

Presents

A film by Donatella Maiorca

*Based on a true story and inspired by the novel
"Minchia Di Re" written by Giacomo Pilati*

TWO WOMEN AND THEIR EVERLASTING LOVE

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NEW ON DVD
FROM STRAND RELEASING HOME ENTERTAINMENT
ON **FEBRUARY 22, 2011**

Synopsis:

From the novel *Minchia di Re* by Giacomo Pilati comes a scandal hidden in 19th century

Sicily between two young women, Angela and Sara. Angela isn't like other girls her age, she fears nothing and nobody. She can't hide her feelings for Sara. To maintain the forbidden relationship, she changes her outward appearance to disguise herself as a man. The chains that had imprisoned her existence suddenly disappear and she becomes powerful, but in her heart she never denies her identity as a woman. As intense and compelling as only young love can be, the two women challenge the rules of society in order to be together.

Directed by Donatella Maiorca and starring Valeria Solarino, Isabella Ragonese, Ennio Fantastichini.

Street date: February 22, 2011

Pre-book: January 25, 2011

Catalog Number: 3008-2

UPC Number: 7 12267 30082 2

Suggested Retail Price: \$24.99

Stats: 105 minutes - Color - Widescreen - In Italian with English Subtitles -
Not Rated: This Film Contains Mature Subject Matter

DVD Bonus Features:

Original Theatrical Trailer

Other Lesbian Trailers

Other Strand Releasing Trailers

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NOTES ON THE FILM

Viola di Mare (Purple Sea) is a story about the love of two young women, Angela and

Sara, who have both grown up in the same historical microcosm surrounded by hauntingly beautiful scenery.

The plot is based on real events that took place on one of the islands near Sicily in the second half of the 19th century, events which were handed down by word of mouth over generations of country-folk till they are woven into a legend. This legend is brought to life again by the narrative craft of cinema, that kind of artistic cinema which is capable of showing universal truths behind a historical event and that can touch the hearts of its audience by working its spell through innovative techniques.

Thus, the story of Angela and Sara, with their love for each other, the courage to face the truth and their hunger for justice, becomes the story of each man and woman today as well as yesterday. This magic is brought about perhaps by the enthusiasm and commitment of its creators, an almost totally female team, perhaps by the beauty of the landscape or the masterly performance of the actors but certainly by the bravery and determination of the production.

Viola di Mare is a story about a love that is as intense and compelling as only young love can be, but it also speaks about challenging the rules of society. The film shows up abuses, social injustices and the age-long oppression of women, everything the protagonist Angela staunchly fights against.

Yet just as staunchly she besieges Sara, sometimes frantically, sometimes with tenderness, and she will not cease until Sara gives in to her passion. The two make a bold pact which they undertake almost as if they were drawing on the life force, driven by a spirit awakening from the torpor of social conventions.

The forces which she fights against will exact a high price but Angela is ready to pay it. She agrees to completely change her outward appearance, disguising herself as a man, but in her heart she never denies her identity as a woman.

In the film, the various stages of their passion, the moments of awareness, of joy, happiness and sorrow, are interwoven with the seasons of nature and its patterns, sometimes radiant and peaceful, sometimes raging, and these give a rhythm to the unfolding of the story.

The narrative structure finds unexpected closure which, though painful, serves to reaffirm the heroine's identity and give meaning to the law of desire, the only law, Angela seems to say, for which it is worth paying the final price.

Pina Mandolfo

ABOUT PINA MANDOLFO

Screenwriter

Born in Belpasso, a small town on the slopes of Etna, after completing her degree in Foreign Languages and Literature, as a lover of her native land, Pina Mandolfo has continued to live and work in Sicily, first in Catania and since 2000 moving between Palermo and the memory-filled countryside surrounding Syracuse where she spent her

teenage years.

Pina has a particular scholarly interest in the processes of innovation and in the theme of gender difference and works mainly in both literary and cinema research and writing.

She has written for the magazines "Lapis" e "Noi donne" (We Women) as well as for the Sicily's daily newspaper "La Sicilia". From 1978 to 1982 in Catania she organised several cinema events showing films in their original language. With the financial support of the Sicilian Regional Assembly and Catania City Council, Pina has put together a number of film reviews, also being responsible for editing the accompanying catalogues. These include: *Il reale e l'immaginario* ('The Imaginary and the Real', Catania, 1981); *L'immagine riflessa* ('The Reflected Image', Catania, 1982); *Sesso, genere e travestitismi al cinema* (Sex, Gender and Travestism', Catania, 1994); *Sally Potter e Virginia Woolf. Rappresentazione e autorappresentazione del femminile* ('Sally Potter and Virginia Woolf. Female Representation and Self-representation', Catania 1995); *Vuoti di memoria. Il '900 delle donne: film e documenti televisivi* (Memory Gaps. Women in the 20th Century: Films and TV Documentaries', Palermo, 2007); *Dalla parte di lei: le donne, la vita, il cinema* (On Her Side: Women, Life and Film', Palermo, 2009).

1996 saw Pina Mandolfo among the founders of the Italian Society for Women in The Arts (Società Italiana delle Letterate) where she took part in the first two committee meetings.

In 2004, in collaboration with the University of Palermo, she organised a public meeting with the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo.

Pina is author of the novel *Desiderio* , 'Desire', (La Tartaruga Baldini & Castoldi, Milan, 1995), editions of which have also appeared in Germany and Switzerland (Das Begehren, Piper, Munich, 1996). She has also published a number of essays including: *Il sud delle donne, le donne del sud*, 'The South for Women & Women of the South', (in *Cartografie dell'Immaginario* , Sossella, Rome, 2000); *La felicità delle narrazioni* , 'Happiness in Story-telling', (in *Lingua bene comune* , Città aperta, 2006); as well as several short stories such as: *Una necessità chiamata famiglia* , 'The Need for Family' (Leggendaria , May 2001); *Racconto di fine anno*, ' ATale for the End of the Year', (in *Principesse azzurre* , Mondadori, 2004).

