



FESTIVAL DE CANNES



Technical Information

Working Title: Un anno di scuola
English Title: One Year of School
Director: Laura Samani
Screenplay: Elisa Dondi and Laura Samani
Nationality: Italy
Genre: Drama, Coming of Age
Format: Digital
Duration: 100 min
Shooting Location: Trieste, Italy

Production Company: Nefertiti Film
Via P. Amaleto, 68/B
33078 San Vito al Tagliamento (PN), Italy
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Producer: Nadia Trevisan
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Partners: Rai Cinema, FVG Audiovisual Fund,
MiC - DGCA

Director's Information

Laura Samani was born in 1989 in Trieste, an Italian border town where Mediterranean, Slavic and Germanic cultures intertwine. She holds a BA in Cinema and Communication Studies at the University of Pisa. She graduated in film directing at Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia di Roma with the short film ***La santa che dorme***, premiered at Cannes Cinéfondation in 2016, then screened and awarded in several international Festivals. Her first feature film ***Piccolo corpo*** premiered at *La Semaine de la Critique* in Cannes in 2021. The film has collected more than 40 awards all over the world; it was declared best debut film at the David di Donatello 2022 and won the Discovery Prix Fipresci 2022 at the European Film Awards. The Union of Italian Film Critics (SNCCI) declared it Film of the Year 2022.

Piccolo Corpo (*Small Body*, 89')
· Semaine de la critique, Cannes 2021,
· Best new director David di Donatello 2022,
· Discovery Prix Fipresci European Film Awards 2022,
· Film of the year 2022 (SNCCI).

La Santa che dorme (*The Sleeping Saint*, 19')
· Cinéfondation, Festival de Cannes 2016.

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a film by Laura Samani

Laura Samani

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Festival de Cannes, La Résidence

Since 2000, La Résidence du Festival de Cannes has provided each year accommodation and support to 12 selected young directors in order to help them prepare their first or second feature film. These young filmmakers are selected on the basis of their short films, or even first feature film, and the merits of their feature film project.

During their 4-and-a-half-month stay in Paris, they work on the writing of their feature film project, have meetings with professionals and try, with the support of the Festival de Cannes, to bring their project to co-production status.

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One Year of School

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SYNOPSIS

September 2007, Trieste, North-east Italy. Fred, an exuberant and brave girl of seventeen, arrives in town and enrolls in her High School Senior Year. She finds herself as the only girl in an all-male class and quickly becomes the center of attention, especially for three friends: Pasini, cocky womanizer; Mitis, gruff and sagacious and Antero, charming and reserved. The three have belonged to each other for as long as they can remember. Fred's arrival disrupts their homogeneity, putting their longstanding friendship to the test. As each of the guys desires Fred for himself, she yearns to be accepted into the group and become one of them, but is asked to sacrifice more and more in order to belong.

NOTE OF INTENT

There is a profound and pervasive asymmetry in the way we perceive men and women. Men's bodies – their conformation, gait, and clothing – convey their potential and abilities, while women's bodies communicate what can and cannot be done to them. This perception often becomes a social rule: men act, while women simply appear. As a teenager, I spent most of my time with a gang of three boys, and being the only girl felt like an honor. But it also came with hidden pressures. They were free to say whatever they wanted, while my desires were seen as a threat. I was faced with a difficult choice: either express my desire and risk being excluded, or silence my voice in order to be liked. This film explores the challenges of growing up as a young woman in a male-dominated world, where one's body and desires can be used against them.

SYNOPSIS

Septembre 2007, à Trieste au nord de l'Italie. Fred, une adolescente de 17 ans courageuse et exubérante arrive en ville et s'inscrit en terminale. Elle se retrouve être la seule fille d'une classe composée uniquement de garçons et devient très rapidement le centre d'attention, surtout pour trois amis: Pasini, coureur de jupons arrogant, Mitis, bourru et perspicace et Antero, charmant et réservé. Leur amitié date d'aussi longtemps qu'ils s'en souviennent. L'arrivée de Fred va perturber cette osmose, mettant leur amitié à rude épreuve. Alors que chacun d'entre eux désire Fred pour lui-même, elle, n'aspire qu'à faire partie du groupe, mais doit faire toujours plus de sacrifices pour y parvenir.

NOTE D'INTENTION

Il y a un déséquilibre profond et systématique dans la façon que nous avons de percevoir les hommes et les femmes. Le corps des hommes, leur constitution, leur démarche et leurs codes vestimentaires transmettent leurs capacités et leur potentiel alors que le corps des femmes communique ce qu'on peut ou ne peut pas leur faire. Cette perception devient souvent une règle sociétale: les hommes agissent alors que les femmes paraissent. J'ai passé la plupart de mon adolescence au sein d'un groupe de trois garçons, et le fait d'être la seule fille me donnait un sentiment de privilège. Mais il y avait également une pression sous-jacente. Ils étaient libres de s'exprimer librement sur tous les sujets alors que mes désirs étaient perçus comme une menace. Je me trouvais alors face à un dilemme: m'exprimer au risque d'être exclue, ou me taire pour être aimée. Ce film explore les défis à relever pour une jeune femme qui grandit dans un monde dominé par les hommes où le corps et les désirs des femmes peuvent être utilisés contre elles.