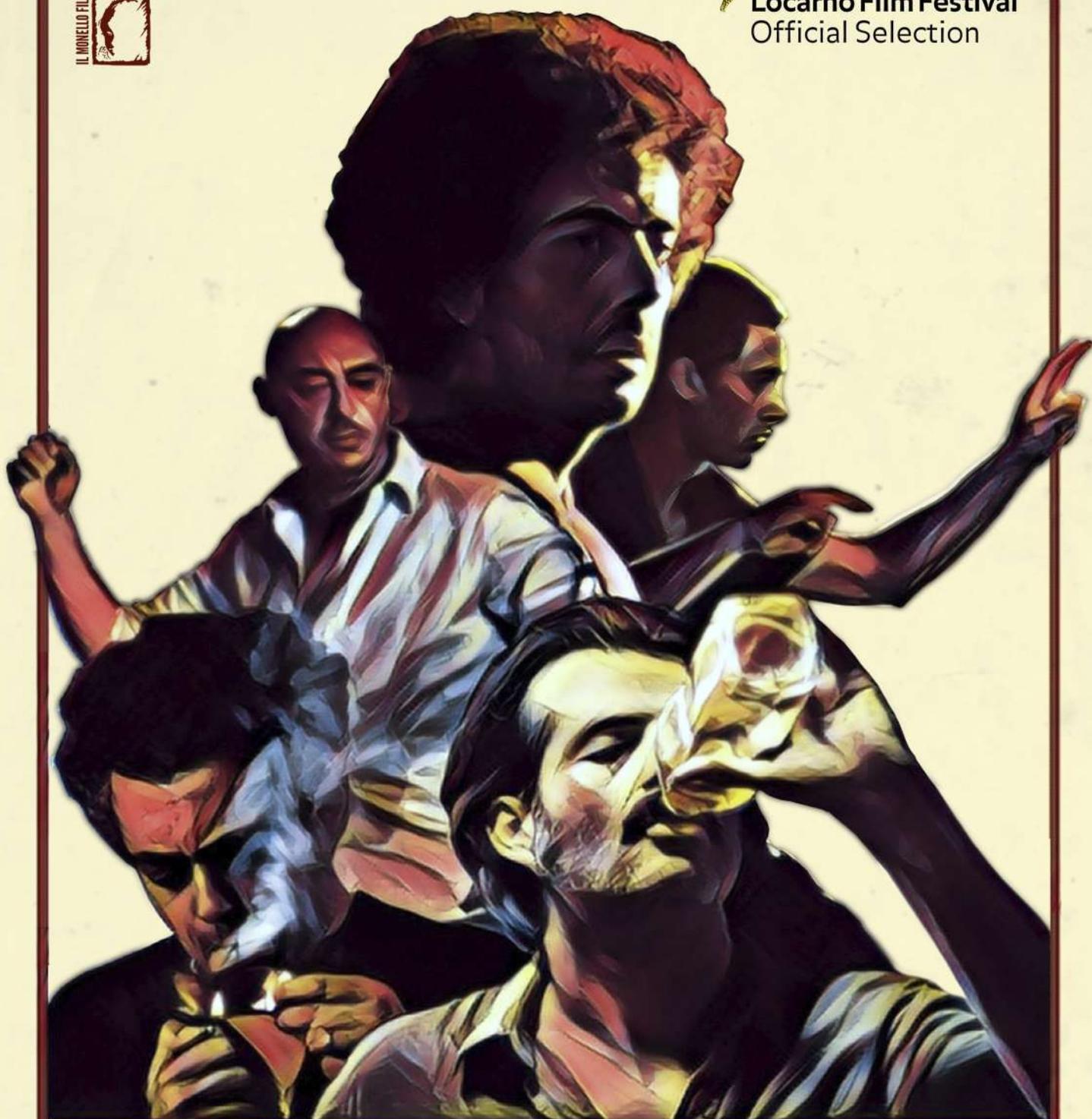


IL MONELLO FILM presents



Locarno Film Festival
Official Selection



THE GIANTS

a film by **Bonifacio Angius**

IL MONELLO FILM WITH THE SUPPORT OF FONDAZIONE SARDEGNA FILM COMMISSION PRESENTS THE GIANTS A FILM BY BONIFACIO ANGIUS
WITH BONIFACIO ANGIUS STEFANO DEFFENU MICHELE MANCA RICCARDO BOMBAGI STEFANO MANCA WRITTEN BY BONIFACIO ANGIUS AND STEFANO DEFFENU
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY BONIFACIO ANGIUS IN COLLABORATION WITH ASCASO DREAMS ART DIRECTORS SALVATORE ANGIUS AND LUCA NOCE SOUND FEDERICO TUMMOLO MUSIC BY LUIGI FRASSETTO
EDITOR BONIFACIO ANGIUS HAIR STYLIST GEROLAMA SALE MAKE UP STEFANIA BETTINI COSTUME DESIGNER EUGENIO ACCADI LINE PRODUCER SILVIA NAPOLITANO
PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY BONIFACIO ANGIUS





