

**STRAND
RELEASING**

presents

BAD TALES

**A FILM BY
D'INNOCENZO BROTHERS**

Starring Elio Germano and Barbara Chichiarelli

PRESS NOTES

*OFFICIAL SELECTION
Berlin International Film Festival*

Country of Origin: Italy, Switzerland
Format: DCP/2.39/Color
Sound: 5.1 Surround
Running Time: 98 minutes
Genre: Drama
Not Rated
In Italian with English Subtitles

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SYNOPSIS

Once upon a time, in a small family suburb on the outskirts of Rome, the cheerful heat of summer camouflages a stifling atmosphere of alienation. From a distance, the families seem normal, but it's an illusion: in the houses, courtyards and gardens, silence shrouds the subtle sadism of the fathers, the passivity of the mothers and the guilty indifference of adults. But it's the desperation and repressed rage of the children that will explode and cut through this grotesque facade, with devastating consequences for the entire community.

THE D'INNOCENZO BROTHERS | BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1988, the D'Innocenzo brothers were born in Rome, in Tor Bella Monaca, and then followed their father who brought them to live between Lavinio, Neptune and Anzio. As young lovers of photography, today they boast a place as enfant prodige of Italian cinema. The two young filmmakers reached their goals as self-taught, without specific study. Their debut film, *Boys Cry*, was presented at the Berlinale 2018 in the Panorama section and received several awards, including, Nastri D'Argento for Best New Director, Best First Film and Best Screenplay; 4 nominations for the David di Donatello, including Best New Director and Best Original Screenplay. The great success of *Boys Cry* gave the brothers the opportunity to establish themselves internationally and participate in the prestigious workshop of the Sundance Film Festival, reserved for the best newcomers in the world, under the guidance of the multiple Oscar nominee Paul Thomas Anderson. In 2019 they published their first collection of poems, *Mia madre è un'arma* (My mother is a weapon), by the publishing house La Nave di Teseo. Today Fabio and Damiano have finished their second work with Pepito Produzioni and they are close to publishing their picture book *Night Pharmacy* in 2020 edited by Contrasto.

2020: *Bad Tales (Favolacce)*

2018: *Boys Cry (La Terra dell'Abbastanza)*

COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTORS

It's hard to find words succinct and effective enough to describe the themes we wanted to tackle in our second project. This is also why we chose the audio visual medium of film to tell the story rather than relying on writing alone. Writing is too precise, too unequivocal. It wasn't enough for this story. There is a lot of silence in our film and when the characters do speak, paradoxically, they may communicate less.

Uneasiness, solitude and apprehension find their primary locus within the families in this story. The home – what used to be thought of as a nest, although perhaps a tenderly limiting one – is now the nexus of intolerance, coldness and anxiety. It is enough to consider the statistics on domestic murders to realize this is often the truth.

We want to investigate the communication breakdown in these families, immersed in the stagnancy of sterile routines, where perhaps only tragedies have the capacity to shake things up. Normal everyday families that everyone can recognise, without the excuse of being 'marginal' or at the reassuring distance of the 'bourgeoisie'. A 'Spoon River Anthology' for the new millennium, that speaks to both American suburbia and the European welfare state.

We believe that our story really communicates a sense of palpable suffering. It doesn't just recount suffering, it embodies it. In one powerful ancestral form, the metaphor par excellence: the fable.

Our film is a dark fairy tale that relates the worst aspects of a form of capitalism that does not belong to us by culture or tradition, but which, as (provincial) citizens of the world, we somehow feel we deserve.

A complex story which combines with a striking, scornful *mise en scène*, far from the realism of our previous film *Terra dell'Abbas-tanza (Boys Cry)*, transfiguring the present-day into timeless cinematic language.

