



ROSSELLINI & ASSOCIATES
Presents

KILL GIL

VOL. 2 and 1/2

A film by
Gil Rossellini

Rossellini & Associates in association with Consequenze present "Kill Gil vol. 2 e 1/2"
Written by Gil Rossellini Artistic and production supervisor Stefano Pierpaoli
Edited by Federico Lai Produced by Gil Rossellini Directed by Gil Rossellini and Federico Lai



Kill Gil (Vol. 2 e 1/2)

Mercoledì 29 ottobre

Festival Internazionale del Film di Roma - L'Altro Cinema / Extra

Kill Gil (Vol. 2 e 1/2)



The filmmaker/producer Gil Rossellini presents at the Festival del Cinema di Roma in the L'Altro Cinema/Extra section the last chapter of the Kill Gil trilogy. It all began on the 19th of November, 2004, in Stockholm, when due to a serious infection, Gil fell into a deep coma which lasted three long weeks. Kill Gil (Vol. 1) told the story of Gil, who was on the brink of death but then miraculously survived; until his return to his beloved Rome, following nine terrible months spent in various hospitals (ready to face his new life, even though he was confined to a wheelchair.. The reality turned out to be much harder than expected. And this is the story told in Kill Gil (Vol.2), in a strictly chronological order. The story begins in the past, with that damned day, September 11th, in New York (where Gil lived until he became ill) and then continues on from where the last volume finished. Part three of the Trilogy had been foreseen once Gil had regained the use of his legs. Sadly, this was not to be. Hence the "?" in the title "2 and ?" represents the bitter irony of an unattainable dream confronted with the continuing challenge of life.

During these last two years Gil has been battling constantly with pain, and from March of this year until the opening of the 2008 Rome Film Festival, he has been confined to a hospital bed from where he continues to embrace his fight against the ravages of the disease.

He has undergone another ten operations in these last eight months, culminating with the amputation of his leg. The production has raced against time to include this tragic event in the film by the opening of the prestigious festival in Rome.

By choosing the "video-diary" formula, Gil Rossellini shines, uniquely. In revealing his personal story to the audience he sparks motivation, commitment and reflection on the world of the disabled.

The film oscillates between suffering and the winning moments when man (protagonist, film director and friend), regains his grip on the social, professional and emotional spheres which belong to each and every one of us.

An ironical gaze, typical of Rossellini, accompanies this intense and moving story. In so doing, he pays homage to the glamour of the festival and the expertise of the film director.

A truly vigorous film accompanied by a captivating soundtrack.

Kill Gil (Vol. 2 e 1/2)

Director's note



This November – the 19th to be exact - will be the fourth anniversary of my misadventures related to health. With third and last Kill Gil (Vol. 2 & ?), the trilogy in which I attempt to pass on to others my experience, both externally and inside my head, comes to a close. I did this in the language with which I am most familiar, namely that of a documentary - or, to be more precise, a videodiary.

This time, the narration of my story has arrived at its real end. As I have already said, and repeat here, I shall make Kill Gil 3 only if I succeed in walking again, which, given the current state of medicine, is absolutely impossible. Of course, my hope in a miracle remains, but above all, my desire to live this condition in the best way possible.

It's time for me to tell the stories of others, which, in a way, I have already made while making, during these past 18 months, documentaries that had nothing to do with me and with my illness: *El Sur De Vuelta*, a "Road Documentary" on southern Lebanon a year after the last war. For this movie I supervised both the production and the film direction by remote control, all from my bed. Before this, however, I had made two documentaries on-location - one was a short of 15 minutes for "Raisat Cinema World", on my participation at the Documentary Festival of Al Jazeera in Doha, in Qatar, and before that a film/concert in High Definition featuring a performance of the Dizzie Gillespie Jazz Band. Soon I will be out of the hospital, with a thousand projects in my future, among which a movie in close collaboration with Rai Cinema, *The Indian Con-Turbante* a romantic comedy that, along with Stefania Casini, will mark my debut as a film director.

It's funny how Einstein was right when he said that everything is relative, depending on the point of view: When I learnt that I would not walk again, I felt an immense - and justified - sadness. I perceived the wheelchair as an instrument of torture. Now, after having been in bed for many months, the wheelchair represents a beautiful dream for me.

I feel an enormous need for normality even though I realize that for what remains of my life, for better or worse, will not be all that normal.

