

TICO FILM PRESENTS

AMBER
DUTTA

NAV
GHOTRA

RENATO
CARPENTIERI

NIVES
IVANKOVIĆ

YASEMIN
SANNINO

LUCIA
MASCINO

MI:CE
nella
Città

►KINO◄

BABYLON SISTERS

a film by GIGI ROCCATI

BASED ON THE BOOK AMICHE PER LA PELLE
BY LAILA WADIA. PUBLISHED BY EDIZIONI E/O

AMBER DUTTA NAV GHOTRA RAHUL DUTTA
NIVES IVANKOVIĆ YASEMIN SANNINO PEPE VOLTARELLI
XIA YINGHONG JERIN WEN LORENZO AQUAVIVA
WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF LUCIA MASCINO AND WITH
THE EXTRAORDINARY PARTICIPATION OF RENATO CARPENTIERI
BASED ON THE BOOK "AMICHE PER LA PELLE" BY LAILA WADIA
PUBLISHED BY EDIZIONI E/O. STORY GINO PENNACCHI GIULIO VENERI
SCREENPLAY GIGI ROCCATI GIULIA STEIGERWALT ANDREA IANNETTA
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY MICHELE PARADISI MUSIC COMPOSER PEPE VOLTARELLI
EDITORS ANTON SPAZZAPANI COSTUME DESIGNER DUSKA NESIC DRAGI
EDITING GIUSEPPE LEONETTI ANNALISA FORGIONE SOUND DIRECTOR
FRANCESCO MOROSINI PRODUCED BY GINO & SARAH PENNACCHI
COPRODUCED BY DANIJEL PEK EXECUTIVE PRODUCER INES VASILJEVIC
PRODUCTION COMPANY TICO FILM COMPANY S.R.L. - THE
CO-PRODUCTION COMPANY ANTITALENT - GERMANY INTERNATIONAL SALES TVCO
PRODUCED WITH THE SUPPORT OF MINISTERO DEI BENI E DELLE ATTIVITÀ
CULTURALI E DEL TURISMO - DIREZIONE GENERALE PER IL CINEMA
AND WITH THE SUPPORT OF MEDIA DEVELOPMENT FUND TRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA
FILM COMMISSION AND FONDO AUDIOVISIVO DEL FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA
IN ASSOCIATION WITH NUOVO IMAGI E BANCA GENERALI
A FILM BY GIGI ROCCATI



Tico Film ANTITALENT Ministero della Cultura FVG FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA NUOVOIMAGI BANCA GENERALI Europa Creativa MEDIA TCO



ANTITALENT

PRESENTS

BABYLON SISTERS

un film di GIGI ROCCATI

Director: Gigi Roccati

Cast: Amber Dutta, Rahul Dutta, Nav Ghotra, Renato Carpentieri (*Leopardi, Corpo Celeste, Dear Diary, The Stolen Children*), Nives Ivanković (*The High Sun*), Lucia Mascino (*We Have a Pope*), Yasemin Sannino, Peppe Voltarelli, Xia Yinghong, Jiemin Wen, Lorenzo Aquaviva

Based on the book "Amiche per la pelle" by Laila Wadia

Story by: Gino Pennacchi, Claudio Venneri

Screenplay: Gigi Roccati, Giulia Steigerwalt, Andrea Iannetta

Director of Photography: Michele Paradisi

Music Composer: Peppe Voltarelli

Set Designer: Anton Spazzapan

Costume Designer: Duška Nešić Dragić

Editing: Giuseppe Leonetti, Annalisa Forgione

Sound Direction: Francesco Morosini

Produced by: Gino & Sarah Pennacchi

Co-Produced by: Danijel Pek

Executive Producer: Ines Vasiljevic

Production company: Tico Film Company Srl - Italy

Co-production company: Antitalent - Croatia

Support: Media development Fund, Mibact production Fund, FVG Film Commission and FVG Fondo audiovisivo distribution Fund, IMAIE Tax Credit

