



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2011

Contemporary World Cinema



Ellipsis Media International

*presents*

an **OBRAZ FILM** production



a **SELVAGGIA SADA & GIANLUCA ARCOPINTO** film

SCREENINGS

09/09	SCOTIABANK THEATRE 7	- 11:15 pm (press/industry 1)
09/13	SCOTIABANK THEATRE 10	- 01:15 pm (press/industry 2)
09/14	TIFF Bell Lightbox 2	- 10:00 pm (public 1)
09/16	SCOTIABANK THEATRE 11	- 03:30 pm (public 2)
09/17	AMC 2	- 09:15 am (public 3)

**WORLD SALES : ELLIPSIS MEDIA INTERNATIONAL**

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## **PLOT**

*Islands* tells the story of the meeting of three solitudes, and the first stirrings of a love born of shy glances and awkward approaches. The story unfolds under the roof of a parsonage on the Tremiti islands. Here, thanks to a series of coincidences, Ivan, an illegal immigrant; Martina, a young woman who has lost her ability to speak; and Father Enzo, Martina's elderly guardian, will end up living together, all three of them unusual characters living on the margins of society. We will see their relationships growing almost effortlessly: the friendship between the old priest and the foreigner, but especially the love between Ivan and Martina, strongly opposed by the self-interested, mean-spirited environment that surrounds them. Yet amazingly, it is in the unlikely alliance with the old priest/putative father, initially outraged by and fearful of their love, who eventually has a change of heart and takes their side, that Ivan and Martina will find their only defender. It is this alliance that legitimizes and dignifies their love.

## **FEATURES**

original title	<b>ISOLE</b>
international Title	<b>ISLANDS</b>
director	<b>STEFANO CHIANTINI</b>
produced by	<b>OBRAZ FILM</b>
co-produced by	<b>IN.PAR S.a.s., S.I.P. S.r.l.</b>
year	<b>2011</b>

## **FILM**

screenwriters	<b>STEFANO CHIANTINI GIULIANO MINIATI</b>
original story	<b>MASSIMO GAUDIOSO STEFANO CHIANTINI</b>
cinematographer	<b>VLADAN RADOVIC</b>
editor	<b>LUCA BENEDETTI CRISTINA FLAMINI</b>
sound	<b>TULLIO MORGANTI</b>
production design	<b>LUDOVICA FERRARIO</b>
costume design	<b>SUSANNA MASTROIANNI FRANCESCA TESSARI</b>
original music	<b>PIERNICOLA DI MURO</b>
producers	<b>SELVAGGIA SADA GIANLUCA ARCOPINTO</b>
production	<b>OBRAZ FILM</b>
co-production	<b>IN.PAR S.a.s., S.I.P. S.r.l.</b>
supported by	<b>APULIA FILM COOMISSION</b>
world sales	<b>ELLIPSIS MEDIA INTERNATIONAL</b>
contry of origin	<b>ITALY</b>
language	<b>ITALIAN</b>
available subtitles	<b>ENGLISH</b>
runtime	<b>92'</b>
camera	<b>35mm</b>
film negative format	<b>35 mm</b>
available format	<b>35mm, DCP\D cinema, h264, DigiBeta, DVD</b>
subtitles	<b>English</b>
aspect ratio	<b>1:2:35</b>
sound	<b> DOLBY DIGITAL</b>

**CAST**

**ASIA ARGENTO**

Martina

**IVAN FRANEK**

Ivan

**GIORGIO COLANGELI**

Father Enzo

**ANNA FERRUZZO**

Wilma

**OTHER CAST**

**PASCAL ZULLINO**

Rocco

**PAOLO BRIGUGLIA**

Alessandro

**ALESSANDRO TIBERI**

Father Paolo

**VINCENZO CRIVELLO**

Bricklayer

## STEFANO CHIANTINI



### Filmography

- 2011 Islands
- 2010 Quarto tempo (Doc.)
- 2008 L'amore non basta
- 2004 *Forse si...forse no...*
- 2001 *Io ci provo* (short)
- 1999 *Dove corri, ma dove corri?!* (short)

### BIOGRAPHY

#### **STEFANO CHIANTINI:**

He was born in Avezzano (L'Aquila) on August 5, 1974. After graduating from high school at the Istituto Alessandro Torlonia, he moved to Rome to attend college and obtained a degree in film studies at Rome's Università "La Sapienza." He then attended a screenwriting course at the Università "La Sapienza" taught by Orio Caldiron, Sandro Petraglia, Francesco Bruni, and Furio Scarpelli, followed by a course in creative writing at the same university, taught by Vincenzo Cerami.