We feel this story could have emerged from the pages of Updike, Vonnegut, Yates, Ibsen – or more obviously, from the collected works of the Brothers Grimm, beginning with the title. A world of sensations, bright colors and odors; yet in the distance, everything is burning. And as in every self-respecting fairytale, there is a narrator to spell out events. A mocking narrator who likes to shuffle the cards, to read ambiguity into the most normal gesture and to normalize the inhuman. Every film is a dream, after all. *Favolacce (Bad Tales)* is about a broken dream. The shattered dream of a generation of young men and women who imagined their future with a sense of hope that has proven to be in vain. And their children, who don't want to go anywhere near their own future.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

ELIO GERMANO | BRUNO PLACIDO

Elio Germano was born in Rome in 1980. He started a stunning career as an actor in films directed by top Italian names such as Ettore Scola in *Concorrenza sleale*, *Crialese* in the award-reaping *Respiro*, *Tavarelli in Liberi* and *Veronesi in Che ne sarà di noi*, which saw him short-listed for the David di Donatello and the Nastro d'Argento awards for best supporting actor. He worked in Academy Award-winning Gabriele Salvatores' *Quo vadis baby?* and then in *Come Dio comanda*, based on Ammaniti's novel *As God Commands*. His work in Daniele Luchetti's *Mio fratello è figlio unico* earned him the David di Donatello award for best lead actor, the Globo d'Oro and the Ciak d'Oro award from the Italian film critics. In May 2010 at the 63rd Cannes Festival he was awarded as best actor ex aequo with Xavier Bardem for his role in Daniele Luchetti's *La nostra vita*, the only competing Italian film. In 2013 he played Giacomo Leopardi in Mario Martone's *Il giovane favoloso*, which drew accolades of praise from the public a year later; his role earned him the David di Donatello for best lead actor in 2015, as well as the Nastro d'Argento Speciale award. In 2014 he starred in Claudio Cupellini's *Alaska*, a film shot in France and Italy and which earned him the Globo d'Oro. In the same year he took part in Stefano Sollima's *Suburra*. In 2015 he played Saint Francis in a film by French directors Arnaud Louvet and Renaud Fély. In the same year he worked with Gianni Amelio in *La tenerezza*, which saw him shortlisted for the David di Donatello. In 2019 he starred in Marco Bonfanti's film *L'uomo senza gravità* for Netflix and was cast for *Bad Tales* directed by the D'Innocenzo brothers. Finally, he starred in Sidney Sibilia's *L'incredibile storia dell'Isola delle rose* for Netflix, in the role of Giorgio Rosa.

BARBARA CHICHIARELLI | DALILA PLACIDO

Barbara Chichiarelli is an Italian actress from Rome. Following a series of internships and shows as well as dance and theatre courses, in 2010 she enrolled at the Silvio D'Amico National Academy of Dramatic Art. In 2016 she also joined the cast of the *Suburra* series as Livia Adami. The series was the first Italian production for Netflix and went on to be distributed in 190 countries. The award-winning series' second season became available on Netflix on February 22nd 2019. Her cinema debut came on February 14th 2018 with the musical *Un'avventura* ("An Adventure") directed by Marco Danieli. In 2019 she was cast for Ferzan Özpetek's latest film *The Fortune Goddess*, playing the part of a laid-back nurse. She has been cast as the wife of Elio Germano for *Bad Tales* by the D'Innocenzo Brothers, out in 2020. She is currently working on a number of television, cinema and theatre projects for 2020 and 2021.

CAST

Bruno Placido
Dalila Placido
Professor Bernadini
Amelio Guerrini
Pietro Rosa
Dennis Placido
Alessia Placido
Geremia Guerrini
Viola Rosa
Ada Tartaglia

Elio Germano
Barbara Chichiarelli
Lino Musella
Gabriel Montesi
Max Malatesta
Tommaso di Cola
Giulietta Rebeggiani
Justin Korovkin
Giulia Melilo
Laura Borgioli

CREW

Directors	The D'Innocenzo Brothers
Screenplay	The D'Innocenzo Brothers
Cinematographer	Paolo Cernerà
Editing	Esmeralda Calabria
Sound Design	Fabio Pagotto
Sound	Marc Thrill
Production Design	Emita Frigato, Paola Peraro, Paola Bonfini
Costumes	Massimo Cantini Parrini
Make-up	Diego Prestopino
Casting	Gabriella Giannattasio, Davide Zurolo
Assist Director	Fabio Simonelli
Production Manager	Giorgio Gasparini
Delegate Producer Pepito	Alessandro De Rita
Executive Producer	Salvatore Pecoraro
Producer	Agostino e Giuseppe Saccà

Production Companies: Pepito Produzioni
Co-production companies: RAI Cinema, Amka Film,
QMI, Vision Distribution

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