

FABRIQUE ENTERTAINMENT LUCE CINECITTÀ INLUSION CREATIVE HUB VARGO e RAI CINEMA
PRESENTANO



Locarno Film Festival
FUORI CONCORSO
OFFICIAL SELECTION



BOBÒ

REGIA **PIPPO DELBONO**

con PIPPO DELBONO BOBÒ VOCE NARRANTE PIPPO DELBONO UNA PRODUZIONE FABRIQUE ENTERTAINMENT LUCE CINECITTÀ INLUSION CREATIVE HUB VARGO con RAI CINEMA
IN COLLABORAZIONE CON ERT - EMILIA ROMAGNA TEATRO FONDAZIONE L'OPERA È STATA REALIZZATA CON IL CONTRIBUTO DEL FONDO PER LO SVILUPPO DEGLI INVESTIMENTI NEL CINEMA E NELL'AUDIOVISIVO CON IL CONTRIBUTO EX L.R. 30/2016 DELLA REGIONE CAMPANIA
PRODOTTO DA RENATA DI LEONE GIOVANNI CAPALBO e DA FABIO VOLPENTESTA MARCO GARAVAGLIA e DA GIANLUCA VARRIALE ALESSANDRO RICCARDI PRODUTTORE ESECUTIVO GIOVANNI CAPALBO ORGANIZZATORE GENERALE DIEGO D'AMBROSIO
SUPERVISOR POST PRODUZIONE FABIO VOLPENTESTA POST PRODUZIONE INLUSION CREATIVE HUB SUONO IN PRESA DIRETTA MARICETTA LOMBARDO SOUND DESIGN MARCO SANITTA
DIRETTORE DELLA FOTOGRAFIA CESARE ACCETTA MONTAGGIO MARCO SPOLETINI SOGGETTO E SCENEGGIATURA PIPPO DELBONO COLONNA SONORA M. ENZO AVITABILE REGIA PIPPO DELBONO UNA DISTRIBUZIONE LUCE CINECITTÀ



There is a silence that does not fade, but remains. It resonates. It is the trace left by Bobò, the silent and visible soul of contemporary theatre, now the protagonist of the documentary film of the same name, directed by Pippo Delbono, premiering at the Locarno Festival (Official Selection, Out of Competition).

A production by Fabrique Entertainment, Luce Cinecittà, Inlusion Creative Hub, Vargo, with Rai Cinema. L'opera è stata realizzata con il contributo del Fondo per lo sviluppo degli investimenti nel cinema e nell'audiovisivo, Ministero della Cultura – Direzione generale Cinema e Audiovisivo. Con il contributo ex L.R. 30/2016 della Regione Campania e Film Commission Regione Campania.



Locarno Film Festival

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BOBÒ

a documentary film by

PIPPO DELBONO

WITH

PIPPO DELBONO and BOBÒ

Italy, 2025 – Color and B/W – DCP – 81'

IN AUTUMN, BOBÒ WILL BE RELEASED IN ITALIAN CINEMAS BY LUCE CINECITTÀ, IDEALLY COINCIDING WITH WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY (OCTOBER 10th), CONTRIBUTIN - THROUGH CINEMA - TO THE SHARED REFLECTION ON THIS THEME.

**Press office Italy and Locarno
Studio Morabito**

06 57300825; 3355292055

info@mimmomorabito.it;

www.mimmomorabito.it

Luce Cinecittà

Marlon Pellegrini

334 950 0619

m.pellegrini@cinecitta.it

CAST

PIPPO DELBONO and BOBÒ

CREW

Director, Narrator Pippo Delbono

Story and Screenplay Pippo Delbono

Cinematography Cesare Accetta

Editing Marco Spoletini

Music Enzo Avitabile

Duration 81'

