



VISION DISTRIBUTION, THE APARTMENT PICTURES and ALTEREGO
present

80TH VENICE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL - IN COMPETITION

ADAGIO

a Stefano Sollima picture

written by Stefano Bises and Stefano Sollima

Pierfrancesco Favino
Toni Servillo
Valerio Mastandrea
Adriano Giannini
Gianmarco Franchini
Francesco Di Leva
Lorenzo Adorni
Silvia Salvatori

Produced by
Lorenzo Mieli for The Apartment Pictures, a Fremantle Company
Stefano Sollima for AlterEgo

THE APARTMENT PICTURES, A FREMANTLE COMPANY
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LORENZO MIELI
STEFANO SOLLIMA

CAST

PIERFRANCESCO FAVINO
TONI SERVILLO
VALERIO MASTANDREA
ADRIANO GIANNINI
GIANMARCO FRANCHINI
FRANCESCO DI LEVA
LORENZO ADORNI
SILVIA SALVATORI

CAMMELLO
DAYTONA
POLNIUMAN
VASCO
MANUEL CORETTI
BRUNO
MASSIMO
SILVIA

SYNOPSIS

16 yo Manuel tries his best to enjoy life while juggling to care for his elderly father. One day, he is blackmailed into taking photos of a mysterious man, but he smells a trap and runs away. The blackmailers turn out to be very dangerous and start chasing after him, determined to eliminate an inconvenient witness. Manuel suddenly realizes he is in over his head and decides to resort to some of his father's old acquaintances, two former criminals who may be willing to offer protection.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

After spending a long time abroad, I am finally back to telling my city. Rome has changed, and so have I.

I looked at it with fresh eyes, back to the scene of the crime on a different beat. An “adagio”.

Stefano Bises is not only a brilliant writer but also a friend. We wrote the story and started showing it around, but we didn't take long to find someone interested. Lorenzo Mieli was our first choice as a producer, and he jumped on board with rare tenacity and passion. Without him, this film just wouldn't have happened.

Vision and Sky offered to finance the project, and from then on, it all moved to another level, and the rhythm became faster, almost frantic. An “andante” to “allegro.”

We moved on to pre-production with a great team of longtime partners such as Director of Cinematography Paolo Carnera, Set Designer Paki Meduri, Stunt Coordinator Alessandro Borgese, Maricetta Lombardo at the Sound Department, Luca Ricci at Special Effects, and with artists at our first collaboration like Costume Designer Mariano Tufano. What we didn't have was a full script.

A bizarre way to start a movie, to say the least, imposed by the clashing schedules of the crew and the excellent cast that this story needed. Besides, we felt it was crucial to start shooting in the summer to best portray the scorching Roman heat.

The blackout scenes were another reason to choose to film when the city was less crowded, as we needed to turn off every lamp. We fenced wide portions of the city, patrolled by the traffic police, and the only source of light came from our cars, to simulate a regular flow.

These scenes are central to the plot: not only are they narrative crossroads but also represent some sort of visual punctuation within the story.

Despite the unusual speed, forced onto an extremely complex movie, and thanks to the reciprocal trust stemming from a ten-year-long collaboration, our crew worked peacefully and at top level. We were still writing the script, but none of us ever doubted we would hit the bullseye in the end.

I wonder whether this would have been possible in a different country. Writing, producing, and filming such an ambitious picture in such a short time. In the international cinema industry, as Italians we sometimes believe to be behind, but we are wrong. We are quick, skilled, and nimble, and we can keep up with the rest of the world, no problem.

“Adagio” was my third chance to work with Pierfrancesco Favino. He is an amazing actor who can rightfully stand next to the best in the world. His physical transformation required hours of prosthetic makeup by Lorenzo Tamburini, and Pierfrancesco's meticulous attention to detail did the rest. A strenuous research to find the perfect posture and the right intonation for his character raised the level of the performance by more than just a notch.

It was my first collaboration with Toni Servillo. I would do it again and again. He is fully committed to the work, graceful, and kind. His character has few grotesque notes, more so than many others I've written in the past, yet Toni gave him an astonishingly natural mannerism and made him profoundly human, even though it was his first time acting in a strong Roman accent.

It was a first with Valerio Mastandrea, too. He played a complex role, particularly because of a disability related to the age of his character. While we were filming, he succeeded in the difficult feat of breaking my heart with his tenderness in helping the son of an old friend.

In "Adagio," Adriano Giannini played a very unusual role and showed a brand new side to him. He is the ultimate fiend, a shark after his prey, a feral and vicious character who is capable of unexpected love for his children.