THE GIANTS

A film by Bonifacio Angius

Original title: **I giganti**
English title: **The Giants**
Country: **Italy**
Year: **2021**
Length: **80'**
Genre: **Neo - Western/Drama**
Format: **DCP - Color**
Aspect Ratio: **2.39:1 (cinemascope)**
Sound: **48kHz 5.1**



Director: Bonifacio Angius

Story by: Bonifacio Angius

Screenplay: Bonifacio Angius; Stefano Deffenu

Cinematography: Bonifacio Angius in collaboration with ASCASO DREAMS

Editing: Bonifacio Angius

Set designers: Salvatore Angius; Luca Noce

Sound: Federico Tummolo

Line producer: Silvia Napolitano

Production: Bonifacio Angius for Il MONELLO FILM with the support of FONDAZIONE SARDEGNA FILM COMMISSION.



Leading actors

Bonifacio Angius – Massimo

Stefano Deffenu – Stefano

Michele Manca – Andrea

Riccardo Bombagi – Riccardo

Stefano Manca – Piero



Mila Angius

Supporting cast

Francesca Niedda

Noemi Medas

Roberta Passaghe

Mila Angius



Synopsis

A reunion among old friends. A remote house in a forgotten valley. Many memories, bullets, and love stories from the abyss.



Bonifacio Angius

Director's note:

I giganti is a film born in circumstances and suggestions linked to the sad and challenging period we are all facing together. It is a story full of anger, pain, tenderness, fragility, fury, irony, cynicism and violence, sometimes obscured, sometimes overt, devious and premeditated. Violence in gestures and thoughts, in looks and words, as an invisible engine of the characters' actions and, through the portrait of a small self-destructive world, elementary form of human action. The idea of the film was born from the urgency to lay bare the fragility of human relationships and to show their imbalance, trying through the medium of film to illuminate their darker sides, nostalgic, sinister and melancholic.

Time has passed inexorably, and our characters are left with nothing but the emptiness and nostalgia for a youth that will never return, even though they find themselves anything but old.

I giganti is a film of ghosts, of losers, trying clumsily to live a moment of lightness, to enjoy a life in which none of them has been able to understand the essence of that moment that is called, fearfully, happiness. Life is an illusion in which, among the stars, you look for comets that never pass, shooting stars that crash in the dark, without giving us even the time to express our last wish.



I like to define this story as if it were a philosophical work written by an idiot, who in the embarrassment, in the cowardice of self-sabotage, unknowingly managed to talk about the highest ideas without being asked.

I giganti is a lost dream, a forgotten dream of cinema, that I have tried with all my strength to bring back to the screen. And although my words seem so pessimistic – and they certainly are – my greatest love, cinema, has showed up once again to save me. It gave me the strength to smile, to rejoice and to be aware that the word "end" cannot be written, even if we are down and think we can never get up again. Now, a deep, wise, sincere, sweet, and yes, cruel tale is born. But then again, what is life? It's a great adventure with a thousand faces, in which you can not escape feeling every thrill, positive, negative, or neutral, floating in the abyss of doubt of existence. And it gives me hope to know that despite everything, if you go looking for it, you always find something positive, you always find a new dream to realize. And that, even in the darkness of this traffic jam, you can still try to give yourself a shot in the arm, to try to be reborn stronger than before.

Bonifacio Angius





Bonifacio Angius

Bonifacio Angius was born in Sassari on June 12, 1982. Director, screenwriter, actor, director of photography and producer, he has made several short films awarded in several international film festivals. His first feature film, *Perfidia*, was presented as the only Italian film in competition at the 67th **Locarno International Film Festival** in 2014, where it won the prize of the Junior Jury and obtained an extraordinary critical success. *Perfidia*, whose script was a finalist at the prestigious award for unpublished screenplays dedicated to the master Franco Solinas, has participated, among others, in the official selection at the Montreal, Hamburg and Annecy festivals (Special Mention of the Jury) and has been included among the thirty films of excellence released in the calendar year 2014/2015 by MiBACT. His second feature film, *Ovunque Proteggimi*, was presented with great reception by critics and audience at the **56th Torino Film Festival**, International Festival of Santa Barbara (California USA), London, Barcelona, Lisbon, Buenos Aires, Bangkok, Warsaw, Los Angeles, Berlin, and at the **Karlovy Vary International Film Festival**. *Ovunque Proteggimi* was also awarded in 2019 as Best Film by the Popular Jury of the Cineteca di Bologna at the festival Visioni Italiane, it also obtained a nomination for the Best Subject at the Nastri d'Argento and a nomination for Francesca Niedda as best leading actress of the year at the Globi d'Oro. His latest short film entitled *Destino*, of which he is also the leading actor, was presented at the **76th Venice International Film Festival – International Critics' Week** as Closing Special Event. Since 2013, Bonifacio Angius is CEO of the film production company Il Monello Film. *I giganti* is his latest fiction feature film.





THE ACTORS

Stefano Deffenu

Stefano Deffenu was born in Sassari in 1978.

He has always been passionate about cinema, and in 2000 he moved to Florence, where he began his artistic partnership with Bonifacio Angius.