I lost my legs but found many friends and all things considered I think it was a good deal. And for honesty towards my friends and my family, I can't but do my best, by taking life one day at a time.

*Gil Rossellini,
August 2008*



Kill Gil (Vol. 2 e 1/2)

Technical and artistic information

FORMAT: Digital Beta Stereo

NATION: Italia

YEAR: 2008

DURATION: 69'

PRODUCED BY:

Rossellini & Associati S.r.l.

info@rossellinieassociati.com

Conseguenze

www.conseguenze.org

WRITTEN, PRODUCED BY: Gil Rossellini

DIRECTED BY: Gil Rossellini, Federico Lai

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Nicola Lodi-Fè

ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS

Cinzia Monreale

Stefano Pierpaoli

ARTISITIC SUPERVISOR:

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Kill Gil (Vol. 2 e 1/2)

Director and producer - Gil Rossellini

After working as a teenager both on the set and the editing room with his father, the late director Roberto Rossellini, also father of famous actress/model Isabella Rossellini, Gil Rossellini began his film career in the early 80's collaborating with Martin Scorsese on *The King of Comedy* (actors year) and Sergio Leone in *Once Upon a Time in America*.

In 1983 he produced the feature *Far From Where* with Gaumont Italy and RAI, which was selected at the Venice Film Fest.

Later in the 80's and in the early 90's Gil Rossellini wrote produced and directed a vast number of documentaries shot in 5 continents on subjects that varied from nature and wildlife to political, social, cultural and conflicting events... experiences which took him and his camera from the height of the Himalayas to the heart of the Amazon basin, from the corridors of the White House to front line war experiences in the Balkans. These docs have been aired on televisions across the globe including CH4, ARTE, RAI, PBS and many others.

In 1989 he wrote, produced and performed in the multimedia (film/laser/music) rock opera *The Polyhedron of Leonardo*, premiered at the Venice Film Festival. Later in the 90's he returned to the large screen producing the features *Out Of Hand*, *Uninvited* and the Imax film *Ferrari: The Quest For Speed* among others.

Today he runs his own media and entertainment company, Rossellini & Associates which operates out of New York, Rome, New Delhi, Bombay and Bali.

In India, over the last 4 years and thanks to a very special and close relationship with Miramax International, Rossellini & Associates has theatrically distributed films of prestige like the Academy Award Winning *Life Is Beautiful*, as well as *Chocolat* and *Hard Days Night* starring The Beatles and is now preparing the theatrical launch of *Spy Kids 3D*. Rossellini & Associates also provides packages of important titles to Asian Sat TV's such as STAR, ZEE and HBO.

His films and documentaries have received many prestigious awards from festivals in San Francisco, Houston, Budapest, Chicago etc. and have been showcased in important venues such as Venice, Cannes, MOMA etc.

GR has lectured at Boston University, Rice U, American Film Academy, New Dehli Jamia Islamia University, United Nations and European Union and is a member of The EU HD Producer's Association and The Explorer's Club of America. Gil Rossellini also collaborates with International institutions such as United Nations and The World Bank.

Currently Gil Rossellini is developing feature projects with RAI Cinema and Four Films and has launched a joint venture with FBC, one of the largest media and entertainment content providers globally, that will produce extremely innovative formats for various important televisions in the Indian subcontinent, the first one of which, *Fashion House India*, will begin production in the summer.

Gil Rossellini and Rossellini & Associates presented in association with Enfiniti Productions the feature film *Puteri Gunung Ledang* at the 2004 Venice Film Festival. With offices in London and Bombay, Gil Rossellini has recently founded, along with partner Samir Gupta, The East India Production Company, aimed at producing Indian feature films by the new generation of authors and with wide world appeal. Several projects are already in development

For further information info@rossellinieassociati.com

FILMOGRAPHY

PRODUCER

<i>Puteri Gunung Ledang</i> , directed by Saw Teong Hin	2003
<i>L'amico di Wang</i> , directed by Carl Haber	1997
<i>Bronze Award – Houston Worldfest</i>	
<i>The Kickhams</i> , directed by Brendan J. Byrne	1993
<i>The Dr. Fritz Show</i> , directed by Carl Haber	1991
<i>Lontano da dove</i> , directed by Stefania Casini e Francesca Marciano	1983
<i>Selezionato alla Mostra Internazionale d'Arte Cinematografica di Venezia</i>	

