

WHERE THE WATERS FLOW TOGETHER

A film by Anna Di Francisca

PRESSKIT

LOGLINE

And yet, Lorenzo has a dream: to repopulate his town and bring it back to life... now more than ever, after the earthquake destroyed his holiday farm.

SYNOPSIS

An isolated mountain village, shattered by a terrible earthquake... its rebirth prevented by bureaucracy. When reality is too hard to face, dreams are all that's left. In a little village in Umbria, Lorenzo dreams of opening a restaurant whose intoxicating and evocative flavours can transform a dismal present day into a tomorrow as brightly-coloured as the plain of Castelluccio. As they tackle conflict, prejudice and even opium plantations, and narrowly avoid falling in love with a beautiful swindler, Lorenzo and his cooks take us on a journey through a dream. A little revolution that marks the beginning of a new era.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

"Where the waters flow together" was born from a shared desire, together with many friends from Umbria, to "be reborn," not only to rebuild, after having lived through the 2016 earthquake together. This painful reality pushed me to develop a story that moved in the opposite direction: toward optimism, a positive outlook that reflects the energy and resilience of the people I lived with, and through whom I imagined both the present and the future.

Thus a "sophisticated comedy" came to life, in which the theme of repopulation intertwines with that of exchange between different cultures, between those who stubbornly chose to stay and those who arrive here in search of a future. Between evacuees and refugees there are many points in common, and it is in this corner of the world, so harshly affected, that I bring them together, weave their stories, and watch them share a dream, day after day. And the future will belong to everyone and to each individual.

One can welcome others without fearing the loss of something of oneself, without giving up everything that is rooted in the land and has become, precisely, a heritage to be defended, a legacy not to be squandered. The film speaks of respect in an absolute sense: respect for others no less than for the environment.

The "final" village is a sort of "ideal village," imagined like a One Thousand and One Nights place, almost fairytale-like, where harmony and beauty inhabit every corner and where people rediscover their own dimension, in contact with a friendly nature.

The Plain of Castelluccio, the ideal stage for this film, is a unique place, where it seems that nothing happens, yet the relationship with nature and the changing seasons is intense and deeply engaging. The fiorita, the spectacular summer blooming, which draws visitors from all over the world every year, is its crowning moment.

The future of these places will even give rise to multiethnic architectures: when homes are rebuilt, everything will take on a new flavor. The past is an invaluable gift; the future can be a beautiful surprise. One must believe in it—just look at that plain; its splendor is contagious.

The title, "Where the waters flow together," refers to the characteristic of certain areas where karst water springs periodically disappear and reappear. The most recent case occurred precisely with the earthquake of October 30, 2016, after which a stream, the Torbidone, absent for about forty years,

began flowing again with great force. Just like the waters, the events and characters of the film intermingle, submerge, and reemerge in these places so deeply imbued with magic.

ANNA DI FRANCISCA

Anna Di Francisca was born in Milan and holds a degree from the DAMS School of Arts, Music and Theatre as well as a diploma in direction from the Alebdo School of Cinema in Milan where she met Giuseppe Bertolucci and Gianni Amelio, who became her mentors. After initially working in advertising and documentaries in Milan, she moved to Rome to concentrate on directing. She directed several television programmes and “Il mondo di Mad” a documentary on fashion illustrator Maddalena Sisto featuring animated sequences before making her feature debut with the comedy “La bruttina stagionata”, followed by “Fate un bel sorriso”, “Due uomini, quattro donne e una mucca depressa” (“Like Shooting Stars”), “Evelyne tra le nuvole”.

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

2023: Evelyn tra le nuvole, feature film

2012: Due uomini, quattro donne e una mucca depressa, feature film

2012: Il mondo di Mad, documentary

2000: Fate un bel sorriso, feature film

1996: La bruttina stagionata, feature film

TECNICAL DATA

Length: 108’

Format: DCP, colore,

Language: Italian

Year of production: 2026

Country of origin: Italy, Slovenia

Genre: drama

CAST

LORENZO FAUSTO RUSSO ALESI

SILVIA JAELE FO

ELSA LUCIA VASINI

IBRI SIDY DIOP

AUGUSTA IDA SANSONE

KOCO IGOR ŠTAMULAK

TALAL KEL GIORDANO

CREW

Director: Anna Di Francisca

Story: Anna Di Francisca

Script: Anna Di Francisca, Laura Fischetto

Cinematography: Sara Purgatorio CCS, AMC

Production Design: Luciano Cammerieri

Costumes: Susanna Ferrando

Make-up: Maria Chiara Compagnucci

Editing: Davide Miele

Sound Design: Andrea Malavasi
Music: Paolo Perna
Producers: Marta Zaccaron, Fabiana Balsamo
Co-Producers: Igor Pediček, Tanja Prinčič, Jure Tržan

Produced by
Incipit Film

In co-production with
CASABLANCA
KOREKTIF
RTV SLOVENIA

Supported by
Fondo Audiovisivo del Friuli Venezia Giulia
Regione FVG
Umbria
MiC