italian Distributor</i> | ADLER FILM |
| <i>International Sales</i> | FANDANGO SALES |

WHAT A LIFE

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Fausto Perbellini and Fausto Biasutti are middle-aged loners who strike up an unlikely friendship on account of a shared first name. They share a common goal: living a frugal life in the countryside, since they want to escape from Rome's hustle. After their relocation into the Biasutti's inherited house in the Friuli' hills, they clumsily attempt to farm, while trying to ingratiate themselves with the local folk. What doesn't kill you makes you stronger, and Perbellini and Biasutti grow from their mistakes. They learn how to listen to nature, how to love, and how to build community with others. Ultimately, they win the greatest of all rewards: the gift of true friendship.

LONG SYNOPSIS

Fausto Perbellini and Fausto Biasutti are middle-aged loners who strike up an unlikely friendship on account of a shared first name. They share a common goal: living a frugal life in the countryside, since they want to escape from Rome's hustle.

When Biasutti inherits his grandmother's old house in the hills of northeastern Italy, it is a chance to finally make that dream come true. In a short time, the two are persuaded to give up their jobs, homes and old habits and relocate just outside the small village of Valvana.

Biasutti has many memories in Valvana; he recognizes everyone, but no one seems to recognize him. The Valvanese, in fact, do not accept the two newcomers and no one speaks to them, except for Gina, the elderly neighbor who would like to buy Biasutti's grandmother's house, and two bizarre brothers, Remigio and Maicol, two 50-year-olds who have remained a bit of a child and whom the other Valvanese consider as the village fools; then there is the priest, Father Walter, the figurehead of all the villagers.

Biasutti and Perbellini, full of positive energy and good feelings, continue to work on their dream of self-sufficiency. Perbellini falls in love with the village pharmacist, Biasutti becomes passionate about alternative farming, but they also commit mistakes, and because of this, disagreement between the two friends begins to creep in subtly as things become more difficult and resources become scarce.

After a big party organized to toast their first beer production-which unfortunately does not fully succeed-there is an initial argument that will push Perbellini to a drastic decision, to abandon his friend. But he will return, and they will try again together, argue again and make up again, finally finding a way to grow up, listen to each other, and no longer be alone.

WHAT A LIFE

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

This film is a fairy tale. A contemporary fairy tale imagined and written to work together.

Together with Flaubert who in first, creating these two epic characters in their tragic comedy, made me want to tell them.

Together with Marco Pettecello, with whom I wrote the subject and screenplay and with whom I found a way to take Bouvard and Pecuchet, put them in the contemporary clothes of Biasutti and Perbellini, and wrap them in a story that does not want- as Flaubert does- to mock encyclopedic knowledge, but to tell about two solitudes and a friendship.

Together with the actors, with whom I created an unique language made of images and relationships.

And then together with Carlo Mazzacurati and his poetic and visionary world that I carry in my heart. I certainly never thought of tracing his style, which is inimitable. I felt and wanted, however, to pay homage to a certain kind of cinema of which Carlo was a wonderful expression.

Together, ultimately, with all the people I involved to accompany me on this journey,

WHAT A LIFE is a fairy-tale with its own language and unique imaginary world. It's an examination of the human soul, with a wry smile.

How often do we feel unhappy about the world around us? And how often do we actually try to change it? Biasutti and Perbellini are heroes because despite their place in the world and advancing years they haven't given up and still search for a better way.

Their optimism isn't built on strong foundations. Their ideal of Arcadian country life crumbles when they experience the harsh reality of farming. On the land, there are no shortcuts or quick fixes. Nature, they learn, is as cruel and unforgiving as anything in the city.

Yet, as if by magic, Nature can provide unexpected surprises.

And after many failures, Biasutti and Perbellini will find their own way. They will find it.

WHAT A LIFE

GIUSEPPE BATTISTON

(director, screenwriter, actor)

Giuseppe is an Italian actor and business partner in Rosamont. He has appeared in more than 50 films since 1990, winning three David di Donatello and two Silver Ribbons (with more than ten Nominations) among other awards.

After graduating from the Scuola d'Arte Drammatica Paolo Grassi in Milan, he began his flourishing collaboration with director Silvio Soldini with whom he shot 6 feature films. In cinema he gains the audience's sympathy by starring in the film BREAD AND TULIPS, for which he won David di Donatello and Ciak d'Oro awards as best supporting actor. Among others, Giuseppe works with Roberto Benigni, Cristina Comencini, Carlo Mazzacurati, Gianni Zanasi, Andrea Segre, Antonio Padovan and Matteo Oleotto.

In 2016, Giuseppe featured in the ensemble cast of PERFECT STRANGERS by Paolo Genovese, which netted €17million at the Italian box office and won David di Donatello award for best film and best original screenplay. In 2018 Giuseppe appeared in the US TV drama series TRUST, directed by Danny Boyle.

On stage, Giuseppe often appears as Shakespeare's Falstaff and Macbeth. He has transformed himself into Orson Welles for ORSON WELLES' ROAST, and most recently starred in WINSTON VS. CHURCHILL. Giuseppe has written and directed several stage plays and directed a short film.

In 2021 Giuseppe made his directorial debut with the feature film WHAT A LIFE.