He began his professional career in 1999, when he made a 35mm short film called "Dove corri, ma dove corri?!", and followed it up with his next short, also a 35mm, entitled "Io ci provo."

To become better acquainted with film sets, Chiantini served as assistant director on the film "Incantesimo napoletano" by Paolo Genovese and Luca Miniero, as well as on Vincenzo Marra's documentary "Paesaggio a sud."

He returning to directing in 2004, when he wrote and directed the super 16mm feature film "Forse si...forse no...", starring Alessandro Tiberi, Luciano Federico, and Cristiana Capotondi and produced by Mariposa Film and Gianluca Arcopinto. This film was selected to represent Italian first films at the Young European Directors Festival in Budapest and the Bratislava Film Festival; it also screened in the independent Italian film section at the Pesaro Film Festival before its Italian release in 2004, distributed by Pablo.

In 2007 Chiantini wrote and directed his second feature film, "L'amore non basta," shot in super 16mm, starring Giovanna Mezzogiorno, Alessandro Tiberi, Rocco Papaleo, Alessandro Haber, Ivan Franek and Marit Nissen. The film was produced by Obraz Film and Liupo Film and distributed by Media Film in 2008.

Before turning to his third feature, "Islands," he tried his hand at documentaries, writing and directing the documentary "Quarto tempo" in 2010. Produced by Obraz Film, it is currently in post-production.

## DIRECTORS' NOTES

The urge to tell a story unfailingly springs from a deep personal need, a need that insinuates itself into your soul when “something” – a gesture, an emotion, a mere atmosphere – strikes you and builds from within almost without your knowing it, until it becomes uncontrollable.

It is just this escalation of emotions that “obliged” me to make *Islands*, a love story, true, but more generally speaking a tale of relationships between persons who, for very different personal reasons, find themselves living on the margins of society.

So we see Martina and Ivan coping with their difficult existences, cut off from the outside world after various wrong turns: two lives that will find meaning and fulfillment when they intersect, because it is by rediscovering love with another person that you find the courage to face the future. The world around the two lovers unites against them: a world blinded by its own self-interest and unwilling to accept any contact at all with the outside universe and people who are “different”.

This prejudice and self-isolation explain the choice of our location: an island's separateness is evident at a first glance; it is virtually a world unto itself. At the same time, its dependence on its ties and connections to the “other” – the mainland – is also immediately apparent. The beauty of the elements of which an island is composed – its cliffs, its vegetation, and the sea around it – is breathtaking and exerts a timeless pull on visitors, but all it takes is one storm or a change of light to transform those elements into something disturbing and outright frightening. In conclusion, an island is an instant metaphor for the human condition: in which salvation is only possible through personal interrelationships.

This is the enchanting yet somehow forbidding and “deteriorating” landscape that serves as the backdrop for the protagonists' personal journeys, which will bring them face-to-face with their own fears and their pasts. The first part of the story is a more clear-cut rendering of their solitude and their travails, while the second part probes the characters' deepest emotions.

With a light touch and a healthy dose of irony – two features that can accentuate and also underline more effectively the pain and tragedy of human predicaments – the story builds to a crescendo before our eyes, never letting us forget that redemption and triumph lie mainly in the dignity with which we face our lives.

*Stefano Chiantini*

## **PRODUCTION'S NOTES**

From a production standpoint, *Islands* is an unusual project, since it is a completely independent film, produced without the benefit of government funding, which, in Italy, is the exception to the rule.

In relying on private capital, our gamble certainly paid off. Two companies unconnected with the film industry, the IN.PAR S.a.s. and the S.I.P. S.r.l., seized the opportunity to invest their capital in a high-quality cultural project, thanks in part to the tax cuts provided by the new Italian legislation on tax credits.

On the basis of such a solid production structure, which does not, however, involve a high overall budget, the APULIA FILM COMMISSION decided to support the project through its own contribution, considering the fact that the film is set entirely on the Tremiti Islands, a part of Puglia that has rarely been “immortalized” on the contemporary screen.

It is the islands themselves, in fact, their disarming beauty, and the microcosm they represent that are the inspiration for, as well as the backdrop to, the story and its characters.

During the making of this film there were a number of hurdles to overcome, but we rose to the challenge thanks to the total commitment of everyone involved in the project – the actors, the crew and the island’s inhabitants who worked with us. All of these individuals embraced the spirit of the endeavor and threw themselves wholeheartedly into the making of *Islands*.

Thanks to their enormous enthusiasm and profound motivation, we were undaunted by the prospect of making a complex film, with its rich variety of situations and locations, in just four and a half weeks, and with a budget that was certainly not high. And we succeeded. We knew we could count on our talented high-profile cast and a plethora of other skilled professionals.