Production

Fabrique Entertainment, Luce Cinecittà, Inlusion Creative Hub, Vargo, with Rai Cinema. L'opera è stata realizzata con il contributo del Fondo per lo sviluppo degli investimenti nel cinema e nell'audiovisivo, Ministero della Cultura – Direzione generale Cinema e Audiovisivo. Con il contributo ex L.R. 30/2016 della Regione Campania e Film Commission Regione Campania

Producers

Renata Di Leone, Giovanni Capalbo, Fabio Volpentesta, Marco Garavaglia, Gianluca Varriale, Alessandro Riccardi

Italy distribution

Luce Cinecittà

SYNOPSIS

This film tells the extraordinary and real story of Bobò, a deaf-mute, illiterate, and microcephalic man who lived for 46 years in the asylum of Aversa. His life takes an unexpected turn when he meets Pippo Delbono, who discovers him during a visit to the facility and is deeply moved. From that moment, a human and artistic bond is born that changes their lives forever.

Through this encounter, Bobò—until then invisible to the world—becomes a central figure in Delbono's theatre and cinema, revealing himself as a surprising performer, capable of powerful and poetic communication without words. His presence redefines the director's artistic language, transforming his way of narrating, seeing, and creating.

The documentary is composed of archival materials collected over more than twenty years: original footage, theatrical extracts, performances, and moments of daily life that delicately and intensely reconstruct the figure of Bobò. The digitization of over 300 hours of footage is interwoven with new recordings made between Naples and Aversa, where it all began.

The editing and musical choices accompany the narrative with sensitivity, enhancing the visual and emotional richness of the images. The result is a unique portrait—not only of a man freed from silence but also of an unaware artist capable of leaving an indelible mark.



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

This film was born out of the need to tell and share a true story.

The story of a man, deaf-mute and illiterate, whom I met in the asylum of Aversa where he had lived for 46 years.

This film is the story of that encounter.

And of how that encounter changed my life, my theatre, and my cinema.



Bobò, that was the name of this little man, created characters full of grace, emotion, and humor.

Poetic, comic, surreal, ironic characters, full of innocence and intelligence, madness and clarity. Just like Bobò. Small scenes reminiscent of his Neapolitan soul—playful and heart-wrenching at the same time. There are also life moments that show his wonder, his amazement in discovering the beauty, absurdity, and madness of life outside the asylum.

I always filmed Bobò. On the beach, dancing with palms swaying in the wind; in Cuba, where he meets the women of the 'Santería', who don't treat him like a disabled man but like a divine being, a shaman...

When one of Basaglia's assistants saw Bobò, his ability to move the audience, his stage presence, he said: 'Franco should have met him. He is his dream come true.'

This man, who lived 46 years in one of the worst asylums in Italy, where he couldn't express himself because he had no voice, became the protagonist of a theatre company that toured the world, bringing his experience as a great artist. A man who went from being despised, pitied, misunderstood, to being admired as a great human being.

I imagine a film full of life.

The life that Bobò carried with him.

Pippo Delbono

PIPPO DELBONO: Author, Actor and director

Pippo Delbono was born in Varazze in 1959. In the 1980s, he founded the Pippo Delbono Company, creating numerous performances that have left their mark on contemporary theatre. His encounter with people in conditions of marginalization and diversity marked a turning point in his work, giving birth to 'Barboni' – UBU Special Prize 1997 'for a research conducted between art and life.'

For over twenty years, the performances created with his Company in a continuous flow of research between theatre, poetry, music, cinema, and dance have been presented in prestigious theatres and festivals worldwide: Festival d'Avignon, Venice Biennale, Holland Festival, Hong Kong Arts Festival, Festival de Otoño, Barcelona's Grec Festival, Zurich's Theater Spektakel, Vienna Festival, Montreal's Festival TransAmériques: Il tempo degli assassini, La rabbia, Guerra, Esodo, Gente di plastica, Urlo, Il silenzio, Racconti di giugno, Questo buio feroce, La menzogna, Dopo la battaglia, Orchidee, Vangelo, La gioia, Amore.