Together with Maria Grazia Lo Cicero Pina Mandolfo has written the screenplay and directed the following short films: *Carpe Diem* (funded by the Provincial Council of Palermo, 2005); *Silenzi e Bugie*, 'Silence and Lies' (funded by the EU, 2006), overall winner of the Sottodiciotto Film Festival in Turin and winner of the CIAS prize for film and school; Mandolfo and Cicero also worked together on the longer film *Correva l'anno 'Year'*, (2008). Mandolfo has written the screenplay for *Viola di mare* (out in October, 2009) as well as co-writing the script alongside Mario Cristiani, Donatella Diamanti and Donatella Maiorca.

Pina Mandolfo's writing and artistic production centres are steeped in memories, the land of Sicily and its women. Cinema, the promotion of women's knowledge and learning, the theme of difference, particularly that of gender difference, form a central part of her work and political and public identity.

CREW BIOGRAPHIES

MARIO CRISTIANI

Screenwriter

He's the author of short films and documentaries (including "Oltre le nuvole", winner of the fund "Documentary" of the MEDIA plan), he participated in the writing of several television series (from cartoons for Raiuno "Football boys", to the most recent "Medicina Generale" and "'O Professore").

For "La Squadra", which was Headwriter for five years, he won with Donatella Diamanti the "Grolla d'Oro award" in 2005 for the TV script. He recently supervised as editor for Fox's "Boris" and he was the author and headwriter of the series "Chiamatemi Gio", produced by Disney Channel and Raidue.

He teaches techniques for drama and screenplay at the University of Pisa and at the Experimental Center of Cinematography (departments of Milan and Palermo).

DONATELLA DIAMANTI

Screenwriter

Degree in literature, from 1984 to 1992, during his research on behalf of the University of Pisa and the PhD course at the Faculté de Lettres de l'Université de Geneve, she publishes various writings.

In 1992 she debuted in the theater as a playwright with the show *Non siamo quelli della via Paal* and then she continued with *Una voce quasi umana* (comic monologue, parody of the human voice of Cocteau, 1993), *Le bugie di Anna e Chiara* (winner of Premio Speciale della Giuria in Premio Internazionale STREGAGATTO '94 / '95), *Caino e Abele nell'isola della guerra* (a story about the war, produced in collaboration with Amnesty International and Lega per i diritti dei bambini alla comunicazione), *Bulle & impossibili* (hilarious comedy in two acts) *Ragazzi Terribili* (theater for children, 1996), *Solitari in branco* and *I veri uomini sputano lontano* (1997), *Sette note in fuga* (children's show in 1998 / '99), *Mondo Cane* (show produced with collaboration of L.A.V. Lega Anti Vivisezione,, 2000); *La strada all'altezza degli occhi* (2000); *Senza fissa dimora* (2000). In 2001 / '02 she wrote the shows *Finché non torni*; *Scimmie blu e Indovina da chi andiamo a cena*. In 2002/'03 *Fuori di me* and *La notte era a metà, l'estate pure* (research projects and theatrical production on the lifestyle of the generation techno developed by Fondazione Sipario Produzioni and by Gruppo Abele).

She also taught theatrical dramaturgy at several Italian Institutes.

In 1998 she started working with Grundy Italia as writer of dialogues for *Un posto al sole*, then she took part in the nucleus of authors who will start the series *La Squadra*.

Also for the TV she was writer of series such as *Medicina Generale*, *Liberi Di Giocare* (Miniseries Rai Uno) and she was head writer of the series *'O Professore*.

She published short stories in anthologies published by Mondadori and Sperling and Kupfer. She is the author with Mario Christian and Francesca Serafini of an handbook of writing for the TV series, to be released for Fandango. Her forthcoming novel *La restauratrice* (for Sperling and Kupfer).

She is playing a role as Creative Supervisor Drama for Grundy Italia at the moment, and she is the owner of the laboratory Screenplay at the Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia, Dipartimento Lombardia, since its opening (2005) up to now and she is screenwriting professor at the new headquarters of the Sicilian CSC, in " course of artistic and historical documentaries and Docufiction."

CAST

VALERIA SOLARINO	Angela
ISABELLA RAGONESE	Sara
ENNIO FANTASTICHINI	Salvatore
GISELDA VOLODI	Lucia
MARIA GRAZIA CUCINOTTA	Agnese
MARCO FOSCHI	Tommaso
ALESSIO VASSALLO	Nicolino
LUCREZIA LANTE DELLA ROVERE	Baronessa
CORRADO FORTUNA	Ventura
ESTER CUCINOTTI	Concetta

CREW

Directed by	DONATELLA MAIORCA
Screenplay by	MARIO CRISTIANI, DONATELLA DIAMANTI, DONATELLA MAIORCA, & PINA MANDOLFO
Produced by	MARIA GRAZIA CUCINOTTA, GIOVANNA EMIDI, SILVIA NATILI, & GIULIO VIOLATI
Executive Producers	GIOVANNA EMIDI & SILVIA NATILI
Costume/Wardrobe	LISA MORANDINI & SABRINA BERETTA
Set Dressing	BEATRICE SCARPATO
Dialogue Supervisor	GIACOMO PILATI
Editor	MARCO SPOLETINI
Director of Photography	ROBERTA ALLEGRINI
Sound Mixer	MARCO GRILLO
Original Soundtrack	GIANNA NANNINI
Instrumentals	GIANNA NANNINI & WIL MALONE
Production Company	ITALIAN DREAMS FACTORY

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