DOCUMENTARY AND TV PRODUCTION

<i>The Hole in the Wall</i> , directed by Rory O'Connor	2003
<i>Platinum Award – Worldfest Houston Intern. Film & Video Festival Gabriel Award</i>	
<i>Best documentary – Athens International Film Festival</i>	
<i>Best of Fest – Sarasota Film Festival</i>	
<i>3rd Award for the best script – South Asian Journalists Association</i>	
<i>Special Mention at Columbus International Film & Video Festival</i>	
<i>Arizona Film Festival</i>	
<i>2nd Santa Cruz Film Festival</i>	
<i>Riverrun International Film Festival</i>	
<i>Council of Foundations Film and Video Festival</i>	
<i>Hot Springs Documentary Film Institute</i>	
<i>Vermont Film Festival</i>	
<i>Council on Foundations Festival</i>	
<i>Festival Internazionale del Cinema di Locarno</i>	
<i>Northampton Film Festival Columbus International Film Festival</i>	
<i>Global Peace Film Festival</i>	
<i>Screened at United Nations in New York on 9th December</i>	
<i>Manhattan Diary</i> , directed by Gil Rossellini	2002
<i>Golden Gate Award – San Francisco Film Festival</i>	1995
<i>Women in Bollywood</i> , directed by Gil Rossellini	
<i>Hear Our Voices – The Poor on Poverty</i> , directed by Gil Rossellini	
<i>Gold Remi Awards</i>	
<i>Telly Awards</i>	
<i>Festival Houston World</i>	
<i>We Are family</i> , directed by Danny Schechter and Patrice O'Neill	
Première USA al Museum of Modern Arts di New York	1994
<i>Special section - Vermont International Film Festival</i>	
<i>Special Merit Award - Chicago Film Festival</i>	
<i>Enemy, Mine</i> serie TV in six episodes	1993
<i>presented at Mostra Internazionale d'Arte Cinematografica di Venezia</i>	
<i>Vincitore del Prix Europa</i>	
<i>Premio per il miglior documentario al Budapest Film Festival</i>	

SHORT MOVIES

<i>I diciotto minuti che hanno sconvolto il mondo</i>	2002
<i>World première at 53° Prix Italia</i>	
<i>La lingua degli elefanti/Elephants Like Us</i>	
Trilogia su Roberto Rossellini per il Festival di Cannes 1989-1991	
Un esprit libre / Technique d'un rêve / Inde 33 ans après	

DIRECTOR ASSISTANT

<i>The Lonely Lady</i> , directed by Peter Sasdy	1983
<i>Cop Killer</i> , directed by Roberto Faenza	1983

Kill Gil (Vol. 2 e 1/2)

Artistic Collaborators

FEDERICO LAI (Venezia, 1975)

Directed and edited several music videos and short movies

Assistant director in:

Il segreto di Rahil, Cinzia Bomoll 2004

In Loop, Fabian Ribezzo 2005

Music supervisor for TV shows

He is currently recording the second album with his band "Montecristo".
("Sleeping Star")

STEFANO PIERPAOLI (Roma, 1964)

Artistic supervisor Rossellini & Associates

International Sales

Writer and journalist

Novels: *E Allora?* (2001), *Forti Odori D'Arrosto* (2004), *Titanic* (2007)

Co-worker in some journalistic heading

Founder and national co-ordinator cultural movement "Conseguenze"



PREVIOUS EPISODES

Kill Gil (Vol. 1)

"Never mind... I am alive!" (Gil Rossellini)

On November 19th 2004, after the success of his co-produced Malaysian movie Puteri Gunung Ledang at the Venice Film Festival, Gil Rossellini had just arrived at his hotel in the Swedish capital to present his Eastern film at the Stockholm International Film Festival when he suddenly felt sick and fainted. The filmmaker and producer remained for three weeks in a state of deep coma at the Karolinska University Hospital Solna in Stockholm, close to death.

There he underwent twenty operations and after two months was transferred to a specialized structure in Switzerland, the Swiss Paraplegic Center in Nottwill. After several other operations he started a long rehabilitation program.

On July 23rd 2005 Gil Rossellini finally returned to his beloved Rome with the help of a wheelchair, that will probably be his "partner" for the rest of his life and especially the love and support of his true friends.

Gil Rossellini then decided to tell his experience through the visual memory of his video camera, showing a real and proper miracle. This is how his "videodiary" came to be filmed, a "return" to life, a hymn to courage and hope not through self-celebration but through the message it wants to convey, that is that life should be deserved, sought and lived to the fullest.

