

Cinemaundici and Babe Films with Rai Cinema PRESENT



a film by FRANCESCO MUNZI

# BLACK SOULS

ANIME NERE

Rai Com



CINEMAUNDICI      BABE FILMS  
and  
RAI CINEMA

*present*  
an Italian-French co-production

*produced by*  
Cinema Undici and Babe Films  
with Rai Cinema

# ANIME NERE

a

**Francesco Munzi**

film

with

**Marco Leonardi - Peppino Mazzotta**

**Fabrizio Ferracane**

**Anna Ferruzzo - Giuseppe Fumo**

with special guest appearance by **Barbora Bobulova**

Distribution

**VITAGRAPH FILMS**

Release: April 10, 2015

*press / booking contact*

Vitagraph Films

vitagraphfilms@gmail.com

## FILM CREW

<b>Director</b>	Francesco Munzi
<b>Story</b>	Francesco Munzi and Fabrizio Ruggirello
<b>Screenplay</b>	Francesco Munzi, Fabrizio Ruggirello, Maurizio Braucci
<b>Based on</b>	<i>Anime Nere</i> by Gioacchino Criaco (published by Rubbettino Editore)
<b>Original music</b>	Giuliano Taviani (produced by Ala Bianca Publishing)
<b>Editing</b>	Cristiano Travaglioli
<b>Photography</b>	Vladan Radovic
<b>Set design</b>	Luca Servino
<b>Costumes</b>	Marina Roberti
<b>Sound</b>	Stefano Campus
<b>Casting</b>	Stefania De Santis (u.i.c.d), Icaro Lorenzoni
<b>Produced by</b>	Luigi Musini and Olivia Musini
<b>Coproduced by</b>	Fabio Conversi
<b>Associate producer</b>	Francesco Melzi d'Eril
<b>Produced by</b>	Gianluca Arcopinto
<b>Production</b>	Cinemaundici e Babe Films
<b>with</b>	Rai Cinema
<b>in association with</b>	On My Own
<b>with support and sponsorship</b>	Directorate General of Cinema –
<b>from</b>	Minister of Culture and Tourism
<b>with support from</b>	Eurimages
<b>in association with</b>	Amer ai sensi della legge del Tax Credit
<b>with the collaboration of</b>	BiancaFilm
<b>Distribution</b>	Good Films
<b>International sales</b>	Rai Com

(Non-contractual credits)

## CAST

<b>Luigi</b>	Marco Leonardi
<b>Rocco</b>	Peppino Mazzotta
<b>Luciano</b>	Fabrizio Ferracane
<b>Valeria</b>	Barbora Bobulova
<b>Antonia</b>	Anna Ferruzzo
<b>Leo</b>	Giuseppe Fumo
<b>Ercole</b>	Pasquale Romeo
<b>Nicola</b>	Stefano Priolo
<b>Pasquale</b>	Vito Facciolla
<b>Cosimo</b>	Cosimo Spagnolo
<b>Rosa</b>	Aurora Quattrocchi
<b>Giorgia</b>	Manuela Ventura
<b>Rosario</b>	Domenico Centamore
<b>Antonio Tallura</b>	Sebastiano Filocamo

## SYNOPSIS

Based on real events described in Gioacchino Criaco's novel, *BLACK SOULS (ANIME NERE)* is a tale of violence begetting violence and complex morality inherited by each generation in rural, ancient Calabria, a real-life mafia ('Ndrangheta) seat in Southern Italy. The Carbone family consists of three brothers, Luigi (Marco Leonardi) and Rocco (Peppino Mazzotta) who are engaged in the family business of international drug trade and Luciano (Fabrizio Ferracane) who has remained in the ancestral town of Africo in the Aspromonte mountains on the Mediterranean coast – herding goats. His 20-year old son Leo (Giuseppe Fumo) has little respect for his farmer father, but idealizes his Mafioso uncles. When Leo shoots up a bar owned by a rival family with a longstanding blood feud with the Carbones, his reckless actions create trouble that brings the whole family back to Africo for the inevitable bloody showdown.

## Director's Statement

I made this film in a town that legal professionals and journalists stigmatize as one of the most mafia-ridden places in Italy, one of the nerve centres of the Calabrian 'ndrangheta: Africo. Africo, in the province of Reggio Calabria, on the Ionic coast has a beautiful coastline and is unknown to tourists. Rising up from the sea, are some of the most beautiful, untamed mountains in Italy – the Aspromonte. The landscape is marked by the anarchic building developments so indicative of the south of Italy.

When I said I wanted to make the film there, everyone tried to discourage me: it's too difficult, it's inaccessible, it's too dangerous. It was an impossible film. I sought help from Gioacchino Criaco, author of *Anime Nere*, the book on which the film is loosely based. I arrived in Calabria full of prejudice and fear. I discovered a very complex and diverse reality. I saw mistrust turn into curiosity, and people opened their doors to us. I mixed my actors with the residents of Africo, who acted and worked with the cast. Without them, this film would not have been as rich. Africo has a very tough history of criminality, but it can help us understand many things about our country. From Africo, we have a better view of Italy.

