

RACCONTI #9

SCRIPT LAB

CLEAR THE STAGE FOR NEW VOICES

COWBOY

Logline and Short Synopsis

A lonely boy who prefers adventures on paper to those in real life is kidnapped by a Cowboy named Billy and brought into a fantastic world of misfits called the Free World. To his surprise and distress, he finds that the inhabitants of this secret world expect him to step into his late father's cowboy boots... and save the Free World from the threat of the evil Shadow Rider.

Valentin (12) is terrorized by the very idea of dodgeball – and everything else that “normal” kids in his Alpine village enjoy. So he buries his head in adventure books, always ready to escape if anything resembling a real adventure should arise. But one fateful night, he gets kidnapped and feels himself being transported by a very strange means. Could it be... **a horse?** Valentin then finds himself in the Free World, a secret and magical land filled with turquoise waterfalls, lush meadows and towering peaks. His surly abductor COWBOY BILLY explains that an immortal and benevolent witch, ADELE, created the Free World centuries ago as a safe haven for misfits and the oppressed. Twelve Portals, each guarded by a Cowboy like himself, connect to our Real World. Valentin loves that he can be himself here, and befriends a high-spirited, wild-haired girl: BABSİ. But storm clouds gather when Valentin finds out that he was brought here for a reason: His late father was one of the Twelve Cowboys – and only Valentin can take his place. Well, you can imagine that's a whole lot of adventure for our shy bookworm. And to make matters worse, he'll have to face down an evil loner who wants to destroy the Free World. But he'll rise to the challenge, crossing turbulent rivers on horseback and surviving a blizzard at high altitude. And in the end, Valentin will defeat the Shadow Rider in his very own special way... and learn that everything he thought was wrong with him is actually his secret strength.

Team members

LISA MARIA KERSCHBAUMER

WRITER / DIRECTOR

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Lisa Maria got his Bachelor's degree in science in communications and film. She studies for two years in Bologna and one year in Berlin, while already working on her first short films.

In 2015, she wrote and directed her first short film THE STORY COLLECTOR. Two years later she directed the award-winning web series CRIMETUBE SOUTH TYROL.

In 2019 Lisa Maria Kerschbaumer wrote and directed the short film THE LITTLE COWBOY which won Best Short at the **Dolomital Film Festival** in 2020.

In 2020 she co-wrote and directed the short INAPPROPRIATE.

Lisa's production work includes Assistant to the Director for Terrence Malick on A HIDDEN LIFE (2019), Assistant to Claire Foy on THE GIRL IN THE SPIDER'S WEB (2018), and Assistant to Paul Ruddon MUTE (2018).

In 2020 she was accepted in to the Advanced Summer Screenwriting program at the University of Southern California.

CASSANDRA HAN

PRODUCER

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Cassandra Han's career in film, television and theatre has spanned more than 30 years.

As a casting director, she has worked on projects for Netflix, Sky, Twentieth Century Fox, ARD / Degeto, Gaumont, Barefoot Films, Wildside, Letterbox, Lieblingsfilm and Cattleya as well as with award-winning directors such as Terrence Malick, James Mangold and Stefan Ruzowitsky.

In 2020, she founded Enrosadira Pictures with Lorenzo Viti. The company is currently producing the documentary feature ENDGAME: THE SOUTH TYROL, 1945, written and presented by the acclaimed WWII historian and novelist James Holland. Enrosadira also has an Italian feature film in development: ITALY FIRST, written by Luca Vendruscolo and Simona Nobile, in co-production with Marco Alessi.

She is a member of the Casting Society of America and holds an MFA in acting. In 2020, she was an International Emmy voter and member of the Shooting Stars jury at the Berlinale.

LET'S DO AS IF

Logline and Short Synopsis

A 10-year-old girl desperate to be loved, is ready to be what her parents want in order to save her family.

Who have you become for love?

Linda is a shy child who stutters and talks with her dolls, desperately looking for a solution to keep her parents from splitting up. She is afraid that if they separate things will never be the same again and that they will forget about her, as they are already very distracted by their own problems and their continual fighting. She constantly wonders why their love ended and believes that the solution is to take them back to Rome, the city where their story began and she was conceived. Linda can win the trip to Rome with her parents by taking an audition and a course at school to learn acting and dancing. This seems an impossible task for someone like her, who is not popular, but the little girl acquires a magic power: to “do as if”.

Linda transforms herself and becomes Diego Armando Maradona, the hero of her father, who always wanted a boy instead of a girl to play football with. Becoming a champion changes Linda, who now really does look like a boy. She learns to be respected and finds a connection with her father. But this is not the only transformation she faces. For her mother, who stopped dancing when Linda was born, she becomes a dancer. In the end, her efforts are rewarded and Linda takes her parents to Rome, facing her journey as a true heroine and fighting to get what she wants. But she discovers that in life everyone has to fight their own battle and will not always win. However, each of us can make a difference, by being able to be ourselves without fear and not forgetting that we can always “do as if”.

Team members

CRISTINA PUCCINELLI

WRITER / DIRECTOR

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Cristina Puccinelli took a degree in Communication Sciences at La Sapienza University while studying acting and cinema. She immediately started work as an actress. Subsequently she devoted herself to writing and directing and produced a number of award-winning shorts which sold in Italy and other countries, as well as documentaries, commercials, and video clips. She works as a journalist, and as artistic director for festivals as well as a casting director. She is involved in the organization and coaching for courses about cinema.