Pure and protective love, which is my cue to introducing a key theme in this movie: the father/children relationship, the only trigger that seems capable of firing up our characters while pushing them on a path to redemption.

Gianmarco Franchini is one of these children, and he's at his first experience as an actor. This is a whole new world for him, so much so, in fact, that his audition for "Adagio" was a first for him. Not only is he an extremely intuitive actor who has innate human qualities that go well beyond the role, but he impressed me for his cool, a trait that usually belongs to experienced actors. He is very curious about art in general, and of course acting in particular, and he would come on set even when he didn't have to. He would also stay after shooting his scenes to see us work and would wear us out with questions about the entire production process.

Adagio follows the unstoppable and poignant decline of three old crime legends of Rome, who seek redemption in a more cynical, chaotic, and ferocious world than the one they remember from back in the day. A world that crushes any relationship, whether it's family, friendship, or brotherhood, sparing no ties except for money.

A city ruled by chaos, corruption, and cynicism, suffocated by torrid heat, devastated by fire, and wrapped in the darkness of the endless blackouts, with just one glimmer of light.

The next generation.

Stefano Sollima

WRITER AND DIRECTOR

STEFANO SOLLIMA

Born and raised in Rome, Italian director Stefano Sollima has to his credit an extraordinary streak of movies and series focusing on the complex dynamics between law & order and the criminal underworld. He was the showrunner, executive producer, and director of the famous “Gomorra - The Series,” based on the novel by Roberto Saviano. He wrote and directed the series “Romanzo Criminale” for Cattleya and Sky Italia, about the story of the infamous criminal organization based in Rome, Banda Della Magliana.

His cinema debut, “A.C.A.B.: All Cops Are Bastards,” garnered six nominations, including Best New Director, at the 2012 David Di Donatello. The film, produced by Cattleya and Rai Cinema, is about the life and work of riot police officers.

In 2015, he directed the feature “Suburra,” based on the novel by Carlo Bonini and Giancarlo De Cataldo, starring Pierfrancesco Favino, Elio Germano, and Claudio Amendola.

Other films include the 2018 “Sicario: Day of the Soldado” produced by Columbia Pictures and starring Benicio Del Toro alongside Josh Brolin, and the 2019 TV series on drug trafficking “ZeroZeroZero” produced by Amazon Studios, Sky, and Studio Canal and starring Gabriel Byrne, Dane DeHaan, and Andrea Riseborough.

2021 marked the release of “Without Remorse” based on Tom Clancy’s novel, produced by Paramount Pictures and starring Michael B. Jordan alongside Jodie Turner-Smith.

WRITER

STEFANO BISES

Stefano Bises, 59, started his career as a journalist and TV writer for Serena Dandini’s satirical programs. He then moved on to screenwriting, working on notable Italian productions such as “Corleone” (2007) and “Tutti pazzi per amore” (2008).

More recently, he wrote “Gomorra - The Series,” based on the worldwide famous novel by Roberto Saviano, “The New Pope” together with Paolo Sorrentino, and “The Miracle” with Niccolò Ammaniti.

His collaborations besides Stefano Sollima include the co-writing of “Exterior, Night” with Marco Bellocchio and the new, still untitled project by Gabriele Mainetti, currently in post-production. He also wrote the TV series “M - Il figlio del secolo” by Antonio Scurati, directed by Joe Wright.

Among his latest works is Sky upcoming series “Unwanted,” directed by Oliver Hirschbiegel and based on Fabrizio Gatti’s award-winning book “Bilal.”

THE CAST

PIERFRANCESCO FAVINO

Among the films that put him on the map, a special mention goes to “The Last Kiss” by Gabriele Muccino, “El Alamein - The Line of Fire” by Enzo Monteleone, and “The Keys to the House” by Gianni Amelio.

His career continued with public-acclaimed titles such as “Romanzo Criminale” by Michele Placido, “The Unknown Woman” by Giuseppe Tornatore, “Saturno in Opposition” by Ferzan Ozpetek, and “Come Undone” by Silvio Soldini, to which soon followed unanimous critical acclaim.

He has worked with the most important Italian directors, including Giuliano Montaldo in “The Entrepreneur,” Stefano Sollima in “A.C.A.B.: All Cops Are Bastards” and “Suburra”, Marco Tullio Giordana in “Piazza Fontana: The Italian Conspiracy,” Roberto Andò in “The Confessions,” and Gabriele Muccino in “Kiss Me Again”, “There’s No Place Like Home”, and “The Best Years.”