Genre: Comedy, Drama, Family

Language: Italian/Hindi with English subtitles

85' - Color - 2.35: 1 - available in full HD

BABYLON SISTERS

LOG LINE

A migrant tale of sisterhood and music, celebrating unconventional friendships and the power of diversity



SYNOPSIS

Kamla and her parents have just moved in a rundown building on the outskirts of Trieste together with other immigrant families and an old grumpy retired school teacher, determined not to leave his home, when an eviction notice falls on all the residents. While the men react in anger to the landlord's threats, the women strive to cooperate and save the destiny of their families through tears, laughs and misunderstandings. In this unsettling situation, little Kamla and professor Leone will become friends against the will of her father, while her mother Shanti will soon reveal a gift, dancing like a Bollywood star. Thanks to a friendly social worker, they come up with the idea of a dance school. The neighborhood will soon be talking about the *Babylon Sisters*.



THE DIRECTOR

Director, writer, documentarist Filmmaking teacher at Scuola Holden Berlinale Talent Campus, Torino Film Lab and Eictv Alumni Graduate of London Film School and London Metropolitan University

Gigi Roccati is a director and screenwriter. Awarded for best war documentary on Italian Television in 2013, by Rai and the Ministry of Defence for his work "The Road to Kabul". His previous screen-plays, documentaries and short films have earned him international prizes and awards, as well as development and institutional funds like Media Europe, Mibact and Tfl. His photography book "Road to Kabul" was published by Contrasto ed. in 2012. He teaches at the Scuola Holden and is an Alumni of TFL, LFS, EICTV and Berlinale Talent Campus.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Filmed in the outskirts of the port city of Trieste, the story unfolds in the suburban neighborhood of Ponziana where we met most of our characters who contributed with their personal stories to the development of the screenplay. From a community center where social workers aid elderly and disabled, to a squat house engaged in humanitarian work, to a collective of women dancing every Sunday in the courtyards of the apartment blocks, to a nostalgic chorus of traditional songs.

The cast was a territory of discovery, bringing together real people playing themselves with few actors. Among the protagonists, Little Kamla is Amber Dutta who came along with her real father Rahul, a tattooed Indian we found working as a bouncer in Milan, frustrated by a job that kept him away from his daughters. We fell in love with Amber when we saw her dancing Bollywood and Micheal Jackson and we decided to carry their problematic relationship into the film. Shanti is Nav Ghotra, a biology scholar grown up in a Sikh community under the rule of a violent father, who ran away from home to study and pursue her dreams of becoming an actress. Working together with them I adapted the story, thus fiction became reality and the film experience a way of living.

The apartment building also became a protagonist itself, with its broken architecture, and the reminiscence of the people who inhabited it before. When we found it was occupied by illegal immigrants, with no electricity nor running water, whom through a local community center we managed to house before starting the shooting within its crusty walls.

Nevertheless, you'll find a subtle irony and humour in the film, also inspired by my personal experience as a documentarist. Traveling from China to Afghanistan, from Nigeria to Lebanon, I have encountered the dignified hospitality and joy of living of the humbles, shared for nothing. As if to take away the good memory of a coffee with fruits could help to break another stereotype. This inspiration became one of the reasons why, in a time of dramatic migrations, we decided to tell a different story that speaks of new citizenships seeking for justice, through music and solidarity.

CONTACTS

PRODUCTION



Via di Torrebianca, 26 - 34122 Trieste, Italy
T: +39 3382025465 www.ticofilm.com

Sarah Pennacchi: +44(0)7531029340 - sarah.pennacchi@ticofilm.com
Gino Pennacchi: +39 3356191643 - gino.pennacchi@ticofilm.com

INTERNATIONAL SALES



Via Buccari 16 - 00195 ROMA RM - Italy
T (24/7): +39 06 31055690 – www.tvco.eu

Geremia Biagiotti - Sales Manager - geremia@tvco.eu

PRESS OFFICE

Giulia Santaroni - +39.348.8224581 – giulia.santaroni@gmail.com