



**FESTA
DEL CINEMA
DI ROMA 2024
CONCORSO
PROGRESSIVE CINEMA**

VIVO FILM JOLEFILM and **RAI CINEMA** present

THE GREAT AMBITION

a film by **ANDREA SEGRE**

with **ELIO GERMANO**

a

VIVO FILM and **JOLEFILM**

production

with **RAI CINEMA**

in co-production with

TARANTULA

AGITPROP

The Great Ambition by **Andrea Segre** is the opening film at the
19th edition at the **Rome International Film Festival**
in competition, "Progressive Cinema"

Cast

Elio Germano

Enrico Berlinguer

and with in alphabetical order

Stefano Abbati

Umberto Terracini

Francesco Acquaroli

Pietro Ingrao

Fabio Bussotti

Armando Cossutta

Paolo Calabresi

Ugo Pecchioli

Roberto Citran

Aldo Moro

Pierluigi Corallo

Antonio Tatò

Nikolay Danchev

Leonid Brezhnev

Svetoslav Dobrev

Todor Zhivkov

Luca Lazzareschi

Alessandro Natta

Lucio Patanè

Gianni Cervetti

Andrea Pennacchi

Luciano Barca

Paolo Pierobon

Giulio Andreotti

Elena Radonicich

Letizia Laurenti

Fabrizia Sacchi

Nilde Iotti

Giorgio Tirabassi

Alberto Menichelli

Crew

Directed by Andrea Segre

Screenplay Andrea Segre, Marco Pettenello

Cinematography Benoît Dervaux

Editing Jacopo Quadri

Original music iosonouncane

Production design Alessandro Vannucci

Costume design Silvia Segoloni

Production sound Alessandro Palmerini

Line producer Gian Luca Chiaretti

Associate producer Alessio Lazzareschi

Delegate producer Serena Alfieri

1st Assistant director Vincenzo Rosa

Continuity Iole Natoli

Hair Desirée Corridoni

Make-up Sara Morlando, Rossella Sicignano

Prosthetic make-up Leonardo Cruciano, Viola Moneta

Casting Stefania De Santis

Sound editing Marc Bastien

Dialogue editing Riccardo Spagnol

Mix Franco Piscopo

Historic consultants Miguel Gotor, Giulio Marcon

Non-contractual credits

A production Vivo film and Jolefilm
with Rai Cinema

In co-production with Tarantula, Agitprop

Produced by Marta Donzelli and Gregorio Paonessa

Co-produced by Francesco Bonsembiante, Joseph
Rouschop, Martichka Bozhilova

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Audiovisivo;
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Cofinanziato dall'Unione Europea;
Shelter Prod;
Tax Shelter BE. ING – Belgian Tax Shelter;
Wallimage (La Wallonie);
Bulgarian National Film Center

International sales Fandango Sales

Technical data

Italy/ Belgium/ Bulgaria

2024

Duration: 122'

Language: Italian, Russian, Bulgarian

*Usually, we witness the struggle of small ambitions, linked to individual private ends,
against the great ambition, which is inseparable from the collective good.*

ANTONIO GRAMSCI

Founder of the Italian Communist Party

SYNOPSIS

Italy, 1970s. Enrico Berlinguer serves as the Secretary of the largest Communist party in the Western world. With over 1.7 million members and more than 12 million voters, the party shares a bold vision: to achieve socialism through democracy. Defying the rigid divisions of the Cold War, Berlinguer and the Italian Communist Party (PCI) spent five years striving for power, engaging in unprecedented dialogue with the Christian Democracy and coming tantalizingly close to altering the course of history.

Amid assassination attempts by the Bulgarian secret services, intense election campaigns, and delicate negotiations with Moscow, Berlinguer's journey is one of perseverance, risk, and ambition. The film chronicles this pivotal era, from the headlines that gripped the world to the dangerous dance with power, culminating in the tragic assassination of Aldo Moro, the President of the Christian Democracy, in 1978. Through it all, Berlinguer's story is intertwined with that of a nation, where personal lives and politics are inseparable. When the path ahead seems blocked, must one surrender—or press on?

BRIEF DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Although many documentaries, books, and essays have been written about Enrico Berlinguer, no one has ever tried to task fictional film with reconstructing his world and his people “from the inside,” during perhaps the most complex and decisive years of his political career. I decided to take on this challenge, and two key principles helped me get this far: respect for Enrico's serious, sober nature, and choosing neither to imitate nor idealize, but to always try to understand. It was a matter of recounting politics not through slogans and symbols but by being immersed in the life of someone who felt politics as an inalienable part of his own being. Making Elio Germano my very first choice to play the lead was essential, because I knew – and now I know even better – that he would make the effort to understand and not to portray.