He was cast in many international productions, such as “The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian” by Andrew Adamson, “Miracle at St. Anna” by Spike Lee, “Angels & Demons” and “Rush” by Ron Howard, “World War Z” by Marc Forster, Netflix “Marco Polo” 1st and 2nd season, “A Mother” by Christine Carrière, “My Cousin Rachel” by Roger Michell, “The Catcher Was a Spy” by Ben Lewin, and “Promises” by Amanda Sthers.

In 2019, he garnered both a Silver Ribbon and a David di Donatello for Best Actor as well as receiving international acclaim for his performance as mafia cooperating witness Tommaso Buscetta in “The Traitor” by Marco Bellocchio, screened at the 72nd Cannes Festival. The film was chosen to represent Italy at the Oscars.

2020 opened with “Hammamet” by Gianni Amelio, which was met with praise by the audience thanks to his delivery of Bettino Craxi, a former Italian politician. The film earned him his fourth Silver Ribbon and an Italian Golden Globe for best Actor. In the same year, “Padrenostro,” directed by Claudio Noce, was in the run at the 77th Venice Film Festival and Favino was awarded a Coppa Volpi. The year ended with the comedy movie “Tutti per 1 - 1 per tutti,” soon followed by the sequel “The King's Musketeers,” both directed by Giovanni Veronesi.

2022 started with box office hit “Run to You” by Riccardo Milani and went on with “Nostalgia” by Mario Martone, in the run at Cannes and representing Italy at the Oscars. Favino won his fifth Silver Ribbon for this performance. Then came “The Hummingbird” by Francesca Archibugi. 2023 opened in Berlin with a special event dedicated to the screening of “Last Night of Amore” by Andrea Di Stefano, also included in the Tribeca Festival official selection. Additionally, this year will bring “Comandante” by Edoardo De Angelis and “Adagio” by Stefano Sollima.

Some of his work for the TV include Rai biopics “Bartali: The Iron Man”, “Bread and Freedom,” “Qualunque cosa succeda” by Alberto Negrin, and “Il generale Della Rovere” by Carlo Carlei. His participation in the Sky production “Call My Agent Italia” was met by the public with great enthusiasm.

On stage he wrote, directed and interpreted “One Man, Two Guvnors” by Richard Bean and “La Controra” based on “Three Sisters” by Anton Chekhov. His one-act play “La Notte poco

prima delle foreste” has been running for two years now, and so far Favino has garnered two Maschere d’Oro, the highest Italian award for the theatre.

He is the head of the Oltrarno Acting School in Florence and, since July 2022, he has been a member of the Academy Awards.

TONI SERVILLO

In 1977, Toni founded the Teatro Studio di Caserta. In 1986, he started a collaboration with the Falso Movimento theatre company and, in 1987, he was among the founders of Teatri Uniti, under whose umbrella he directed and interpreted internationally acclaimed Neapolitan plays such as “Rasoi” (1991) by Enzo Moscato, “Zingari” (1993) by Raffaele Viviani, and two multi-award-winning plays by Eduardo De Filippo: “Sabato, domenica e lunedì” (2002) and “Le voci di dentro” (2013.)

Later, Paolo Sorrentino directed the televised version of the Edoardo De Filippo transpositions. Toni also staged famous French plays such as “Les Fausses Confidences” (1998/2005) by Marivaux, and The Misanthrope (1995) and “Tartuffe” (2000) by Molière. In 2007, he adapted, directed and interpreted Carlo Goldoni’s “Trilogia della villeggiatura” which ran for four years on an international tour and was the inspiration for the documentary feature “394 Trilogia nel mondo,” screened at the Torino Film Festival in 2011.

In 2011, he staged “Toni Servillo legge Napoli,” a show dedicated to Neapolitan classic and contemporary poetry. 2014 was the year of “La parola canta,” a European tour with his brother Peppe and the Solis String Quartet. In 2015, Repubblica - L’Espresso published an eight DVDs collection of his theatre performances, “Toni Servillo a teatro.” Between 2016 and 2019 he toured Europe with “Elvira,” based on Louis Jouvet’s lectures on Molière’s “Dom Juan ou le Festin de pierre,” from which stemmed the documentary “Il teatro al lavoro” by Massimiliano Pacifico, screened at the 2018 Venice Film Festival.