In 2024, he premiered his new work 'Il risveglio', currently on a world tour.

In 2003, Delbono made the film 'Guerra' (Venice Film Festival, David di Donatello for Best Documentary 2004), followed by: 'Grido' (2006), 'La paura' (Locarno Festival 2009), 'Amore carne' (68th Venice Film Festival 2011), 'Blue Sofa' (Best Film at the 32nd Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival), 'Sangue' (66th Locarno Festival), 'La Visite-Versailles' (2016), and 'Vangelo' (2017).

As an actor, he has appeared in: 'I Am Love' by Luca Guadagnino (2009), 'Me and You' by Bernardo Bertolucci (2012), 'A Castle in Italy' by Valeria Bruni-Tedeschi (2013), 'Cha cha cha' by Marco Risi (2013), 'Goltzius and the Pelican Company' by Peter Greenaway (2014), 'Pulce is Missing' by Giuseppe Bonito (2014), 'Worldly Girl' by Marco Danieli (2016), 'Falchi' by Toni D'Angelo (2017), 'A Tramway in Jerusalem' by Amos Gitai (2018), 'Lucania' by Gigi Roccati (2019), and more.

He also starred in Paolo Zuzza's short film 'Cuore di Clown' (2010), Gianni Gatti's 'Uraniani' (2013), 'La corsa dell'ora' (2017), and 'In the Name of Silence: The Church and the Shadow of the Mafia' (2024) by Antonio Bellia.

In 2025, he directs 'Bobò' (Official Selection, Out of Competition at the 78th Locarno Festival).

He has directed operas such as: 'Studio per Obra Maestra' (Spoleto 2007), 'Don Giovanni' (Poznan, 2014), 'Cavalleria rusticana' and 'Madama Butterfly' (Naples 2012 and 2014), 'The Passion according to St. John' (Palermo 2017), and 'Pagliacci' (Rome Opera House 2018).

He has collaborated on concerts with renowned musicians: 'Amore e carne' with Alexander Balanescu, 'Il sangue sull'Edipo di Sofocle' with Petra Magoni, 'Bestemmia d'amore' with Enzo Avitabile, and 'La notte' with Piero Corso.

He has published several books: 'Barboni – The Theatre of Pippo Delbono', 'Racconti di giugno', 'Corpi senza menzogna', 'Dopo la battaglia', 'Sangue', 'L'uomo che cadde sulla terra', 'Le don de soi'.

He has received the Ubu Special Prize for 'Barboni', the Critics' Prize for 'Guerra', the Olympic Prizes for 'Gente di plastica' and 'Urlo', the Europe Prize for New Theatrical Realities, and the Special Jury Prize at the MESS Festival in Sarajevo (2022) for the play 'Amore'.

In 2021, Pippo Delbono received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Theatre Festival IKS in Istanbul

FABRIQUE ENTERTAINMENT

Fabrique Entertainment was founded in February 2014 with the aim of developing projects aligned with Italian and European auteur cinema. Since its inception, the company has pursued this vision by producing films that emphasize strong artistic identity.

Among its first productions was the 2017 documentary *Gurrieri*, directed by Fabio Segatori, about the great Lucanian playwright who was a ghostwriter for many of the most important screenwriters of Italian neorealism. The film was produced in collaboration with Baby Film and aired on Sky and Rai 3 between 2018 and 2019.

In 2019, Fabrique produced the film *Lucania*, which was released in Italian cinemas and explored themes related to the Basilicata region. The film delves into the culture of a rural world, steeped in deep-rooted values and magical realism, evoking a strong ancestral connection to the land. The project garnered significant media attention and was produced with support from the Italian Ministry of Culture (MIC), Rai Cinema, the Basilicata Region, and the Lucania Film Commission, with the patronage of Matera 2019 – European Capital of Culture. Co-produced with Moliwood Films, *Lucania* premiered in 30 cinemas and received strong critical and audience acclaim. It won Best Foreign Film at the WorldFest in Houston (USA) and was featured in several national and international festivals, including the Cairo Film Festival (Panorama Section) and the Bari International Film Festival (Bif&st). After being sold to Sky in 2019, the film aired on Rai in 2020 and is currently available on Rai Play. In 2020, it was released on Amazon Prime Video, followed by a home video release through CG Entertainment, and was sold in various Asian countries thanks to the Italian distributor Intramovies.

