



Frontières



# VERA DE VERDAD

A FILM BY BENIAMINO CATENA



IN A UNIVERSE THIS BIG  
NO ONE TRULY DISAPPEARS



SUPPORTED BY



# GENERAL INFO

Production countries: Italy-Chile, 2020

Length: 100' ca.

Director: BENIAMINO CATENA

Soggetto: BENIAMINO CATENA, GRAZIANO MISURACA

Script: PAOLA MAMMINI, NICOLETTA POLLEDRO

Script Supervisor: ALEJANDRO DE LA FUENTE

Production companies: MACAIA FILM -ATOMICA - 17FILMS

With the support of IBERMEDIA, POR FESR LIGURIA 2014-2020,

GENOVA LIGURIA FILM COMMISSION, MIBACT (Tax Credit)

Producers: SIMONE GANDOLFO, MANUEL STEFANOLO, KARINA JURY

Associate producers: NICOLETTA POLLEDRO, BENIAMINO CATENA,

MONICA GALANTUCCI, CORRADO LANNAIOLI

World sales: COCCINELLE FILM SALES

Director of Photography (1:2,39): MAURA MORALES BERGMANN

Editor: PIETRO MORANA

Music: MARLENE KUNTZ

Extra Music: PAOLO F. BRAGAGLIA, DAN SOLO

Post-production: M74



# CAST

MARTA GASTINI (Vera)

DAVIDE IACOPINI (Claudio)

ANITA CAPRIOLI (Vera's mother)

PAOLO PIEROBON (Vera's father)

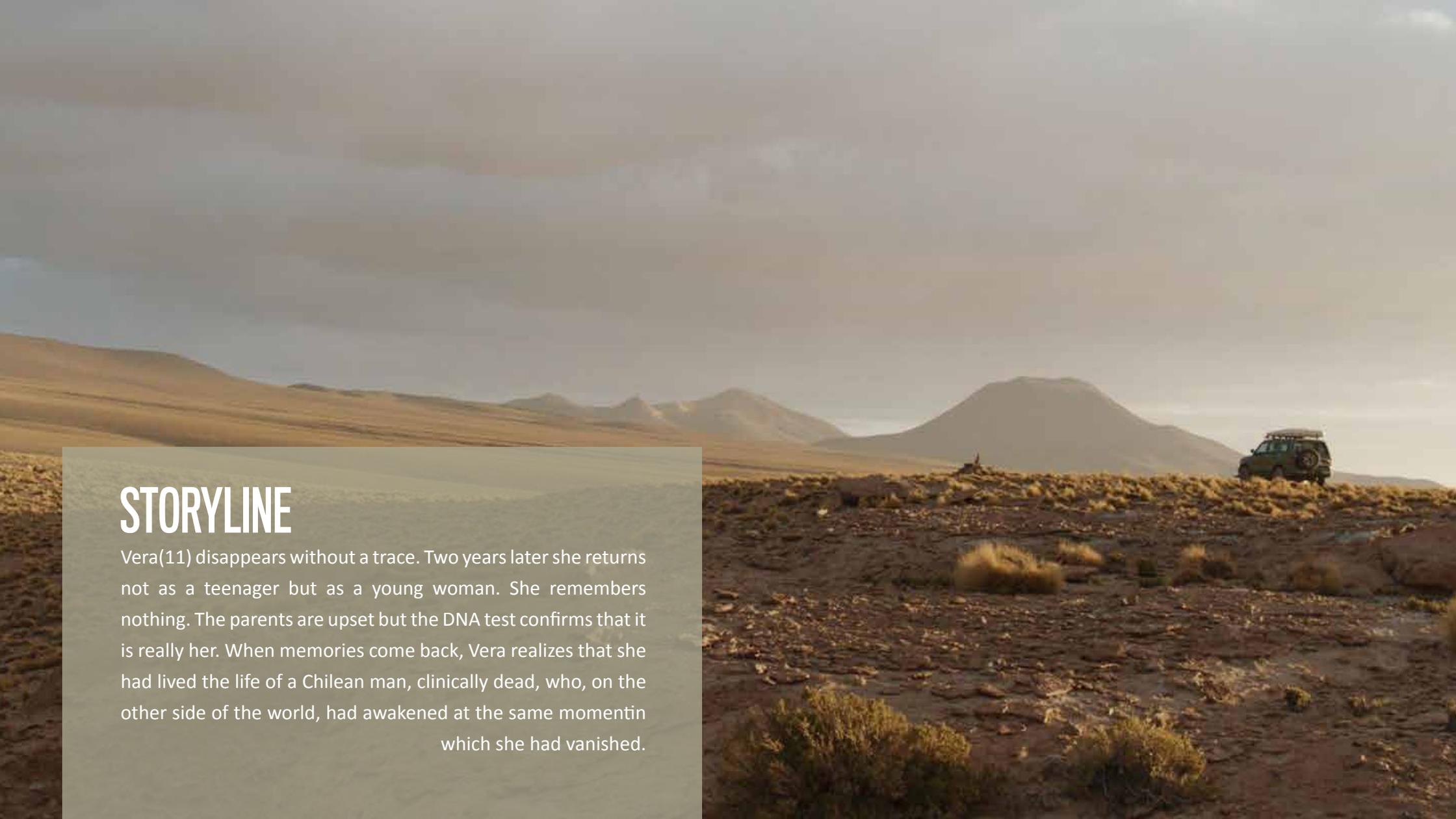
MANUELA MARTELLI (Elias's daughter)