PRINCIPAL FILMOGRAPHY AS ACTOR

- *Billy, Emilia Mazzacurati (2022)
- *I Peggiori giorni, Edoardo Leo (2022)
- * Il Principe di Roma, Edoardo Falcone (2021)
- * WAR. La guerra desiderata, Gianni Zanasi (2021)
- * Pinocchio, Robert Zemeckis (2021)
- * Io vivo altrove!, Giuseppe Battiston (2020)
- * È per il tuo bene, Rolando Ravello (2020)
- * Il grande passo, Antonio Padovan (2019) Best Actor award at the Torino Film Festival
- * Stay Still, Elisa Mishto (2019)
- * Hotel Gagarin, Simone Spada (2018)
- * Troppa Grazia, Gianni Zanasi (2018)
- * Tu mi nascondi qualcosa, Giuseppe Lo Console (2018)
- * Io c'è, Alessandro Aronadio(2018)
- * L'ordine delle cose, Andrea Segre (2017)
- * Finché c'è prosecco c'è speranza, Antonio Padovan (2017)
- * Perfetti sconosciuti, Paolo Genovese (2016 Nastro d'Argento 2016 Best Cast)
- * La felicità è un sistema complesso, Gianni Zanasi, (2015)
- * Come il peso dell'acqua, Andrea Segre (2014)
- * La prima neve) Andrea Segre (2013)
- * La sedia della felicità, Carlo Mazzacurati (2013)
- * Zoran, il mio nipote scemo, Matteo Oleotto (2013)

Premio Federa - Menzione Speciale Settimana Internazionale della Critica

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- * Il comandante e la cicogna, Silvio Soldini (2012)
- * Io sono Li, Andrea Segre (2011)
- * Bar Sport, Massimo Martelli (2011)
- * Senza arte né parte, Giovanni Albanese (2011)
- * Notizie degli scavi, Emidio Greco (2010)
- * Cosa voglio di più, Silvio Soldini (2010)
- * La Passione) Carlo Mazzacurati (2010) DAVID DI DONATELLO AWARD 2011 as best supporting actor / BIFF&st: ALBERTO SORDI AWARD
- * Giorni e nuvole, Silvio Soldini (2007)
- * Non pensarci, Gianni Zanasi (2007) DAVID DI DONATELLO AWARD 2009 as best supporting actor
- * La giusta distanza, Carlo Mazzacurati (2007)
- * Le pere di Adamo, Guido Chiesa (2007)
- * A casa nostra, Francesca Comencini (2006)
- * La tigre e la neve, Roberto Benigni (2005)
- * La bestia nel cuore, Cristina Comencini (2005)
- * Agata e la tempesta, Silvio Soldini (2004)
- * La meglio gioventù, Marco Tullio Giordana (2003)
- * Pane e tulipani), Silvio Soldini (2000) DAVID DI DONATELLO AWARD 2000 as best supporting actor / CIAK D'ORO AWARD
- * Chiedimi se sono felice, Aldo Baglio and Giacomo Poretti (2000)
- * Le acrobate, Silvio Soldini (1997)
- * Un'anima divisa in due, Silvio Soldini (1993)

WHAT A LIFE

MARCO PETTENELLO

(screenwriter)

Marco Pettenello is an Italian screenwriter born in Padova, Italy, in 1973.

Partly educated in a British private school (Atlantic College, South Glamorgan, 1990-92), he lived in Great Britain, Spain and Argentina.

Professionally he grew up with Carlo Mazzacurati with whom he wrote HOLY TONGUE (La lingua del Santo) in 2000, THE RIGHT DISTANCE (La giusta distanza) in 2007, PASSION (La passione) in 2010 and LA SEDIA DELLA FELICITÀ in 2013.

He wrote with Francesco Lagi the comedy MISSIONE DI PACE (2011), with Andrea Segre SHUN LI AND THE POET (Io sono Li) in 2011, FIRST SNOWFALL (La prima neve) in 2013 and THE ORDER OF THINGS (L'ordine delle cose) in 2017. With Silvio Soldini he wrote THE COMMANDER AND THE STORK (Il comandante e la cicogna). In 2013 he worked on Matteo Oleotto's ZORAN, MY NEPHEW THE IDIOT (Zoran, il mio nipote scemo) in 2014. He wrote the latest films by Antonio Padovan, Chiara Malta and Gianni Di Gregorio.

In the early 2000s he translated some novels from English, including Thomas Hardy's UNDER THE GREENWOOD TREE and Robert Louis Stevenson's THE SUICIDE CLUB.

He has taught and teaches screen playing in various academical institutions, including the Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia in Rome, the University of Roma Tre and the University of Venice. He has worked as a script consultant for various companies in Italy and abroad, including KS Films in Argentina and Aeternam Film in France.

WHAT A LIFE

ROSAMONT

Rosamont is an Italian film production company founded in 2018 by Marica Stocchi and Giuseppe Battiston.

In 2020 the company filmed "**The Macaluso Sisters**" directed by Emma Dante, co-produced with Rai Cinema and Minimum Fax Media (in competition at the 77th Venice International Film Festival and winner of 5 Nastri d'Argento: Best Film, Best Director, Best Production; Best Sound, Best Editing); "**Here we are**" by Nir Bergman (Cannes Film Festival Official Selection 2020) and "**Honeymoon**" directed by Talya Lavie (Tribeca 2020) both co-produced with Spiro Films.

The most recent minority is "**Ordinary Failures**" a psychological drama, Cristina Grosan's directorial debut, co-produced with Czech company Xova Film, in competition at the Venice Days of the 79th Venice International Film Festival and winner of the Best Director under 40 - Valentina Pedicini Award (2022).

Soon in theatres: "**What a Life**" directorial debut of Giuseppe Battiston, made in co-production with Staragara (Slovenia).