



SPLENDIDO MARE

A BELMOND HOTEL
PORTOFINO

SPLENDIDO MARE, A BELMOND HOTEL, PORTOFINO PRESENTS CINEMA IN BLU 2023 WITH THE PRESS PREVIEW OF THE DOCUFILM “CON L’AIUTO DI DIO”

24 MAY 2023 - After the success of the 2022 edition, Cinema in Blu returns, for an evocative evening of great cinema under the stars. Overlooking the magnificent bay of Portofino, the silver screen is back in the Piazzetta on 26 June. Once again, Splendido & Splendido Mare will be celebrating what the natural stage of Portofino has represented and continues to represent for cinema, with the press preview of the extraordinary docufilm “Con l’Aiuto di Dio” (With the Help of God), produced by Flying Donkeys Productions, with the participation and contribution of the title sponsors, Splendido & Splendido Mare.

A former sailor, now at the venerable age of 93, is building an 18-metre ark with nothing more than the strength of his own two arms. It’s no surprise that his name is Moses, Mosè Bordero. For about 10 years now, this new Noah has been getting up early, having breakfast and going to work at the boatyard on his Leudo, a typical vessel of this region, which was used until the beginning of the 1900s to transport goods all around the Mediterranean. It is a titanic undertaking, which, after initial general scepticism, has finally captured the hearts of his community of Casarza Ligure, a small town in Tigullio.

The name of his boat, “Con l’Aiuto di Dio” is also the title of the new film directed by the Ligurian director, Nicola Bozzo: an extraordinary testament to determination, resilience and courage, which, through the voice of the



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protagonist, follows the stages of the titanic undertaking of a man, born on the sea shore, who at 93 is following his dream to finish building the largest Leudo that has ever sailed the seas.

In addition to the Leudo, Mosè also built the boatyard itself, and whoever has the chance to visit it, under the close guidance of the owner, is left spellbound by the enthusiasm with which this modern-day hero describes his creature and its genesis, with a wealth of details and forgotten tales of a life sailing the seven seas, from the sun-drenched coasts of the East to the icy waters of the Atlantic. His work has attracted the attention of international marine engineers, who periodically visit the Leudo to try and understand how a single person, let alone a man over 90 years of age, was able to bend the stout ribs that make up the vessel's keel, and allow them swivel. This type of work is done nowadays with modern machines in specialised shipyards.

"Making this documentary has been an extraordinary experience, both professionally and humanly," commented Nicola Bozzo, the director from Chiavari. "In my work, the spectator's eye is the tool I use to interpret a story. This way, I found myself first as a witness of Mosè's astonishing work and I had the honour of being able to portray it. His capacity to never give up makes the telling of this story both compelling and stimulating. Through his undertaking, we come to know a world that exists no longer and for which we have an unconscious nostalgia. Moreover, much of the film is set in the areas where I was born and grew up."

"Mosè's story is one that must be told," stated Michela Nicosia, Splendido Mare's Hotel Manager. "When we discovered this person who, all by himself, at over 90 years of age, is building a 22-metre boat just a few kilometres from our hotels, we immediately fell in love with the project and we are proud to have contributed to the production of the docufilm that will share the story of Mosè and the Ligurian Leudo tradition with the world. It is an extraordinary message of courage, resilience, and brazen optimism; values that today, more than ever, we are happy to spread, as well as a story that perfectly aligns with the Belmond commitment to promote tradition and local cultural heritage."

The dream now is for Mosè to live to see the day when the Leudo takes to the waves, perhaps with the help of the institutions that have already taken this story to heart, with its lesson (especially for younger generations) that however large or ambitious, no challenge can resist an iron will.

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NOTE FOR THE PRESS

The credits for the press preview of 26 June in Portofino can be requested at davide.bertolino@belmond.com

SYNOPSIS

Through the streets, rocks and beaches of a small town on the Ligurian riviera, the story unfolds of a man who decided to build a Leudo, a type of sailboat of ancient origin, solely with the strength of his own two arms. This man, Mosè Bordero, is ninety-three years of age, and for the last twelve years, every morning he has got up and worked to complete his titanic endeavour, defying all difficulties, judgments and scepticism. The documentary recounts, over the arc of one day - his birthday - the story and trials of this undertaking, and reveals more intimate human aspects of our 'hero', both directly and through the voice of his loved ones and some local characters. It is a story of hope and determination, as well as faith, tradition and time.



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BIOGRAPHY OF DIRECTOR NICOLA BOZZO

Nicola Bozzo was born in Chiavari in 1984. Having always been passionate about the visual arts and cinema, he began his career as a freelance filmmaker in 2014 with the video "London Fragments", which was purchased by the airline Air Dublin. In 2015 he won an international video contest promoted by Nestlé, and two awards at the Regione Liguria contest, where his video "Discovery Liguria" was selected to represent the region in the cinemas of northern Italy. In the same year, he worked on other projects connected with the region and won the Anello Verde (Green Ring) award at the Festival dell'Ambiente (Festival of the Environment) with the video "Liguria From the Sky". In 2017, after finishing a project filmed in Sardinia for Campari Zedda Piras, he made "Under the Dust", a docufilm shot in India, and a series of videos linked to the "Dimore" (Dwellings) project for the promotion of castles and historic villas in Italy, financed by the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Activities and Tourism, and the Italian regions. In 2018 he returned to filming in Liguria, where his video "Orgoglio Liguria" (Ligurian Pride) won first prize at the region's official video contest. In 2019, he started working in advertising, directing three commercials that were aired on national channels for the #SpegniTu (TurnItOff) campaign for Duferco Energia, produced by Flying Donkeys. In 2020 he veered towards the world of documentaries, with an episode of the series "Val di Non Stories" (Non Valley Stories) commissioned by the Trentino region. He then made a video celebrating Venice and the Procuratie Vecchie building, promoted by Generali, and a documentary commissioned by the BBC on the sustainable production of Peroni beer. In 2022 he began his career in the world of documentaries with the film "Bhaktapur - A Human Story", shot in the brick factories of Nepal, which had its world premier at the Riviera Film Festival in Sestri Levante and then won the best short documentary award in various international film festivals.

The trailer for "Con l'Aiuto di Dio" is available [here](#).

The pictures of Mosè Bordero at the Leudo boatyard and the docufilm poster are available [here](#).

The images of Splendido Mare, A Belmond Hotel, Portofino are available [here](#).

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