In our view, *Islands* proves that it is possible to make independent films on a moderate budget without sacrificing either the quality or the originality of the project.

Obraz Film

## **TECHNICAL CREW**

### **DOP:**

VLADAN RADOVIC: He graduated in 1999 from the Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia in Rome; his degree program was coordinated by Giuseppe Rotunno.

He served as Director of Photography on the following feature films: “L'estate di Martino” di Massimo Natale (2010) “Il resto della notte” by Francesco Munzi (2008), “Colpo d'occhio” by Sergio Rubini (2007), “Il mondo addosso” by Costanza Quatriglio (2006), “Mater natura” by Massimo Andrei (2005), and “Saimir” by Francesco Munzi (2004).

Among his short films: “Come ieri” by Luciano Federico, “Homo homini lupus” and “Sulla riva” by Matteo Rovere, “Racconti di guerra” by Mario Amura, and “Ti racconto una storia” by Manuela Mancini.

### **EDITING:**

#### LUCA BENEDETTI & CRISTINA FLAMINI

LUCA BENEDETTI: He has edited numerous feature films, including: “Galantuomini” by Edoardo Winspeare (2008), “L'ora di punta” by Vincenzo Marra (2007), “Forse si..forse no” by Stefano Chiantini (2004), “Vento di terra” by Vincenzo Marra (2004), “Il miracolo” by Edoardo Winspeare (2003), “Paesaggio a sud” by Vincenzo Marra (2003), “Viva la scimmia” by Marco Colli (2002), “Piovono mucche” by Luca Vendruscolo (2002), “Tornando a casa” by Vincenzo Marra (2001), “Occidente” by Corso Salani (2000), and “Sangue vivo” by Edoardo Winspeare (2000).

CRISTIANA FLAMINI: she has worked as editor in many documentaries and feature films, including: 2011 “Isole” by Stefano Chiantini, “Il colore del vento” (Doc), by B.Bigoni. (2009) “Radio Singer” (Doc) by P. Balla, “L'Italia del nostro scontento” by L. Le Moli, E. Fuksas, F. Muci, (2008) “L'amore non basta” by Stefano Chiantini, (2006) “L'udienza è aperta” (Doc) by Vincenzo Marra, In Competition at Venice Days, Venice 2006.

### **MUSIC:**

PIERNICOLA DI MURO: He has composed the scores for the television series “Tutti pazzi per amore” and for a number of feature films, shorts, and documentaries, such as:

“L'amore non basta” by Stefano Chiantini (2008), “Silk Trees” (USA, 2008) by Jedidiah Burdick, “Dead in the Water” (USA, 2006) by Marc Buhmann, “So che c'è un uomo” (2009) by Gianclaudio Cappai (short



in competition at 66th Venice Film Festival in 2009) “La pistola” by Enrico Ranzanici (short, 2008), “Purchè lo senta sepolto” (short, 2007) by Gianclaudio Cappai (Audience Award at 24th Turin Film Festival in 2006), “Niente storie” (short, 2006) by Riccardo Milani, “The making of the Biennale di Venezia 2008”, a doc by Stephen Natanson (2008), “Via Benedicti” (doc, 2007), “Due spari nel buio – il caso Campanile” (Rai TV doc, 2007), “Sabina Mater” (doc, 2006), “Celestino V i sentieri del silenzio” (doc, 2005), and “La sottile linea rossa” (Rai doc, 2003).

## **PRODUCTION DESIGN:**

LUDOVICA FERRARIO She has worked as Production Designer in numerous feature films, including: 2011 “Isole” by Stefano Chiantini, “Il rosso e il blu” by Giuseppe Piccioni; 2010 “Il segreto dell’acqua” (TV) by Renato De Maria; 2009 “Copia Conforme” by Abbas Kiarostami; 2007 as Art Director “Palermo Shooting” by Wim Wenders.

## **SOUND:**

TULLIO MORGANTI: Winner of several David di Donatello awards, long-time collaborator with Sergio Rubini; his most important films include “Nirvana” by Gabriele Salvatores, “Pinocchio” by Roberto Benigni, “La vita è bella” by Roberto Benigni, and “Figli” by Marco Bechis.

## **COSTUM DESIGN:**

SUSANNA MASTROIANNI e FRANCESCA TESSARI

SUSANNA MASTROIANNI: she works as Costume Designer both for Cinema and TV- recently: 2011 “Isole” by Stefano Chiantini (Official Selection at Toronto Film Festival 2011) “Cavalli” by Michele Rho (In Competition at 68<sup>th</sup> Venice Film Festival “Controcampo Italiano”)

FRANCESCA TESSARI she has works for advertising and commercials from 1995 to 2010; In 2010 she start working in films, including “Ruggine” by Daniele Gaglianone (In Competition at 68<sup>th</sup> Venice Film Festival “Controcampo Italiano”); (2011) “Isole” by Stefano Chiantini, “Cavalli” by Michele Rho (In Competition at 68<sup>th</sup> Venice Film Festival “Controcampo Italiano”).

