

QUINZE
AINE
DIRECTORS' FORTNIGHT
CANNES 2016

A FILM BY
MARCO BELLOCCHIO

SWEET DREAMS

MASSIMO'S IDYLIC CHILDHOOD

was shattered by the mysterious death of his mother.

As he prepares to sell his parents' apartment, he is haunted
by his traumatic past.

Compassionate doctor Elisa could help tormented Massimo
open up and confront his childhood wounds...





SYNOPSIS

TURIN, 1969.

Nine-year-old Massimo's idyllic childhood is shattered by the mysterious death of his mother. The young boy refuses to accept this brutal loss, even if the priest says she is now in Heaven.

Years later in the 90s, adult Massimo has become an accomplished journalist. After reporting on the war in Sarajevo, he begins to suffer from panic attacks. As he prepares to sell his parents' apartment, Massimo is forced to relive his traumatic past.

Compassionate doctor Elisa could help tormented Massimo open up and confront his childhood wounds...

MARCO BELLOCCHIO (WRITER-DIRECTOR)

From teenage rebellion to religious institutions to political subversion, the films of Italian director Marco Bellocchio have explored the social and political contradictions of his country. His prolific 50-year career has been closely intertwined with the complexities and discrepancies of Italian history.

Bellocchio's works are known for being politically-engaged and often attacking symbols of Italian conformism. His darkly funny debut feature, 1965's *FISTS IN THE*

POCKET, about an existentially-tormented teenager, is often credited with having anticipated the youth rebellion that would shake the foundations of Italian society.

Throughout the 70s, Bellocchio's cinema explored the political tumult of the time. He denounced religion with 1971's *IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER* and the military with 1976's *VICTORY MARCH*.



From the 80s on, Bellocchio's films have often focused on coming to terms with a personally and politically turbulent past. He has questioned ideologies and moral issues and fought to make sense of his characters' motives. He has confronted the conflict between the Church and the radical Left without aligning himself with either. His films compose a rich, fascinating and humane investigation of Italian life, whether modern or historical.

Bellocchio was born in Piacenza, Italy, in 1939. In 1959, he suspended his studies in philosophy at Milan's Catholic University to enroll at the Experimental Center for Cinematography in Rome. He made several short films in the early 60s and studied at London's Slade School of Fine Arts. Bellocchio was awarded the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement at the Venice International Film Festival in 2011.

FEATURE FILMOGRAPHY

- 2016 – *FAI BEI SOGNI* (*SWEET DREAMS*)
- 2015 – *SANGUE DEL MIO SANGUE* (*BLOOD OF MY BLOOD*)
- 2012 – *BELLA ADDORMENTATA* (*DORMANT BEAUTY*)
- 2010 – *SORELLE MAI* (*THE MAI SISTERS*)
- 2009 – *VINCERE*
- 2006 – *IL REGISTA DI MATRIMONI* (*THE WEDDING DIRECTOR*)
- 2003 – *BUONGIORNO, NOTTE* (*GOOD MORNING, NIGHT*)
- 2002 – *L'ORA DI RELIGIONE* (*aka IL SORRISO DI MIA MADRE - MY MOTHER'S SMILE*)
- 1999 – *LA BALIA* (*THE NANNY*)
- 1997 – *IL PRINCIPE DI HOMBURG DI HEINRICH VON KLEIST* (*THE PRINCE OF HAMBURG*)
- 1994 – *IL SOGNO DELLA FARFALLA* (*THE BUTTERFLY'S DREAM*)
- 1991 – *LA CONDANNA* (*THE CONVICTION*)
- 1998 – *LA VISIONE DEL SABBA* (*aka LA SORCIERE*)
- 1986 – *DIABOLO IN CORPO* (*DEVIL IN THE FLESH*)
- 1984 – *ENRICO IV* (*HENRY IV*)
- 1982 – *GLIO OCCHI, LA BOCCA* (*THE EYES, THE MOUTH*)
- 1980 – *SALTO NEL VUOTO* (*A LEAP IN THE DARK*)
- 1977 – *IL GABBIANO* (*THE SEAGULL*)
- 1976 – *MARCIA TRIONFALE* (*VICTORY MARCH*)
- 1972 – *SBATTI IL MOSTRO IN PRIMA PAGINA* (*aka VIOL EN PREMIERE PAGE*)
- 1971 – *NEL NOME DEL PADRE* (*IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER*)
- 1967 – *LA CINA E VICINA* (*CHINA IS NEAR*)
- 1965 – *I PUGNI IN TASCA* (*FISTS IN THE POCKET*)



DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

The film 'Sweet Dreams'

was born from Massimo Gramellini's novel "Fai Bei Sogni", which was one of Italy's biggest publishing successes of recent years (and much deserved because of the details and emotions that the book describes).