In October 2023, Fabrique produced the documentary *Fela, il mio Dio Vivente (Fela, My Living God)*, directed by Daniele Vicari, narrated by Claudio Santamaria, with music by Teho Teardo. The film tells the incredible journey of a young Italian filmmaker in the 1980s–1990s who attempts to recover a lost film shot on celluloid in the 1970s about the legendary African musician Fela Kuti. Through this process, he becomes immersed in a different culture, forming a unique bond with Fela—an internationally acclaimed artist—and becoming one of the few Europeans to truly befriend him. The project was supported by the MIC, co-produced with Cinecittà Luce, in collaboration with Rai Cinema, the Lazio Cinema International Fund, and two co-producers: Grasshopper Films (UK) and Lokafilm (Slovenia). The documentary premiered at the 2023 Rome Film Fest in the Freestyle section and was selected by DOC/IT among the top five Italian documentaries of 2023. It was shortlisted for both the 2024 Nastri d'Argento and the David di Donatello awards, ranking sixth in total votes. The film went on to win the Special Prize for Best Documentary “La Chioma di Berenice,” the most prestigious

award for independent film production in Italy. It is currently available for viewing on MyMovies and will air on Rai TV in July 2025, later becoming available on Rai Play. International distribution is handled by French company Malberg Pictures.

The latest production by Fabrique is the documentary *Bobò*, directed by Pippo Delbono, one of the most important figures in contemporary theatre and cinema. The film is co-produced with Cinecittà, Inlusion Creative Hub, Vargo, and Rai Cinema. The technical crew includes Marco Spoletini (editing), Maricetta Lombardo (sound), and Cesare Accetta (cinematography). *Bobò* will be distributed in Italy by Luce Cinecittà in autumn 2025 and has already been selected for its world premiere at the 2025 Locarno Festival.

Currently in development is the feature film *Flaminio Zoo*, based on a true story set in the 1990s between Rome, Marseille, and Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), written by Heidrun Schleef (screenwriter of Palme d'Or winner *The Son's Room*) and Guerino Di Leone. The film will be directed by Guido Lombardi, who won the "Leone del Futuro" award for best debut feature at the 68th Venice Film Festival with *La-bàs*, and was later nominated for both the David di Donatello and the Nastri d'Argento awards. He also directed *Take Five* and *Il ladro di giorni* (starring Riccardo Scamarcio), which was also nominated for a Nastro d'Argento. *Flaminio Zoo* is an international co-production with Malberg Pictures (France) and Red Carpet (Bulgaria). It ranked first in the MIC production fund selection with 93 points and received €580,000 in funding. The total budget is €2.5 million, with €1.725 million allocated to the Italian portion.

Lastly, Fabrique is developing the feature film (working title: *Filomena*), marking the directorial debut of Fabio Capalbo, who began his career directing music videos for top Italian and international artists before transitioning to shorts and documentaries. One of his documentaries was selected for the 2022 Rome Film Fest. Set in 1958 and based on a true story, *Filomena* is immersed in a patriarchal rural setting where the titular character fights for her emancipation. The current cast includes Maia Morgenstern (who played the Virgin Mary in Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ*), Rocco Papaleo, and Sara Serraiocco. The production is in discussions with Luisa Ranieri (for the role of Filomena) and Fabrizio Gifuni (for the role of Gennaro). The project already has an associate producer (M.I.D.A. Production) and will apply in September for regional funding from Basilicata, followed by submission to the Ministry of Culture and Rai Cinema.