



PIPERFILM, ELSINORE FILM and THE APARTMENT
present

IN COMPETITION - ORIZZONTI - OFFICIAL SELECTION
82nd VENICE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

IL RAPIMENTO DI ARABELLA

written and directed by **CAROLINA CAVALLI**

starring

BENEDETTA PORCAROLI | LUCREZIA GUGLIELMINO | CHRIS PINE

produced by

ANTONIO CELSI and ANNAMARIA MORELLI

MASSIMILIANO ORFEI, LUISA BORELLA and DAVIDE NOVELLI
for **PIPERFILM**

a production by

EL SINORE FILM | THE APARTMENT a Fremantle Company | PIPERFILM
in collaboration with **TENDERSTORIES**

produced with the support of the **CINEMA AND AUDIOVISUAL**
INVESTMENT DEVELOPMENT FUND

with the contribution of **REGIONE VENETO PR FESR DEL VENETO 2021-2027**
and with the support of **FONDAZIONE VENETO FILM COMMISSION** with the support of **REGIONE**
EMILIA-ROMAGNA through **EMILIA-ROMAGNA FILM COMMISSION**

distributed by



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CHARACTERS AND CAST

Holly	BENEDETTA PORCAROLI
Arabella	LUCREZIA GUGLIELMINO
Oreste D.	CHRIS PINE
Maccarico	MARCO BONADEI
Granatina	EVA ROBIN'S
Arabella's Mother	MARGARETH MADÈ
Police Officer	ROBERTO ZIBETTI
Topper	BOIKEN KOBO
Gloryhole Lady	MONICA NAPPO
Taco King Man	MILUTIN DAPCEVIC
Motel Receptionist	CLARA TRAMONTANO
Maccarico's Father	STEFANO GRAGNANI

CREDITS

Director and Screenplay

CAROLINA CAVALLI

Cinematography

LORENZO LEVRINI

Editing

BABAK JALALI

Production Design

MARTINO BONANOMI

Original Score

THOMAS MOKED BLUM and **NOAZ DESHE**

Costumes

FRANCESCA CIBISCHINO

Hair Styling

DANIELA TARTARI

Make-up

FRANCESCA MORI

Production Manager

ANTONIO TOZZI

1st Assistant Director

DAVIDE LABANTI

Sound Editing

FRANCESCO LUCARELLI

Sound

FRANCESCO LIOTARD

JACOPO LATTANZIO

Digital colorist

CLAUDIO DEL BRAVO

Acting coach Arabella

ANTONIO CALONE

Casting

MAURILIO MANGANO (u.i.c.d.)

Acting coach

ANTONIO CALONE

Digital colorist

CLAUDIO DEL BRAVO

Executive Producers

MALCOM PAGANI and **MORENO ZANI**

Executive Producer

ANDREA SCROSATI

Produced by

ANTONIO CELSI for **ELSINORE FILM**

Produced by

ANNAMARIA MORELLI for **THE APARTMENT**

società del Gruppo Fremantle

A production by

**PIPERFILM, ELSINORE FILM, THE APARTMENT a Fremantle
Company**

In collaboration with

TENDERSTORIES

With the support of

DIREZIONE GENERALE CINEMA E AUDIOVISIVO

With the contribution of

REGIONE VENETO PR FESR DEL VENETO 2021-2027

And with the support of

FONDAZIONE VENETO FILM COMMISSION

With the support of

REGIONE EMILIA-ROMAGNA

through **EMILIA-ROMAGNA FILM COMMISSION**

Distribution

PIPERFILM

International Sales

PIPERFILM and **CHARADES**

Running time

107 MINUTI



PRODUCED WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE CINEMA AND AUDIOVISUAL
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SYNOPSIS

Holly, twenty-eight, has always felt like the wrong version of herself and that her life hasn't turned out as expected. When she meets a little girl named Arabella, she becomes convinced the child is her younger self. Eager to run away from home, Arabella decides to play along with Holly's mission: to go back and become someone special.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The story of *Il rapimento di Arabella* isn't really about a kidnapping in the usual sense, despite what the title suggests. It's mostly about a girl finding her own way to fix the past, make peace with regrets, quiet anxiety about the future, and let go of unmet expectations.

The main character, Holly, belongs to a group of people—or perhaps a generation—afraid that life is always happening somewhere else. Like when we were children, imagining a thousand possible lives, even if we'd probably only live one. But thinking like that as adults devalues reality; it distracts from the real world, its meaning, its beauty, its injustices, and our own role in it all.

Although *Il rapimento di Arabella* feels somewhat like a comedy, it began with serious reflections I found on Reddit and other online forums, as well as everyday feelings of my own. That's why I wrote this story—it seemed like something many people could relate to, or at least recognise.

Carolina Cavalli

CAROLINA CAVALLI | SCREENWRITER AND DIRECTOR

Born in Milan, Carolina Cavalli is a screenwriter and director. In 2017, she was awarded the SFFILM Rainin Grant for screenwriting and won the Solinas Prize for a TV series. Her debut feature film, *Amanda* (2022), premiered in the Orizzonti Extra section at the Venice Film Festival and at the Toronto International Film Festival.