CATERINA BUSSA (Vera as kid)

Special guest MARCELO ALONSO (Elias)



# THE STORY



## STORYLINE

Vera(11) disappears without a trace. Two years later she returns not as a teenager but as a young woman. She remembers nothing. The parents are upset but the DNA test confirms that it is really her. When memories come back, Vera realizes that she had lived the life of a Chilean man, clinically dead, who, on the other side of the world, had awakened at the same moment in which she had vanished.



# SYNOPSIS

In Italy, on the western Ligurian coast, Vera Melis, an eleven-year-old girl passionate about astronomy, is deeply saddened: The dog she grew up with is dead. She decides to scatter her ashes on the promontory of Punta Crena, overlooking the sea, together with Claudio, the family friend who is also her teacher. As the wind blows away the ashes, Vera disappears without a trace. At the same time, on the other side of the world, in San Pedro de Atacama, Chile, a man, clinically dead of a heart attack, comes back to life. He is Elías, a vigilante from ALMA, the largest astronomical observatory on the planet. His daughter Clara, who has refused to see him for years due to his anaffective and violent behavior, decides to visit him but she is amazed. Elías has profoundly changed. After the near-death experience, every night he dreams of the same little girl. Like a hermit wandering the desert, he gazes at the stars in search of answers. A shaman reveals to him that the presence that populates his dreams is a soul suspended in a sort of limbo, her name is “Vera”. Elías now has a mission: After having discovered the story of Vera Melis, he arrives in Italy, reaches the promontory of Punta Crena and throws himself into the void from the same spot where, two years earlier, Vera had disappeared. The next day, on the beach below, a young woman wakes up naked. She returns to Vera Melis’ house and passes out in the arms of his astonished father. Hospitalized, she claims her name is Vera but doesn’t remember anything. The DNA test confirms that the woman is the girl who disappeared two years earlier. Although no one is able to give an explanation to her strange case, the mother accepts her and brings her home while the father rejects her. Claudio is the first person she goes to look for. After the initial loss, the man decides to trust her. Over the days the girl regains possession of her memories and manages to break through her father’s heart. In fact, Vera has developed a sensitivity and an ability that allow her to come into deep contact with nature and therefore to reach the hearts of others with candor. As the days pass, Vera begins to have visions of Elias, a man unknown to her. But this contact mysteriously begins to steal her vital energy. His body gives small but relentless signs of failure. When Elias’s lifeless body is found, Vera realizes that her time is up. Before dying, she confesses to Claudio that the moment she disappeared she found herself suspended in a cosmic dimension beyond space and time. When Vera dies, Claudio doesn’t let the pain overwhelm him and decides to go to Punta Crena to look for any clues. Finds Elias’ backpack, reads his diary, discovering the strange connection between the two. He understands that Vera has left him a task: we are all interconnected and we cannot escape the flow of life and death. Claudio then leaves for Chile, finds Clara and gives her the last message that her father recorded, fully fulfilling that plan of love that Vera had made possible with her incredible story.



# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

“Vera de Verdad” is a film that has many souls and many faces. The story told here has mestizo connotations because fantasy blends with science fiction, embracing drama and the romantic genre. However, the cinematic style is hyper-realistic, lucid, sometimes documentary. From this contrast arises that fruitful idiosyncrasy that is magical realism, a language that enhances the message of our film. Because “Vera de Verdad” tells something on the verge of reality by exploring what is not visible but equally tangible and strong such as fear, love, pain, the sense of infinity. Because we see and hear with the eyes of Vera, a special girl who, in order to face the first mourning of her life, the death of her beloved dog, confronts the unknown, wishing to discover what lies beyond the barrier of the visible and of the body. Through that little girl, who is about to face the transition from childhood to adolescence still wrapped in a magical and empathic world with nature, the viewer is called to live a more mystical than mysterious experience. Vera desires so intensely that she manages to live her desire for infinity and fusion with creation, thus making a “journey” in intergalactic space and then returning to our planet, the Earth. This journey takes place only on condition of a bodily disintegration, at a subatomic level, as if the girl had dissolved into nature, even the most remote, dark, sidereal one. In the film, space and landscapes are portrayed as characters to reveal their most intimate details and express their moods.

Not just as a corollary of our protagonists but as beings with a soul. Italy and Chile are therefore photographed in their specificity of light and colors. On the one hand, Liguria with its deep blue sea, the rock and the mountain that outlines the coast. On the other hand, the Atacama Desert with its infinite skies and its spectacular ochre and saline land where the border line between Earth and infinite space becomes the abstract principle of the relationship between the human and the divine.

Vera de Verdad explores the relationship between life and death, fear and acceptance, loneliness and union with the Whole.

Vera is not only a character, with her narrative parable, she is also the paradox that leads the other protagonists, primarily Elias and Claudio, to confront the fear of both living and dying. They will understand that their conflicts can only be resolved if they are themselves to the end. They will overcome their loneliness by discovering that they are truly connected to each other. They will understand this through the experience of their own body and Vera’s body, not only on a theoretical or mystical level. They will have proof that we are all beings of light and that we will return to the light. But this existential journey is narrated through the daily actions and interactions between the characters, with their difficulties, their frustrations and their fragility. Our characters are saved by understanding that the path to happiness and fullness can only be covered by choosing to love.



[http://www.dibertiec.com/Page.asp?id=8/A601=480/Beniamino\\_Catena](http://www.dibertiec.com/Page.asp?id=8/A601=480/Beniamino_Catena)

## BENIAMINO CATENA, DIRECTOR

Graduated in film history at the University of Bologna in 1998, he made short films including L'ULTIMO UOMO (Locarno Film Festival 1995), WHEN THE EYES CLOSE (Venice Film Festival 2000) and the rockumentary PORNODROME, UNA STORIA DAL VIVO (Turin Film Festival 2002).

He has directed numerous video clips, among others, for Franco Battiato, Marlene Kuntz, Skin, CSI, PGR, Afterhours, Negrita, Paola Turci, Alex Britti, Gianna Nannini, Andrea Bocelli, Laura Pausini.

He directs TV series for Mediaset and Rai including SQUADRA ANTIMAFIA (2009-2013) with Simona Cavallari, Giulia Michelini, Marco Bocci; FUOCO AMICO - TASK FORCE 45 (2015), with Raoul Bova, Megan Montaner; ROSY ABATE (2016) with Giulia Michelini; ONE STEP FROM THE SKY (2020) with Daniele Liotti, Enrico Ianniello.





**PRODUCTION**



## MACAIA FILM (ITALIA)

Macaia Film born in 2010 from the meeting between Simone Gandolfo and Manuel Stefanolo, both professionals with more than twenty years of experience in the audio-visual sector, they feel the need to create something independent through which they can develop their film and television projects, as well as earn a living by working as an executive for foreign productions on the Italian territory and in the commercial audio-visual field. In almost ten years of experience they consolidate their experience through daily work on the set by making videoclips, commercials, institutional films for Agencies or communication agencies and at the same time developing their own artistic projects. Just to mention some of the works done:

In 2010 they made the first video clip for the famous singer-songwriter Gian Maria Testa entitled Come al cielo gli aeroplani, since 2010 they have been creating artistic video content for the most important Italian brands including Ferrari, Bulgari, Air Dolomiti and for Bodies and Institutions such as Valle Region D'Aosta, Liguria Region, Ministry of Health, etc. Thanks to these works they begin to develop film projects and in 2012 they co-produce together with Inside productions Evil Things a Horror feature that was presented in competition at the Noir Courmayeur film festival and which has met with great success both from critics and from audiences in Italy and abroad between 2013 and 2014 they develop and realize, again in collaboration with Inside productions, the TV series Factual Pericolo vertical, aired on SKY1, audience record by time slot/program and presented in competition at the Kathmandu mountain film festival.