In 2021 he recited Franco Marcoaldi’s short poem “Il mondo sia lodato” at Teatro Mercadante in Naples. In 2022, with playwright Giuseppe Montesano he took to the stage “Tre modi per non morire,” focused on Baudelaire, Dante, and the Greek classics. The segment titled “Le voci di Dante” was recently staged in Prague, Lisbon, Paris, and Tokyo

In 1999, he made his debut as a director in musical theatre with “A Rare Thing, or Beauty and Honesty” by Martin y Soler at The Fenice theatre in Venice, followed by Mozart’s “The Marriage of Figaro,” Cimarosa’s “Il marito disperato,” Mussorgskij’s “Boris Godunov,” Richard Strauss’s “Ariadne auf Naxos,” Beethoven’s “Fidelio,” and Rossini’s “L’Italiana in Algeri” for the Aix en Provence Festival in 2006. In 2010, he staged “Sconcerto,” a musical piece written by Franco Marcoaldi with music by Giorgio Battistelli. He gave voice to Berlioz’s Lelio and Beethoven’s Egmont, he was the narrator in Oedipus Rex by Strawinskij and Cocteau, and the creator and interpreter of “Eternapoli,” with playscript by Giuseppe Montesano and music by

Fabio Vacchi, at San Carlo theatre in Naples. In 2021, he staged a melologue by Giuseppe Montesano "Puccini, Puccini che cosa vuoi da me?" at the Puccini Festival in Torre del Lago.

He starred in films by Mario Martone, Antonio Capuano, Paolo Sorrentino, Elisabetta Sgarbi, Fabrizio Bentivoglio, Andrea Molaioli, Matteo Garrone, Stefano Incerti, Nicole Garcia, Claudio Cupellini, Daniele Ciprì, Marco Bellocchio, Roberto Andò, Francesco Amato, Donato Carrisi, Igort, Leonardo Di Costanzo, Paolo Genovese, Gabriele Salvatores, Stefano Sollima, Marco D'Amore, Fabio Grassadonia, and Antonio Piazza. Among his many awards, are worth mentioning four David di Donatello and as many Silver Ribbons, a Marc'Aurelio d'Argento for Best Actor at the Rome Film Fest in 2010 for "A Quiet Life" by Claudio Cupellini, two Best European Actor awards for "Gomorrah" by Matteo Garrone and "Il divo" by Paolo Sorrentino, both winners at Cannes, and a Special Silver Ribbon in 2013 for "The Great Beauty" by Paolo Sorrentino, Oscar winner in 2014 for Best Foreign Language Film.

VALERIO MASTANDREA

Valerio Mastandrea made his debut on the silver screen with "Ladri di Cinema" by Piero Natoli and rose to fame four years later, in 1998, with Claudio Caligari's "The Scent of the Night." Over the years he has worked with some of the best Italian directors, including Ettore Scola in "People of Rome," Guido Chiesa in "Working Slowly (Radio Alice)," and Paolo Virzì in "Napoleon and Me," "Her Whole Life Ahead," "The First Beautiful Thing" --for which he garnered a David di Donatello for Best Actor, and "Dry," Ferzan Ozpetek in "A Perfect Day", and Marco Tullio Giordana in "Piazza Fontana: The Italian Conspiracy." He was cast in Rob Marshall's musical "Nine." In 2013, he won two David di Donatello for Best Actor in a Leading Role and for Best Actor in a Non-Leading Role, respectively for his performance in Ivano De Matteo's "Balancing Act" and in Roberto Andò's "Long Live Freedom." In 2015, he produced Claudio Caligari's last film "Don't Be Bad." Other titles include Paolo Genovese's "Perfect Strangers" and "The Place," and Marco Bellocchio's "Sweet Dreams." 2018 also marked his directorial debut with "Ride," nominated at the David di Donatello and Silver Ribbon winner for Best Debut Director. He was then part of the cast of "Euphoria" by Valeria Golino.

In 2021, he was Inspector Ginko in "Diabolik" by the Manetti Bros, and again in "Diabolik: Ginko Attacks" in 2022. Valerio has a long-lasting collaboration with Mattia Torre: on stage in "Migliore" and "Qui e ora," and on TV with "Buttafuori" and "La linea verticale." In 2020, Valerio worked in Torre's last movie "Figli."

ADRIANO GIANNINI

Adriano started his career in the movies when he was very young, working as an assistant operator for over ten years alongside brilliant directors, including Giuseppe Tornatore, Ermanno Olmi, and Anthony Minghella.