Cavalli co-wrote *Fremont* (2023) with director Babak Jalali; the film premiered at Sundance and the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. For *Fremont*, she was nominated for the British Independent Film Awards and won the Independent Spirit Award in the John Cassavetes category.

BENEDETTA PORCAROLI

Benedetta Porcaroli was born in Rome in 1998. At just seventeen, in 2015, she had her first acting experience when she was cast as Federica in the TV series *"Tutto può succedere"* — the Italian remake of *"Parenthood"* — aired on Rai1. She played the role throughout all three seasons. In 2016, she made her film debut, playing the rebellious daughter of Kasia Smutniak and Marco Giallini in *"Perfetti sconosciuti"* (Perfect Strangers), directed by Paolo Genovese. She then starred as Giulietta in *"Quanto basta"* (2018) by Francesco Falaschi, and as Stella in *"Sconnessi"* (2018) by Christian Marazziti. Back on TV, she played a guest lead in *"Non uccidere 2"* (2017) on Rai3, and starred in the Netflix series *"Baby"*, directed by Andrea De Sica and Anna Negri. In 2018, she returned to cinema as the lead in *"Tutte le mie notti"*, directed by Manfredi Lucibello, alongside Barbora Bobulova and Alessio Boni. The film premiered at the Rome Film Fest (Alice nella Città section). For this performance, she won the *"Guglielmo Biraghi"* Young Revelation of the Year Award at the 2019 Nastri d'Argento. That same year, together with Danish actor Jakob Cedergren, she presented the Best Screenplay Award at the European Film Awards in Berlin. In 2020, she starred alongside Vittoria Puccini and Edoardo Leo in *"18 Regali"* (18 Presents), a film directed by Francesco Amato that received both critical and public acclaim. That same year, the third and final season of *"Baby"* aired, directed by Andrea De Sica and Letizia Lamartire. She played the lead in *"La scuola Cattolica"* (The Catholic School), directed by Stefano Mordini and presented at the 2021 Venice Film Festival, and in *"7 donne e un mistero"* by Alessandro Genovesi, based on the acclaimed film *"8 Femmes"* by François Ozon, alongside an all-female ensemble cast including Margherita Buy, Luisa Ranieri, Micaela Ramazzotti, and Ornella Vanoni.

In early 2022, she starred with Riccardo Scamarcio in the drama *"L'Ombra del Giorno"* (The Shadow of the Day), directed by Giuseppe Piccioni. In October 2022, she returned to the big screen as the lead in *"Amanda"*, the debut feature by Carolina Cavalli — the only Italian film presented in the Orizzonti Extra section at the 2022 Venice Film Festival and also selected for the Toronto Film Festival. She portrayed the daughter of Pierfrancesco Favino in *"Il Colibrì"* (The Hummingbird), directed by Francesca Archibugi and based on the novel by Sandro Veronesi — the opening film of the 2022 Rome Film Fest. She also played the dream partner in *"Enea"*, written and directed by Pietro Castellitto, which was in competition at the 2023 Venice Film Festival. In 2024, she continued to take on leading roles, starring in *"Vangelo secondo Maria"* by Paolo Zucca, alongside Alessandro Gassmann. Internationally, she appeared in the horror film *"Immaculate"*, with Sydney Sweeney and directed by Michael Mohan, which had its world premiere at SXSW 2024 in Austin, Texas.

She stars in *"Il Gattopardo"* (The Leopard), alongside Kim Rossi Stuart — a global Netflix series inspired by the classic novel by Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa — a role that once again earned her widespread acclaim from both audiences and critics.

She will soon return to the big screen, once again directed by Carolina Cavalli in her much-anticipated sophomore feature, *"Il rapimento di Arabella"*.

ELSINORE FILM

Elsinore Film is an independent production company based in Rome, founded by Annamaria Morelli and led by Antonio Celsi.

Elsinore Film believes in a new vision of contemporary production. With a strong curatorial approach, Elsinore Film focuses on scouting original and distinctive voices, and on developing and producing culturally relevant projects for both national and international audiences.

In 2021, it launched a production line dedicated to new Italian cinema. This includes *Notte Fantasma* by Fulvio Risuleo, *Amanda* by Carolina Cavalli, *Troppo Azzurro* by Filippo Barbagallo, and *Il Complottista* by Valerio Ferrara. Elsinore Film's feature films have been showcased at the Venice, Toronto, Villerupt, and Annecy festivals.

THE APARTMENT

The Apartment is a film and television company within the Fremantle Group, focused on high-quality projects created by leading filmmakers and emerging talents from the Italian and international scene.