Angeli del Mare, a 10-episode series for TV 200 that tells the rescues of migrants in the central Mediterranean, was made in 2017 and is now in the post-production phase.

In 2018 he developed the feature film 616 OVUNQUE SILENZIO second film by director Simone Gandolfo and in 2019 he executive produced the film "La Vita Davanti a Sé", produced by PALOMAR, with Sofía Loren.

# ATOMICA (CILE)

Based in Chile, Peru and Ecuador and with a staff of over 60 professionals from various areas, Grupo Atómica develops in the field of audiovisual production, postproduction of images and sounds, visual effects for cinema, TV and advertising, producers of Cinema and advertising , among others. Its human talent and technology have allowed it to participate in important marketing, communication and entertainment projects, participating as co-producer of the film “La Esmeralda 1879” (2010) by Elías Llanos Canales, “L’incontrollable Mundo del Azar” (2012) by Fernando Lasalvia and “Brillantes” (2014) by Ignacio González, shot in the United States, in Argentina and Chile, Leo Contreras’ documentary “Checks Matta” (2017), together with other films, as well as the TV series “Land of Snakes” (2016), filmed and shown in Ecuador, the web series “Hello Sandra” (2016), directed by Boris Quercia and the film “Here and Now” (2018) by Paz León. In 2015 Atomica joins Tomás Roca to form Garage VFX, a division of the Group focused on the production of visual effects, responsible for many of the effects of films such as “Jakie” and “Neruda” by Pablo Larraín, “La Mujer Fantastico” by Sebastián Lelio, among others. In November 2016, Grupo Atómica institutionalized its film production activity with the creation of Atomica Films, a division specialized in the development, creation and distribution of content for cinema and digital platforms. The division, directed by the producer Karina Jury, in less than two years already has more than twenty film projects in different phases and co-production agreements with partners in Colombia, Peru, Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Germany, France and Italy, projecting itself as new actor for the Latin American audio-visual industry.

[www.atomica.tv](http://www.atomica.tv)





## 17FILMS (CILE)

17FILMS is an audiovisual company established in December 2018 by the producers Karina Jury and Judith Cárdenas, who, after decades in the film industry, decide to channel, through their company, what they have learnt: cinema marketing , planning, acquisitions, production management and executive production. 17Producciones has managed to seal strategic alliances for the joint development and production of film and television projects with various national and international companies, such as MACAIA FILM (Italy), with whom they co-produced the Italian-Chilean film “ VERA DE VERDAD ”by Beniamino Catena, (Frontières Cannes 2020, Torino Film Festival 2020); With the content company Pepper & Dreams, with whome they have produced the web series “Danny Wang” (official selection at Miami Webfest 2020, Seoul Webfest 2020, Rio Webfest 2020); La Nave with whom they are coproducing the documentary “La Rebelión de la Tierra”, together with No.mad Entertainment; With Dinogorila with whome they are producing “Hola Flinko” (Chile, Brazil), a transmedia project for children with already an album released, a series of 26x5min (in production) and a live show.

Furthermore, in January 2020, the company received the Italy-Chile Film Development Fund with MADELIENE by Carlo Macchittela and AMARCOD by Cinzia Bomoll for the production of the film “Who killed Lumi Videla?”, which will be directed by the Emmy winner Hernán Caffiero. Thanks to the same fund, in its Chile-Italy version, it is being developed with Macaia with the film “Il Brutto”. They are also developing with MACAIA the film “The Professor of Religion” (Bolivia Lab), directed by the Winner of the Queer Lion of Venice 2019, Sebastián Muñoz Costa del Río, AMARCOD and MADELEINE with “SHE WHO DID NOT SMILE IN THE PHOTOS ”(Italy-Chile co-productions), starring for Denise Tantucci, Piera Degli Esposti and Alfredo Castro.





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