Andrea Segre

BIOGRAPHY OF ANDREA SEGRE

A director and screenwriter of films and documentaries, he is also a PhD in the Sociology of the Communication of Cultural Processes and a founding member of Zalab.

He has written and directed four feature-length films: *Shun Li and the Poet* (nominated for 4 David di Donatello awards and a winner of dozens of international awards, including the European Parliament LUX prize), *First Snowfall* (Horizons Section, 70th Venice International Film Festival and winner at the Annecy Festival), *The Order of Things* (Official Selection, 74th Venice International Film Festival, winner of the Human Rights Award) and *Welcome Venice* (“Venice Nights” – 18th Giornate degli Autori, winner in 2022 of the 25th edition of “Cinema! Italia!”, the itinerant Italian film festival organized in Germany). His new film, *The Great Ambition*, has been selected to open the 19th edition of the Rome International Film Festival (2024), where it is taking part as an official selection in competition.

He has also made several documentaries, including: *Marghera Canale Nord* (60th Venice International Film Festival), *La Mal’ombra* (25th Torino Film Festival), *Come un uomo sulla terra* (nominated for Best Documentary at the 2009 David di Donatello Awards), *Magari le cose cambiano* (“Avanti!” prize at the 27th Torino Film Festival), *The Green Blood* (CinemaDoc prize at the Venice Days - 67th Venice International Film Festival), *Mare Chiuso* (Globo d’Oro for Best Documentary, 2012); *Rebetiko Crisis: Undue Debt* (opening event at the 66th Locarno Film Festival), *Come il peso dell’acqua* (nominated for Best Documentary at the 2015 Nastri d’Argento Awards), *Dreams of the Salt Lake* (Official selection at the 68th Locarno Film Festival), *Ibi* (Official selection at the 70th Locarno Film Festival), *Molecole* (presented at pre-opening evening at the 77th Venice International Film Festival), *Trieste Shines at Night* (34th Trieste Film Festival).

ANDREA SEGRE: FILMOGRAPHY

- 2023 *TRIESTE SHINES AT NIGHT* (documentary made with Stefano Collizzolli, Matteo Calore – Official selection – Out of competition, 34th Trieste Film Festival)
- 2022 *PO* (documentary written with Gian Antonio Stella and produced by Istituto Luce Cinecittà)
- 2021 *WELCOME VENICE* (short fiction film – Opening film, “Venice Nights” | Giornate degli Autori in collaboration with Isola Edipo)
- 2020 *MOLECOLE* (documentary – Official selection, Pre-opening film, 77th Venice International Film Festival)
- 2019 *A PLANET IN THE SEA* (documentary – Official Selection – Out of Competition, 76th Venice International Film Festival)
- 2017 *THE ORDER OF THINGS* (feature-length fictional film – 74th Venice International Film Festival – Official Selection)
- 2017 *IBI* (documentary – 70th Locarno Film Festival – Official Selection)
- 2016 *PAESE NOSTRO* (series of short films)
- 2015 *DREAMS OF THE SALT LAKE* (documentary – Nastri d’Argento Finalist, Best Documentary)
- 2014 *COME IL PESO DELL’ACQUA* (documentary – Nastri d’Argento Finalist, Best Documentary)

- 2013 *FIRST SNOWFALL* (feature-length fictional film – 70th Venice International Film Festival – Horizons Section; Gran Prix at Annecy Festival)
- 2013 *REBETIKO CRISIS: UNDUE DEBT* (documentary – presented at the 66th Locarno Film Festival)
- 2012 *MARE CHIUSO* (documentary – Nastri d’Argento, Best Documentary)
- 2011 *SHUN LI AND THE POET* (feature-length fictional film – 68th Venice International Film Festival, nominated for David di Donatello awards, honoured at dozens of international festivals, European Parliament LUX prize (2012), distributed in more than 45 countries)
- 2010 *THE GREEN BLOOD* (documentary – CinemaDoc winner at the Venice Days – 67th Venice International Film Festival)
- 2009 *MAGARI LE COSE CAMBIANO* (documentary – winner of “Avanti!” prize at the 27th Torino Film Festival)
- 2008 *COME UN UOMO SULLA TERRA* (documentary – nominated for Best Documentary at the David di Donatello Awards, second prize at SalinaDoc Fest, special mention for the Vittorio De Seta prize and at Grand Prix TeleFrance CMCA)
- 2007 *LA MAL’OMBRA* (documentary – presented at the 25th Torino Film Festival, 26th Uruguay Film Festival)
- 2006 *CHECOSAMANCA* (documentary – Official selection at the 1st Rome International Film Festival)
- 2004 *DIO ERA UN MUSICISTA* (documentary)
- 2003 *MARGHERA CANALE NORD* (documentary– presented at the 60th Venice International Film Festival, special mention at RomaDocFestival)