With incredible willpower and unbelievable self-irony Gil Rossellini never left his video camera, helped and supported by the staff of the Swiss Paraplegic Center and the special contribution of his sister Isabella both as actress and filmmaker of many shots. Therefore in Kill Gil (Vol.1) he tells his whole personal story in a painful but detached way and with sharp objectivity.

The film documentary will be shown in world premiere at the next Venice Film Festival (Sezione Orizzonti - Special Event).

CREDITS

SIZE: MASTER DIGIBETA; LENGTH: 98'

A CO-PRODUCTION: ROSSELLINI & ASSOCIATES & SWISS CENTER FOR PARAPLEGICS

WRITTEN, PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY: GIL ROSSELLINI

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: MARCO DONATI

CO-PRODUCERS: TONY WYSS, NICOLA LODI-FE'

EDITOR: INGEBORG WYSS - EYR INACIO PRADO

MUSIC: PERICLE SPONZILLI

DIGITAL EFFECTS: FILIPPO MILETO

PRODUCERS ASSOCIATES: YOLANDA PERIS, JENS ROSENBAUM, NILS FLORBY

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Kill Gil (Vol. 2)

New York, 11 September 2001. It's only been five years, but it feels like a century to me! As if it happened yesterday... Five long years where everything and more has happened to me. That day I was there, I was living in New York with my wife Eddy. That day terror entered into our house... The same terror we brought, but a million times worse, to the people of Iraq.

On September 11th, I learnt what horror and destruction actually meant. In the past, my work had often taken me to areas devastated by conflicts. But I wasn't involved... while this time I was! Ground Zero was less than three kilometres away. That day I understood what the word "war" meant. I also witnessed heroism and the spirit of sacrifice. As a man and a citizen of New York, I will never forget what the fire-fighters and policemen of the Big Apple did... Until then, to me "war" meant World War II, as described to me by my father and his partisan friends. And obviously, what I'd learnt from his films, and a whole load of other films, mostly American ones. Then there was the Vietnam War. For my generation it represented above all a chance to get involved in politics, and to be Anti-American. We didn't drink Coca Cola because each empty bottle represented a dead Vietcong... so we thought we were clever drinking Fanta... not knowing it was the same company.

The Middle-Eastern conflict has lasted a lifetime and it's still a problem today. Its continuity has almost made it monotonous and sometimes I listen to the latest reports of victims on the news like it's the weather forecast. My memories of the first Gulf War are like images of a videogame... those green flashes of light at night are confused with those of Pac Man.

But since that crazy, sunny Tuesday in New York, everything has changed. And until two years ago I was convinced that 9/11 would always have represented the great line of demarcation in my life. There was a before and after, for both physical and psychological aspects. I certainly didn't imagine the destiny that awaited me... What can I say? At that point I think the great line of demarcation in my life is no longer September 11th 2001, but November 19th, 2004. And who knows... perhaps the best has yet to come! I've certainly learnt one thing: life gives and takes. Despite our huge efforts, we have little control over our destinies. What can you be sure of? If, by chance (and the doctors say it would be a miracle), I were able to walk again, well, that day will definitely become more important to me than the previous dates.

At the end of the story I told you a year ago, I thought, being an incurable optimist, that the worst was over and that I was ready to face my new life as a paraplegic. Things turned out to be more complicated than expected: I'm still in Switzerland now, a patient in Room F360 in the Swiss Centre for Paraplegics, undergoing treatments for a whole load of problems regarding my health. Now I know a bit more about my illness: my sepsis or the poisoning of my blood, was caused by a very unusual type of *Staphylococcus aureus*, which is very aggressive. There are millions of types of *Staphylococcus aureus*. Of course, I ended up with the nastiest one! The case history is very unusual. It's almost non-existent. Let me explain: my physical condition when I fell ill wasn't great. My immune system was weak as I'd had hepatitis and due to my work my lifestyle was hectic and unhealthy.

But that wasn't enough. Just think, one in ten million people suffer from my illness. That's a few hundred people in the whole world. And according to specialists, only 1% of those hundred survive. Draw your own conclusion: was I extremely unlucky or incredibly fortunate? As for now, I'll be leaving the hospital soon. Now I'm more aware of the huge challenges paraplegics face in everyday life. I admit I have many doubts and fears. My life certainly won't be easy. My wheelchair will be a great friend, but also a bitter enemy.

*Gil Rossellini
Roma, 26 luglio 2006*



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