Francesco Munzi

"Munzi peels remorselessly away the layers of his plot in this timeless fable of pride and power, of youth and experience, of father and son, and brother against brother. *Anime Nere* is far more than a gangster movie set in the Italian south: it becomes a morality tale about breaking cycles of violence and finding a new way. This is its true strength, and Munzi does a superb job of detailing the various forces at work. Dark and sinister, full of foreboding and twists, his elegant film tells the story of a man's struggle to escape his past with integrity and force."

- Piers Handling, Toronto International Film Festival

(4 Stars) "Shades of *GOMORRAH* and *THE GODFATHER*... Thrilling." -- [The Telegraph](#)

"Rich, Dark and Impeccably Staged," -- [The Guardian](#)

"This year's mafia pic." - [Variety](#)

## BIOGRAPHIES

### *the director*

#### **FRANCESCO MUNZI**

Francesco Munzi was born in Rome in 1969. He graduated in Political Science and in 1998 he obtained a diploma in directing from the *Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia*. In 2004 he released his first feature film, *Saimir*. The film participated in the 61st Venice Film Festival, where it received a Special Mention in the debut feature film category. The film was then presented at film festivals all over the world to great critical acclaim, winning awards including the Nastro d'Argento for Best New Director. Munzi's second feature film, *Il resto della notte* (2008), was presented at the Cannes Film Festival in the *Quinzaine des Réalisateurs* category. It was then taken to numerous other international festivals.

### *the author*

#### **GIOACCHINO CRIACO**

Gioacchina Criaco was born in Africo, in the historical heart of the Aspromonte mountains. After a couple of decades of wandering around Europe and with a law degree shut away in a drawer, he returned to Aspromonte to tell its stories, to describe Calabrian society from his place of birth. He is the author of *Anime Nere*, *American Taste* and *Zefira*, all published by Rubbettino in Italy. *Anime Nere* and *American Taste* have been translated into French and are published by Edition Métailié, who have also published his work *Bel Paese*. Criaco writes on environmental issues for the Calabrian press and he is a contributor to the literary magazine, *Lo Straniero*.

### *the cast*

#### **MARCO LEONARDI (Luigi)**

Born in Australia in 1971 and raised in Rome, Marco Leonardi began working in cinema at a very early age. He achieved international success with the Oscar-winning film *Nuovo Cinema Paradiso* (1988) by Giuseppe Tornatore. Since then, he has played important parts in numerous films including *Scugnizzi* by Nanni Loy (1989), *Como agua para chocolate* by Alfonso Arau (1992), *La sindrome di Stendhal* by Dario Argento (1996), *Dimenticare Palermo* by Francesco Rosi (1990), and *I cavalieri che fecero l'impresa* by Pupi Avati (2001). In 2007 he played Diego Armando Maradona in the film *Maradona, La mano de Dios* by Marco Risi, with whom he also made *Cha Cha Cha* (2013). He has appeared in the successful television series *Il Capo dei capi*.

#### **PEPPINO MAZZOTTA (Rocco)**

Peppino Mazzotta was born in Domanico, Cosenza in 1971 and studied architecture at Reggio Calabria University. He joined an acting school in Palmi, where he discovered his passion for the stage. His theatrical experience grew: in Naples, he was one of the founding members of the *Rosso Tiziano* theatre company, and subsequently in 2003 he helped found the *Teatri del Sud* theatre company. He debuted in cinema with the film *Prima del tramonto* by Stefano Incerti (1999), alongside Simona Cavallari and Ninni Bruschetta. He then played roles in many other films, including *Domenica* by Wilma Labate (2001), *Certi bambini* by Andrea and Antonio Frazzi (2004) and *Noi credevamo* by Mario Martone (2010). In television, he has appeared in every episode of *Il Commissario Montalbano* in the role of Inspector Fazio. Together with Luca Zingaretti, he performed in Ronald Harwood's play *Taking Sides [La torre d'avorio]*, directed by Zingaretti himself.

**FABRIZIO FERRACANE (Luciano)**

Fabrizio Ferracane was born in Mazara del Vallo in 1975. When he finished school, he moved to Rome, where he began his theatre studies and attended workshops with a variety of directors. He has worked in both TV and cinema, but his mainstay has been the theatre. In 2004 he founded *TeatrUsica*, taking part in numerous national and international festivals with his shows, which included *Sutta Scupa*, produced by Giuseppe Massa and performed in a former prison in Palermo. He worked with Rino Marino for the play *Ferrovicchio*, a runner-up in 2010 for the *Dante Cappelletti* prize. The collaboration with Marino led to the founding of *Compagnia Marino-Ferracane*, a theatre company that among other plays put on *Orapronobi*, performed with prisoners from the Casa Circondariale di Castelvetro where the group ran a theatre workshop. Ferracane has also appeared in a number of television series including *Il capo dei capi*, *Intelligence*, *Squadra Antimafia 2* and *Il segreto dell'acqua*. On the big screen, he has worked with Giuseppe Tornatore on the film *Malena* and with Leonardo Frosina for *L'ultima foglia*. In 2013 he made *Senza lasciare traccia* with Gianclaudio Cappai.

