



**FESTA
DEL CINEMA
DI ROMA 2025**
STORIA DEL CINEMA

SERGIO & MIRTA

Some Kind of 8mm Love

A FILM BASED ON MIRTA GUARNASCHELLI's PRIVATE ARCHIVE

directed by **Fabrizio Laurenti**
written by **Fabrizio Laurenti** and **Niccolò Vivarelli**



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CAST AND CREDITS

Regia	Fabrizio Laurenti
Soggetto e trattamento	Fabrizio Laurenti e Niccolò Vivarelli
Musiche originali di	Riccardo Cimino
Consulenza musicale	Pierpaolo De Sanctis
	Giulia Rocca
Archive producer	Luca Tommasini
Consulente creativo	Niccolò Vivarelli
montaggio	Luca Tommasini e Fabrizio Laurenti
Prodotto da	Donatella Palermo
una produzione	Stemal Entertainment
	Luce Cinecittà
in collaborazione con	Rai Cultura
	Cineteca di Bologna – L'Immagine ritrovata
	The Apartment società del gruppo Fremantle
Con il contributo	del Fondo per lo sviluppo degli investimenti nel cinema e nell'audiovisivo – Ministero della cultura
durata	68'

con il commento di Mirta Guarnaschelli



*Sergio Corbucci – the director who invented Django – e Mirta Guarnaschelli
future N° 1 Italian casting director:
a great love in 8mm in the times of Dolce Vita*

Restored by Cineteca di Bologna and L'Immagine Ritrovata, these 8mm films
are shown for the very first time.



SERGIO & MIRTA was born from the rediscovery of a small treasure: amateur films shot in the 1950s by the very young director Sergio Corbucci, which remained for 70 years in a suitcase at the home of his first wife Mirta Guarnaschelli (the future #1 casting director in Italy), reveal a forgotten love story.

They tell the other side of the "Dolce Vita." They are glimpses of an Italy and a cinema that struggled to emerge amidst a thousand difficulties, narrated by Mirta herself.

A small, private story that encompasses a broader reflection on life, love, and cinema.

Written by Fabrizio Laurenti and Niccolò Vivarelli, directed by Fabrizio Laurenti, with creative consultancy by Niccolò Vivarelli, and editing by Luca Tommasini and Fabrizio Laurenti.

SERGIO AND MIRTA: Some Kind of 8mm Love is a Stemal Entertainment - Luce Cinecittà production in collaboration with Rai Cultura, Cineteca di Bologna – L'immagine ritrovata, and The Apartment, a Fremantle company.

MIRTA GUARNASCHELLI

From an ancient Palermo family, she was born in Rome on June 11, 1932. In the early 1950s, she met Sergio Corbucci in Capri, a few years older than her, then a debutant director of genre films, musicals, and dramas.

When Sergio arrived in Palermo to film "The Sinner of the Island," they met again. Later, Mirta, along with her mother, left Palermo for Rome, and their friendship with Sergio grew stronger, leading to their engagement and, as soon as they came of age (1953), their marriage.

A life of constant travel ensued, to Sergio's various sets, between Rome, Naples, Paris, and Spain. Even though Sergio shot up to three low-budget films a year, the couple's financial situation remained precarious, while they waited for the "turning point" that they hoped would come sooner or later.



Theirs was a "couple of bright hopes," fueled by the constant promises of small and medium-sized producers in the Rome of the Boom, the Via Veneto of the Dolce Vita. Often, a handshake or a signature on a napkin was enough to start writing a screenplay or scouting locations for filming, financed by promissory notes that often evaporated into nothing.

After five years of precarious living and predictably and regularly unfulfilled promises, Mirta threw in the towel, ending the couple in 1959. Sergio, having overcome the despair of the failure of his marriage to Mirta, later met Nori, with whom he remained until his untimely death at just 64.

Through acquaintances in the film industry, Mirta was asked to assist director Pietro Germi in the search for "Angela," the young protagonist of a film to be shot in Sicily. Stefania Sandrelli, who was still underage, was chosen, and the film, "Divorce Italian Style," won the Palme d'Or for Best Comedy at Cannes and an Oscar® for Best Original Screenplay. Germi taught Mirta the job of script editor and continued to want her to star with him in four more films: *Seduced and Abandoned* (1964), *Ladies & Gentlemen* (1966), *The Immoral* (1967), and *Serafino* (1968).