The Apartment has produced, among others, the TV series *The Young Pope* and *The New Pope* by Paolo Sorrentino, all four seasons of *My Brilliant Friend*, based on Elena Ferrante's tetralogy, *We Are Who We Are* by Luca Guadagnino, *Exterior Night* by Marco Bellocchio and *M – The Son of the Century* by Joe Wright.

For cinema, it has produced numerous feature films, all selected at major international festivals, including *The Hand of God* by Paolo Sorrentino, *Bones and All* by Luca Guadagnino, *Priscilla* by Sofia Coppola. Most recently: *Parthenope* by Paolo Sorrentino, *Maria* by Pablo Larraín, *Queer* by Luca Guadagnino, and *Fuori* by Mario Martone.

Upcoming releases include the series *The Monster* by Stefano Sollima and the feature films *The Kidnapping of Arabella* by Carolina Cavalli, *Rosebush Pruning* by Karim Aïnouz, *Father, Mother, Sister, Brother* by Jim Jarmusch and *La Grazia* by Paolo Sorrentino.

PIPERFILM

PiperFilm has been founded to represent a new model for film production and distribution. Massimiliano Orfei is the President and CEO of the new independent media company, Luisa Borella is its Chief Operating Officer and Davide Novelli is the Director of Distribution. Emanuela Semeraro is the Marketing and Communication Director, Catia Rossi is the Director of International Operation and Maria Scoglio is the Chief Editor of the company.

PiperFilm stems from the determination and the experience of some of the biggest experts in this field, who are building a new business model together, also thanks to partnerships with the biggest players of the Italian and international markets. The aim of the new distribution model is to be constantly listening to the demands of the industry and the public of Italian cinema, which, over the course of the past years, have been requesting a 'tailor-made model', specifically created for each single project, more and more frequently. A flexible and independent point of view, capable of interpreting and building marketing and distribution strategies based on international best practices.

PiperFilm's identity is based on a network of partners, with some of the biggest players of the Italian and international market, both in content production and distribution, which allow the company to face this challenge with great stability, guaranteeing an immediate market positioning.

PiperFilm's movies follow a strong and innovative distribution strategy. Warner Bros. Entertainment Italia handles its theatrical billing and booking, while Netflix has exclusivity on the first post-theatrical window. This process guarantees that PiperFilm's movies reach all Italian viewers. At the same time, PiperFilm takes care of its films' distribution in all international markets and festivals.

PiperFilm's key elements are independence and freedom in strategic actions, which allow the company to enter the film market with great energy and enthusiasm.

CHARADES

Carole Baraton, Yohann Comte, Pierre Mazars founded CHARADES in January 2017, following successful tenures as respectively head and VPs of International Sales at Wild Bunch, Gaumont and StudioCanal, with the financial backing of Constantin Briest. CHARADES develops a multi-genre, director driven slate. Upcoming projects range from European co-productions to fully privately financed productions, from commercial animation to genre and French comedies, from experienced directors to first timers.

CHARADES has handled international sales on a wide range of acclaimed titles, including: *DIAMANTINO* by Gabriel Abrantes (Nespresso Grand Prize 2018), N'Wave Studio's 3D animation *THE QUEEN'S CORGI*, *BELLE* by Mamoru Hosoda (Cannes Official Selection 2021), *AFTERSUN* by Charlotte Wells (2022 Critics' Week French Touch Prize and box-office success, picked up by A24), *SANCTUARY* by Zachary Wigon starring Margaret Qualley, *SCRAPPER* by Charlotte Regan (2023 Sundance Grand Jury Prize), *DISCO BOY* by Giacomo Abbruzzese (Silver Bear for Outstanding Artistic Contribution, 2023), *HOUNDS* by Kamal Lazraq (2023 Un Certain Regard Jury Prize), and *SORRY, BABY* by Eva Victor (Sundance US Dramatic Competition 2024 picked up by A24).

Last year, Charades presented seven films at the Cannes Film Festival across various sections (Critics' Week, Directors' Fortnight, Un Certain Regard), including *ARMAND* by Halfdan Ullmann Tøndel, which was awarded the Caméra d'Or for best first feature. Charades has also presented six films (five in competition, one in the Contrechamp section) at the Annecy International Animation Film Festival and won the Cristal Award for *MEMOIR OF A SNAIL* by Adam Elliot, marking Charades' third win in a row in this category. *FLOW* by Gints Zilbalodis also received multiple honors, including the Audience Award, the Jury Award, the Gan Foundation Award for Distribution, and a Special Prize for Best Original Music.

This year Charades had five films — *VERMIGLIO*, *ARMAND*, *KNEECAP*, *FLOW*, and *THE GLASSWORKER* — selected to compete in the Best International Feature Film Oscar® race.

Charades had presented four films at this year's Cannes Film Festival, including *ALPHA* (In Competition) by Julia Ducournau, *CASE 137* (In Competition) by Dominik Moll, *URCHIN* (Un Certain Regard) by Harris Dickinson, and *THE MYSTERIOUS GAZE OF THE FLAMINGO* (Un Certain Regard) by Diego Céspedes.