**BARBORA BOBULOVA (Valeria)**

Born in Martin in Slovakia, Barbora Bobulova began her career in television at the age of 12 and debuted in cinema at 14. While still a student at the Bratislava Academy of Performing Arts, she was chosen for Claudio Sestrieri's film *Infiltrato* (1995) and in the following year, she appeared in *Il Principe di Hombourg* by Marco Bellocchio, presented at Cannes. After the Academy, she finished her studies in New York before choosing to settle in Italy at the end of the 1990s. She has appeared in numerous film and television productions in Italy. In 2005 she won the *David di Donatello* award for Best Actress for her leading role in Ferzan Ozpetek's *Cuore Sacro*, and in 2006 she was awarded the *Nastro d'Argento* as "the most Italian of European actresses". In recent years, she has appeared in *Scialla!* by Francesco Bruni (2011), *Gli equilibristi* with Ivano De Matteo (2012) and *Una piccola impresa meridionale* by Rocco Papaleo (2013).

**ANNA FERRUZZO (Antonia)**

Born in Taranto, Anna Ferruzzo has worked in theatre, cinema and television. She played leading roles in Edoardo Winspeare's *Il Miracolo* (2004) and in Francesco Munzi's *Saimir* (2005, Best First Feature Film at 61st Venice Film Festival). In the theatre, she recently performed in Erri De Luca's *In nome della madre* and in *Dal Risorgimento*, which she directed together with Massimo Wertmuller. Highlights of her television career include *Pane e libertà* (2008) and *La leggenda del bandito e del campione* (2010).

**GIUSEPPE FUMO (Leo)**

Born and raised in Gioia Tauro, 20-year-old Giuseppe Fumo was chosen from hundreds of Calabrian boys to play the part of Leo. This is his first role in cinema.

## *production*

### **CINEMAUNDICI SRL**

Cinemaundici was formed in 1998, originally in partnership with Ermanno Olmi. This production company has produced films by Rivette – *Histoire de Marie et Julien*, *Ne touchez pas la hache* and *36 Vues du Pic Saint Loup*; by Ioselliani – *Lundi matin* and *Jardins en Automne*; and by Olmi himself – *Il mestiere delle armi*, *Cantando dietro i paraventi* and *Centochiodi*. In 2010, Cinemaundici produced *La bellezza del somaro*, written by Margaret Mazzantini, directed by and starring Sergio Castellitto, with Laura Morante and Enzo Jannacci. This entertaining and intelligent comedy was directed at a broad public, and it was distributed through Warner Bros. Italia cinemas in December 2010. In 2011, Luigi Musini became the sole partner and director of Cinemaundici. In the same year, the company produced Ermanno Olmi's *Il villaggio di cartone*, a co-production with Rai Cinema, which was presented at the Venice Film Festival in September 2011 and was distributed through 01 Distribution cinemas in October 2011. Cinemaundici recently completed the film *Anime Nere* by Francesco Munzi and *...E fuori nevicata* by Vincenzo Salemme. The company is working on the post-production of the films *Maraviglioso Boccaccio* by Paolo and Vittorio Taviani, and *Torneranno i prati* by Ermanno Olmi.

## *distribution*

### **Vitagraph Films**

Vitagraph Films was founded in 1999 by David Shultz, as the distribution arm of the American Cinematheque in Hollywood, as Vitagraph Films/American Cinematheque Presents... The label's mandate was to bring the rare and unusual programming of the American Cinematheque at the Egyptian Theatre to a wider audience, both theatrically and on DVD. The first releases were 1960s and '70s outlaw Japanese masters samurai and yakuza titles that had never been distributed in the United States. Shortly after its first six releases, the company parted from the American Cinematheque and focused on new product.

Over the years, Vitagraph Films has released films from all over the world, including Oscar nominees such as THE BAADER MEINHOF COMPLEX (Germany), official Oscar entries, Spain's TAMBIEN LA LLUVIA (Even the Rain) and Matt Tyrnauer's VALENTINO: THE LAST EMPEROR. A short list of releases includes director Marc Forester's second feature, EVERYTHING PUT TOGETHER, Alex de la Iglesias' EL CRIMEN FERPECTO (The Perfect Crime), James Marsh's WISCONSIN DEATH TRIP, Chris Smith's THE POOL, Ira Sachs' 40 SHADES OF BLUE, Carlos Reygadas' JAPON, Don Coscarelli's BUBBA HO-TEP and several Takashi Miike films including AUDITION and THE HAPPINESS OF THE KATAKURIS. While working with First Look, Vitagraph Films also released Larry Clark's WASSUP ROCKERS and Dito Montiel's A GUIDE TO RECOGNIZING YOUR SAINTS with Robert Downey Jr. and Channing Tatum.