While Sergio Corbucci's career was taking off at a rate of 3-4 box office hits a year, Mirta, after Germi's passing, founded the acting agency "Attori Associati," and until 2011—at the age of eighty—worked regularly as a casting director on numerous Italian and international films and television films, including *Tea with Mussolini* (Franco Zeffirelli), *Traces of a Love Life* (Peter Del Monte), *Queen Margot* (Patrice Chéreau), *The Phantom of the Opera* (Dario Argento), *Asterix and Obelix: Mission Cleopatra* (Alain Chabat), *It Can Be Done* (Giulio Manfredonia), *The Achille Lauro* (Alberto Negrin), *When the Night Comes* (Cristina Comencini); The series *La squadra* (seasons 1 and 2) and *Elisa di Rivombrosa* (Cinzia TH Torrini, Stefano Alleva).

Her archive, consisting largely of her workbooks, is preserved at the Mario Gromo Library in Turin.

The dozens of 8 mm films shot by Sergio Corbucci during their marriage, which remained unreleased for over sixty years, have now been restored by Immagine Ritrovata and the Cineteca di Bologna.

She provides commentary for the first time in Fabrizio Laurenti's film "*Sergio & Mirta, Some Kind of 8mm Love*"

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

“The home movies shot by a very young Sergio Corbucci, which remained in a box at the home of his first wife, Mirta Guarnaschelli, for 70 years, tell the story of a forgotten love story.

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This film was born from the discovery of a small treasure: a suitcase containing more than twenty reels of 8mm home movies, which had been stored for years in a closet at the home of Mirta Guarnaschelli, Sergio Corbucci's first wife, now ninety-two.

It is a classic case of a found-footage film, revealing a story that would otherwise have been lost: the love story of Sergio and Mirta.

He's a young director making his debut, she's not even eighteen years old from a good Sicilian family, transposed to the cinematic Rome of the Dolce Vita and Via Veneto. A Via Veneto seen from the other side of the sidewalk, made of precariousness, dashed hopes, meetings and clashes with producers, actor friends, and fellow screenwriters.

Everything is faithfully documented with the Paillard 8mm camera that Sergio always carries with him. From their first meeting in Capri in the 1950s, to their wedding, their honeymoon, and the scouting trips to Spain and on sets in search of film offers that often turn out to be just idle talk.

It's the other side of the dolce vita. The glimpses of an Italy and a cinema that were trying to emerge amidst a thousand difficulties. It seems to me that this little private story actually contains a reflection on life, love, and cinema that is somehow worth bringing back to life.”



THE PROTAGONISTS

MIRTA GUARNASCHELLI

(Rome, June 11, 1932) from a Sicilian family, met Sergio Corbucci in the late 1950s in Capri and married as soon as she came of age, in 1953. After their separation in 1959, she found work as a script assistant for Pietro Germi on the film "Divorce Italian Style," starring Mastroianni and Sandrelli, which won the Palme d'Or at Cannes and an Oscar. She also worked with Germi on "Seduced and Abandoned" and "Serafino."

She opened a casting agency in Rome and later became the first and largest casting agent in Italy. She lives in Rome.