## **PRODUCTION:**

Selvaggia Sada & Gianluca Arcopinto for OBRAZ FILM

OBRAZ FILM: It’s a young independent production company; it co-produced the feature film “L’amore non basta” (2008) by Stefano Chiantini, starring Giovanna Mezzogiorno, Rocco Papaleo, Alessandro Tiberi, and Alessandro Haber.

In 2010 it produced the documentary “Quarto tempo” about the city of L’Aquila post-earthquake, and its rugby team.

## **ACTORS**

### **ASIA ARGENTO (Martina)**

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The daughter of the Italian director Dario Argento and actress Daria Nicolodi, she has appeared in countless films, including: “Perdiamoci di vista” by Carlo Verdone (1994), for which she won a David di Donatello and a Ciak d’Oro; “Compagna di viaggio” (Traveling Companion) by Peter Del Monte (1996), which resulted in her second David di Donatello; and “Viola bacia tutti” by Giovanni Veronesi (1997).

Her international career got its start in 1998 with her role in Abel Ferrara’s “New Rose Hotel.”

In 2000 she directed the film “Scarlet Diva”, followed in 2004 by “Ingannevole è il cuore più di ogni cosa,” which was filmed in the U.S.A:

The many films she has appeared in include “Marie Antoinette” by Sophia Coppola (2006), “La terza madre” by Dario Argento (2007), and “Go Go Tales” by Abel Ferrara (2007).

### **IVAN FRANEK (Ivan)**

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Franek is a stage and screen actor born in the Czech Republic, who now lives in France.

He starred in “Brucio nel vento” by Silvio Soldini in 2002, his breakout film that led to numerous roles in films and television series, including “Vodka Lemon” by Hiner Saleem (2003), “Sulla mia pelle” by Valerio Jalongo (2004), “Provincia Meccanica” by Stefano Mordini (2005), “Notturmo bus” by Davide Marengo (2007), “L'amore non basta” by Stefano Chiantini (2007), “Chiara e Francesco” (2007) by Fabrizio Costa, “In carne e ossa” by Christian Angeli (2008), “Chirurgia d'urgenza (La scelta di Laura)” by Alessandro Piva (2008), and “Noi credevamo” by Mario Martone (2010).

### **GIORGIO COLANGELI (Father Enzo)**

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In 2007 he starred in “L’aria salata” by Alessandro Angelini, which won him a David di Donatello; he had already been honored with a Silver Ribbon for Ettore Scola’s “La cena” in 1998. He has also appeared in “Il Divo” by Paolo Sorrentino (2007), “Colpo d’occhio” by Sergio Rubini (2007),

“Parlarmi d’amore” by Silvio Muccino (2007), “La signorina Effe” by Wilma Labate (2007), “L’amico di famiglia” by Paolo Sorrentino (2005), “L’orizzonte degli eventi” by Daniele Vicari (2004), “Gente di Roma” by Ettore Scola (2004), “Un viaggio chiamato amore” by Michele Placido (2001), and “Pasolini: un delitto italiano” by Marco Tullio Giordana (1994).

He has had television roles in: “Rino Gaetano” (Fiction televisiva, 2006), “Questa è la mia terra” (Fiction televisiva, 2005), “Un medico in famiglia”, “Linda e il brigadiere” (2000), “Padre Pio” (2000), and “Galileo Galilei” (1990).

## **ANNA FERRUZZO (Wilma)**

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An actress from Puglia, she has appeared in films such as: “Marpiccolo” by Alessandro di Robilant (2010), “Cado dalle nubi” by Gennaro Nunziante, “Saimir” di Francesco Munzi (Special Mention Best First Film at the 61st Venice Film Festival in 2004; Berlin Film Festival) “Il miracolo” by Edoardo Winspeare (in competition at the 60th Venice Film Festival in 2003), “Anche libero va bene” by Kim Rossi Stuart, “Angeli laici cadono” by Tonino De Bernardi, “Azzurro” by Denis Rabaglia, and “Ballata alla città dei due mari” by Leo Pantaleo.

She has had television roles in: “Distretto di polizia 9”, “La nuova squadra 2”, “Un caso di coscienza 4”, “La scelta di Laura”, “Nati ieri”, and “Diritto di difesa”. She is also a frequent stage actress.