Since 2014 he has been known and appreciated by critics and audiences alike for his starring role in *Perfidia*, Bonifacio Angius' first feature film, the only Italian film in competition at the 67th Locarno International Film Festival.

In the film *I giganti* by Bonifacio Angius, Stefano Deffenu is co-star and co-writer.

In 2020 he made his directorial debut with the documentary *Ananda*, produced by *Il Monello Film* and selected at the 55th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival.



Stefano Deffenu



Riccardo Bombagi

Riccardo Bombagi was born in Sassari in 1998.

He studied at the City Lights film school of Bonifacio Angius and made his film debut with Leonardo Di Costanzo alongside Toni Servillo in the film *Ariaferma*.

In the film *I giganti* by Bonifacio Angius, he got his first co-starring role.



Riccardo Bombagi

Stefano Manca



Michele Manca

Michele and Stefano Manca

The brothers Michele and Stefano Manca were born in Sassari in 1975 and 1972 respectively. They studied acting at the École Philippe Gaulier in Paris and Bont's International Clownschool in Spain. In 1997 they founded the comedy group Pino e gli Anticorpi, with which they made themselves known to the Italian public thanks to their participation in television programmes such as Colorado (from 2005 to 2020) and the Festival di Sanremo 2016. They have been taking their shows around the world for over twenty years.

They made their cinema debut with two films: *Bianco di babbudoiu* and *Come se non ci fosse un domani*, directed by Igor Biddau. *I giganti* features them in their first dramatic roles.



SOUNDTRACK NOTES

When I saw the first rough cut of *I giganti* I couldn't believe how lucky I was: it was as if, by asking me to write the music for this film, Bonifacio Angius had entrusted me with the task of retracing the history of microgroove records, bringing it back to life in those vinyl records, inherited from old relatives, that spin on the turntable in the house where the events of our characters take place.

Between the '40s and '60s of the last century, at the time of the boom of the record industry, the sales charts were very heterogeneous, including pop hits, classical music recordings, singer-songwriters and themes from the soundtracks of the films of the moment. It was a pioneering and experimental period but, despite this variety, a typical sound of the time can be identified, also because often the same musicians played on all kinds of records. This common thread of sound had its backbone in the string orchestra and as chance would have it, Bonifacio loved strings as much as I did. It is precisely the sound of these instruments that acts as the glue for the entire musical score of *I giganti* and which, together with a Fellini-style piano and a few notes of a guitar in the distance, takes us inside the film and introduces us to the protagonists: a web of stories that runs parallel to an almost uninterrupted musical flow; a world made up of nostalgic and evocative melodies and songs.



We had to invent records – records that never existed but seemed like "lost classics" – so we went backwards along the roads of the bolero, the mambo, the cha-cha-cha, American pop and early Italian songwriters.

If the result is surprisingly credible, it is due to the number of extraordinary talents who took part in the realization of this work, but above all to the romantic and adventurous spirit that animated the whole enterprise. In this regard, the process of creating the long "Latin" sequence of the film is emblematic, thanks to which I discovered that Bonifacio is not only a great director but also an excellent lyricist in the Spanish language and has a strong sense of melody: many of those songs derive from motives sketched by himself in the form of vocal messages, which were delivered to me so that I could transform them into real songs.

This is *I giganti* and this, for me, is cinema.

Luigi Frassetto



IL MONELLO FILM

Il Monello film is a film production and distribution company founded in 2012 to produce cinema characterized by originality – both in form and content – focusing primarily on emotions and stories full of humanity, melancholy, joy, irony and cruelty.

Since its inception, it has produced short films, feature films and documentaries of various styles and genres, many of which have been selected and awarded in several international festivals. In 2014 it co-produced and distributed in Italian cinemas, *Perfidia*, a feature film presented as the only Italian film in competition at the 67th Locarno International Film Festival. In 2016, the company distributed *Senza Lasciare Traccia*, the debut feature film of the director Gianclaudio Cappai, starring Michele Riondino, Valentina Cervi and Vitaliano Trevisan. In 2018, Il Monello Film has taken part in the production of *Ovunque proteggimi* by Bonifacio Angius, produced by Matteo Rovere and Andrea Paris for Ascent Film with RAI CINEMA and presented at the Torino Film Festival.



In 2019 Il Monello Film produced the short film *Destino* by Bonifacio Angius, presented at the 76th Venice International Film Festival – International Critics' Week, as Closing Special Event.

Between 2020 and 2021, the company produced the docufilm *Ananda* by Stefano Deffenu, selected at the 55th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, and *I giganti* by Bonifacio Angius, made with the support of Fondazione Sardegna Film Commission, and presented in the International Competition at the Locarno Film Festival.



Production contact

Silvia Napolitano – +393471726324

ilmonellofilm@gmail.com

bonifacioangius@gmail.com



Stefano Manca

Press office contact

Studio Sottocorno – studio@sottocorno.it

Delia Parodo – +393204048063 – delia.p@sottocorno.it



info@coccinellefilm.com – +393388158862