After acting school, he made his debut on the screen in 2001, in Maurizio Sciarra's "Off to the Revolution in a 2CV." While shooting "Stai con Me" next to Giovanna Mezzogiorno, he was also cast by Guy Ritchie for the leading role in "Swept Away," starring Madonna.

Many projects for both cinema and TV followed, in Italy and abroad, including "The Consequences of Love" by Paolo Sorrentino, "Ocean's Twelve" by Steven Soderbergh, "Kiss Me Again" by Gabriele Muccino, "Dolina" by Zoltan Kamondi, "Black Gold" by Jean Jacques Annaud, and "For Your Love" by Giuseppe Gaudino, successfully screened at the Venice Film Festival in 2015.

On TV, he worked with Paolo and Vittorio Taviani in "Luisa Sanfelice," followed by "Missing" next to Ashley Judd, both seasons of "In Treatment" by Saverio Costanzo, and "The Cosmopolitans" by Whit Stillman and Boris Giuliano.

More recently, we saw him in "Senza Nessuna Pietà" by Michele Alhaique and in "The Ice Forest" by Claudio Noce, receiving nominations at the Silver Ribbons for both.

He also won two Silver Ribbons for his work as a dubber, lending his voice to interpreters such as Heath Ledger, Joaquin Phoenix, Jude Law, Christian Bale, Brad Pitt, and Matthew Mc Conaughey.

He is the only Italian actor to have dubbed Batman's Joker twice.

He debuted as a director with the short film "Il Gioco," written with Andrea Camilleri and produced by himself, which garnered him a Silver Ribbon, a Giffoni Film Festival Award, and a New York Short Film Festival Award, participating in numerous Festivals, including Venice.

His new short film was screened at the Palm Springs Festival.

After filming Silvio Soldini's "Il Colore Nascosto delle Cose" alongside Valeria Golino, he was back in Venice with Francesca Archibugi's "Vivere," and then in Cannes, as a leading actor in "Three Floors" by Nanni Moretti.

He was again a leading character in the Amazon series "Bang Bang Baby," directed by Michele Alhaique and sold in 190 countries. He will have two films screening in Venice this upcoming September: Stefano Sollima's "Adagio" and Susannah Grant's "Lonely Planet," starring Laura Dern.

On TV we are going to see him in October in the Netflix series "Supersex," about the life of porn star Rocco Siffredi, alongside Alessandro Borghi.

GIANMARCO FRANCHINI

Gianmarco started his acting studies in 2021 with a three-year academic course at YD'Actors, based in Rome.

After a few months spent auditioning, Stefano Sollima chose him as the young protagonist of his new film "Adagio," starring some of the best actors on the Italian scene, namely Pierfrancesco Favino, Toni Servillo, Valerio Mastandrea, and Adriano Giannini. "Adagio" marks his debut on the silver screen.

This year, he has landed another leading role in an arthouse production that will start filming next autumn.

SUBSONICA (ORIGINAL MUSIC)

Subsonica are an Italian electronic rock band formed in Turin in 1996 in the underground scene of alternative music by Samuel (voice), Max Casacci (producer and guitar), Boosta (keyboard), Ninja (drums), and Pierfunk (bass), replaced by Vicio in 1999.

The band draws from experimental music and has changed the musical scene creating a very distinctive sound that combines electronic elements with a sharp Italian melody and great personality on the stage. Subsonica are unanimously appreciated for their live performances. Among the many awards are worth mentioning an Amnesty Award Italia, an MTV Europe Music Award, a Premio Italiano della Musica, an Italian Music Award, a Grinzane Cavour Award, a TRL Award, and a participation in the Sanremo Music Festival.

Their first release, "Subsonica" in 1997, was followed by "Microchip emozionale" in 1999, "Amorematico" in 2002 (100.000 sold,) "Terrestre" in 2005 (110.000 sold,) "L'eclissi" in 2007, "Eden" in 2011 (platinum,) "Una Nave in una Foresta" in 2014 (platinum,) their greatest hits collection "Nel vuoto per mano 1997/2007" in 2008 (platinum,) and "8" in 2018, followed by a European tour.

In 2019, they collaborated with 14 artists at a special edition of their "Microchip Emozionale," titled "Microchip Temporale." In 2020, they released their ninth album "Mentale Strumentale", recorded back in 2004. A sold-out tour followed in 2022, after the COVID-19 pandemic. Later in 2022, their summer tour "Atmosferico 2022" celebrated the twentieth anniversary of "Amorematico," their third album from 2002.

The band is currently working on their tenth album.