But I was not won over to make this film simply because it was a best-seller. It was because of the book's themes, the dramatic situations...

A mother's death.

Losing a mother while still a child.

Nine-year-old Massimo's pain over losing his beloved mother – love felt twice as strong because the boy feels it is reciprocated, absolute and exclusive.



***Young Massimo rebels** against this unjust tragedy,
then, over time, his adjustment to survive this incomprehensible loss.*

*Adapting to life that has a heavy cost for Massimo because he has become more
sombre, beaten, due to a need to defend himself to survive.*

*The toll is taken on his ability to love, left cold and empty over the years of his
adolescence and into his adult life. Complex circumstances and random casual
relationships do not allow Massimo's armor of indifference to break down.*

Massimo, a grown man

*and already an established journalist, "wakes up" one day
and must confront the roots of his pain.*

*We could speak of "healing" but I
rather more prudently speak of
the concrete principle
of change.*



This story struck me hard, deeply,

because I saw many themes that I have often faced in my films.

Family, mothers, fathers, the home in various time periods

over at least 30 years, over a time of radical change in Italy.

The changes in Italy are literally seen

from the windows of his home...

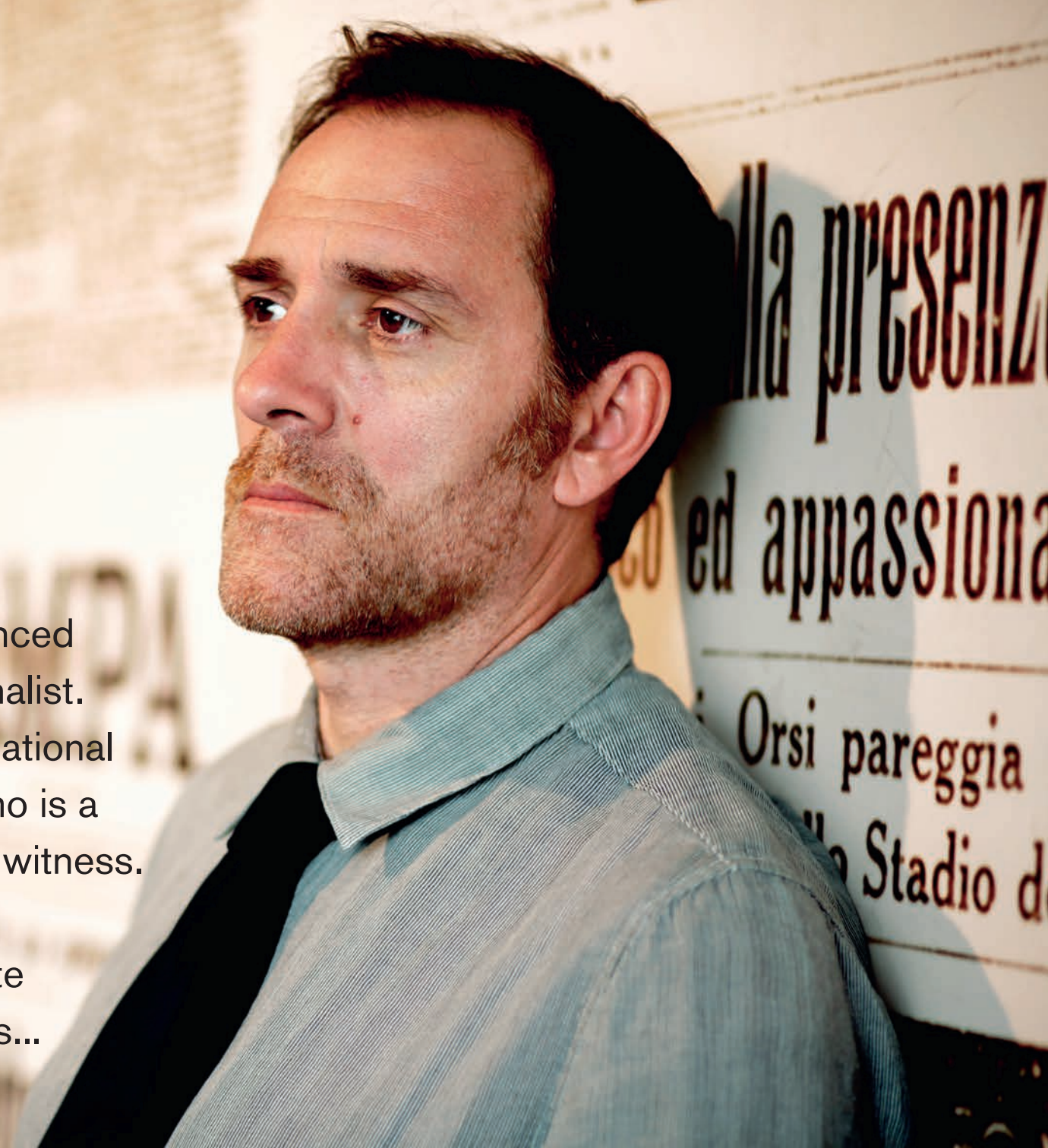


*Rome, Sarajevo,
Turin*

– seen and experienced
by an accomplished journalist.

Working for a major national
daily newspaper, Massimo is a
chronicler of reality, a detached witness.

Maybe he longs to become a
somewhat more compassionate
participant in the world's events...



MAIN CAST & CREW

Massimo	Valerio Mastandrea	Director	Marco Bellocchio