SERGIO CORBUCCI

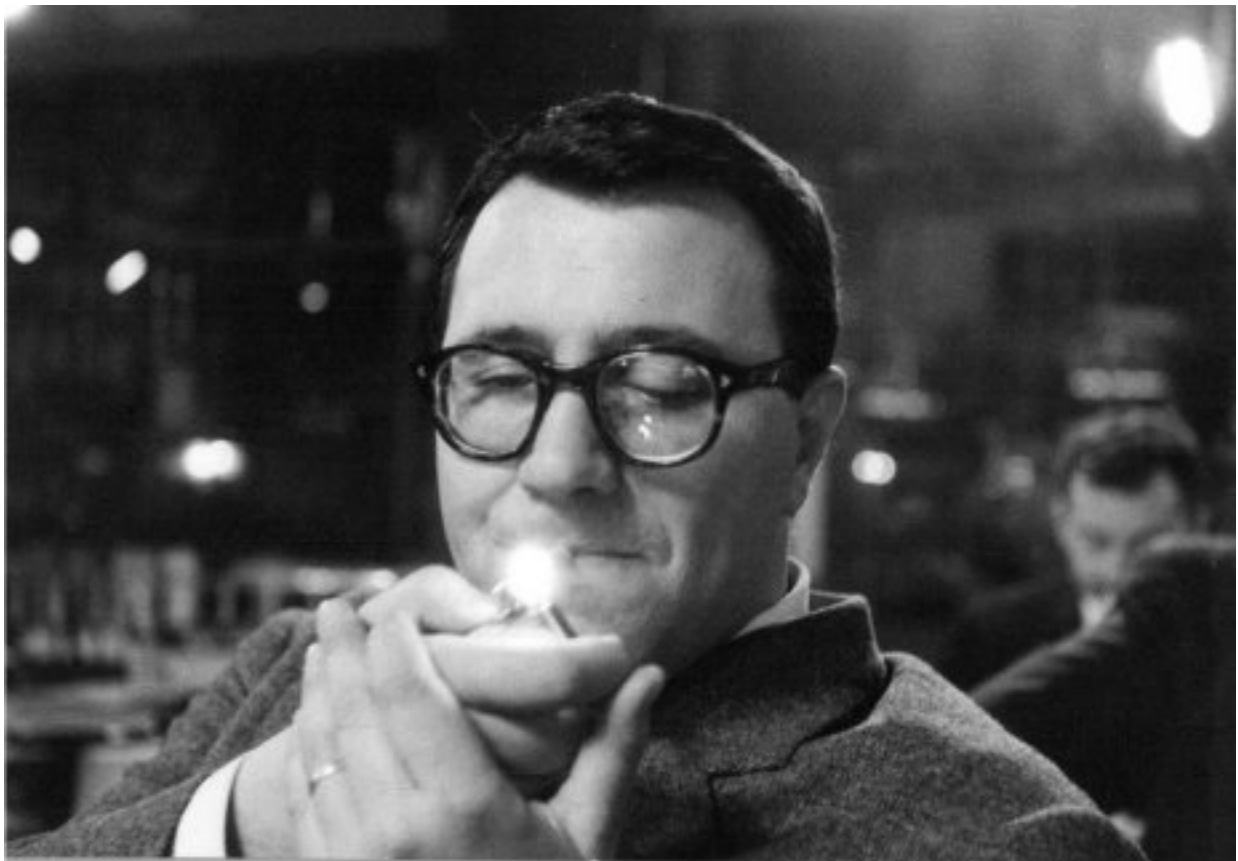
"He liked classic Westerns. He just wanted to make fantastic American-style Westerns, but shot in Italy. He created the most violent West possible: as violent as the real one was, Corbucci's was even more so."

Quentin Tarantino

(Rome, December 6, 1926 – Rome, December 1, 1990) was an Italian director and screenwriter. Along with Sergio Leone, he is considered one of the masters of the spaghetti Western.

He directed his first film in 1951. He began directing feature-length dramatic films and songs, then in 1960 he formed an artistic partnership with Totò, with whom he made seven films. In the 1960s, he specialized in peplum films and Westerns. In 1966, he made *Django*, a cult film belonging to the prolific spaghetti Western genre. The success of the film starring Franco Nero established him as one of the genre's favorite authors. Over the course of his career, he directed 63 films and wrote 58 screenplays. He died in his sleep, in his Roman home, of cardiac arrest in 1990, at the age of 63.

Quentin Tarantino, a great admirer, directed the 2012 homage to *Django*, *Django Unchained* starring Leonardo DiCaprio.



THE FILMAKERS

FABRIZIO LAURENTI - WRITER, DIRECTOR, EDITOR

He made his debut in the 1980s with "The Immigrant," about heroin-addicted vampires on New York's Lower East Side, which won the Golden Seagull at Bellaria.

He has directed several horror films, including "La casa 4," the series written by Pupi Avati, "Voci Notturne," and the documentaries "Il Segreto di Mussolini"—which inspired Marco Bellocchio's "Vincere," "Il corpo del duce," "Life as a B movie: Piero Vivarelli," winner of the 2020 Nastro d'Argento, and "Baci Rubati, Amori Omosessuali nell'Italia di Mussolini."



NICCOLÒ VIVARELLI -Co-Writer, Creative Consultant

Born in Florence to an American mother and an Italian father, Niccolò (Nick) Vivarelli has spent extensive periods in both countries. Now a regular on the international festival circuit, Nick is currently the Editor-in-Chief for Italy and the Middle East at Variety. He is the author of "Slalom," a thriller published by Manni Editori that centers on a gruesome murder that takes place in a therapeutic community in the Tuscan countryside, and co-director of the documentary "Life As a B-Movie," winner of the 2020 Nastro d'Argento for best documentary on cinema.