Elisa	Bérénice Bejo	Screenplay	Valia Santella
Massimo's father	Guido Caprino		Edoardo Albinati
Massimo as a child	Nicolò Cabras		Marco Bellocchio
Massimo as a teenager	Dario Dal Pero	Based on	Massimo Gramellini "Fai bei sogni"
Massimo's mother	Barbara Ronchi		edited by Longanesi & C.
Enrico's mother	Emanuelle Devos	Director of photography	Daniele Cipri
Simone	Fausto Russo Alesi	Sound	Gaetano Carito
Simone's mother	Piera Degli Esposti	Production design	Marco Dentici
Father Abisso	Roberto Herlitzka	Editor	Francesca Calvelli
Athos	Fabrizio Gifuni	Original music	Carlo Crivelli
Agnese	Miriam Leone	Costumes	Daria Calvelli
Madrina	Arianna Scommegna	Production managers	Massimo Di Rocco
Madrina's husband	Bruno Torrasi		Attilio Moro
Elisa's aunt	Manuela Mandracchia	Project developer	Anastasia Michelagnoli
Cavalieri	Giulio Brogi	Executive producer	Simone Gattoni
Father Baloo	Roberto Di Francesco	Produced by	Beppe Caschetto
Entico	Dylan Ferrario		
Desperado	Pier Giorgio Bellocchio		

BEPPE CASCHETTO and RAI CINEMA present

SWEET DREAMS (FAI BEI SOGNI)

a film by **MARCO BELLOCCHIO**

2016 - Italy/France - 134 min - in Italian

a production of **IBC MOVIE** and **KAVAC FILM** with **RAI CINEMA**
in co-production with **AD VITAM** (France) with the participation of **RAI CINEMA** and **ARTE FRANCE**
with the support of **Ministero beni e attività culturali Regione Lazio - Fondo regionale per il cinema e l'audiovisivo**
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THE MATCH FACTORY

SWEET DREAMS is the story of a long search for the truth and the fear of discovering it.
Based on Massimo Gramellini's novel FAI BEI SOGNI... Starring Valerio Mastandrea and Berenice Bejo...
From the acclaimed director of BLOOD OF MY BLOOD, DORMANT BEAUTY, VINCERE,
GOOD MORNING NIGHT and MY MOTHER'S SMILE.