



# TUFO

An animated documentary by Victoria MUSCI







## In a few words

Tufo is the true story of a Sicilian builder who became a target of the Mafia. For years, his company was damaged and his family was threatened, yet he never gave in to their will.

Thanks to his fight, the criminals have been incarcerated and judged. He and his family still live in Sicily today.

The film is based on the testimonies of Ignazio CUTRÒ, Giuseppina ADRIGNOLO, Giuseppe CUTRÒ and Veronica Aurora CUTRÒ.

# Synopsis

Ignazio CUTRÒ grew up in Sicily under the watchful eye of a loving father who passed on to him what the land itself had taught him: respect and generosity.

In 1999, as an adult and owner of a successful construction company, he became a target for the mafia. But each time they sabotage his business, he goes to the police. He never gives in to the threats of the local boss. This opposition, driven by an extraordinary inner strength, leads him and his family into a ten-year long nightmare. Although the condemnation of the suspects to long prison sentences gives hope to the CUTRÒ, the consequences are disastrous: the entire village is against them, no more work, no more way to finance their children's studies... They are forced to ask for help. Thanks to journalists and magistrates, they become "protected witnesses". That means that bodyguards follow them everywhere they go. Yet, Ignazio still needs to work to survive. He creates an association of people who, like him, have stood up to the Mafia. He then drafted a law allowing these people to get a job in the public administration. This law was adopted by the Italian State in November 2016. An ordinary man has helped people all over the country to realise that giving in to the threats of the Mafia is not an obligation.

Ignazio and his family are still living in Sicily. It's not an easy life, but they feel happy and free. TUFO is a universal life lesson, as its main character is a modern day hero.





# Director's note

A professor once told me that governments often look for external enemies to avoid facing their own country's issues. He emphasized the need to look for the "enemy within" of a country when faced with crisis. I came of age during the global economic crisis years (2007-2012) and as I approached the working world, I felt the need to look for the "enemy within" of my home country, Italy.

In this film project called Tufo, in this country of mine, that enemy is the mafia. This fictional documentary was created to address the controversial topic of organized crime in our time by telling the true story of a person who stood up to his oppressors. This brave act proves that the mafia is far from being invincible and highlights the resources available to citizens to face it.

Thanks to Libera, a national association that fights against organized crime, I was able to deepen my knowledge on the subject and meet Ignazio Cutro, the hero of the story on which the film is based. This meeting was the real beginning of my desire to make this film. I want to transmit to the audience the hope that he transmitted to me during that meeting. I was able to witness his fight for freedom, his resilience and his joy of living, and I hope to transmit them through this film.





# Artistic and technical list

**Director:** Victoria MUSCI

**Script-writers:** Catherine MAXIMOFF & Victoria MUSCI

**Storyboard:** Victoria MUSCI, Pierre-Luc GRANJON

**Characters design :** Milena TIPALDO

**Director of photography:** Chiara LOMBARDI

**Artistic direction and chief animator:** Francesco FORTI

**Dialogs adaptation:** Sabrina PETYX

**Dubbing art director:** Giuseppe CUTINO

**VFX supervisor:** Luc SERRANO

**3D props:** Gino Marco FACHECHI & Ludovica DI BENEDETTO

**Compositing:** Massimo OTTONI

**Editor:** Antoine RODET

**Sound design:** Marion PAPINOT

**Foleys:** Benjamin ROSIER

**Original score:** Fratelli MANCUSO

## **Producers**

Les Contes Modernes - Patrice NEZAN & Laurent VERSINI

Ibridio Studio - Federico TURANI

Showlab - Alfio BASTIANCICH

## **Italian voices**

**Salvatore NOCERA:** Ignazio

**Evelyn FAMÀ:** Giuseppina

**Salvatore VENTURA:** Giuseppe jr

**Gloria CACCIATORE:** Veronica

**Lorenzo SALERNO:** Giuseppe jr (child)

**Rebecca MARTUCCI:** Veronica (child)

**Francesco GIORDANO:** Giuseppe sr

**Emanuele CARLINO:** Benny

**Alessio BARONE:** Carabiniere

**Tatu LA VECCHIA:** Mafioso

**Lello ANALFINO:** Lorenzo

**Marco CASIGLIA:** Magistrate

**Sabrina PETYX:** President of the anti-mafia commission

**Antonio MESSINA:** TV speaker

**Antonietta CIARAMELLA:** Witness (woman)

**Giuseppe CUTINO:** Witness (man)

**Michele DI MARCO:** Worker

**Pietro MASSARO:** Minister of the Interior



# Victoria MUSCI, writer-director

Born in 1990, Victoria MUSCI has studied animation at the Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia in Turin (Italy), where she co-directed the film *Dove ti nascondi* (2013). She worked as a 2D animator at Cartoon Network in London, and she participated at the Anidox, animation documentary workshops at The Animation Workshop in Denmark. At La Poudrière she directed the films *Galeotto* (2014), *Moon Orbit*, *Chris & Kris* (*Les Espoirs de l'Animation* 2015 - Canal j), and her graduation film *Giggino 'o bello* (2015). In Italy she worked as an assistant director on the production *Yoyo*, a children's TV series broadcast on RAI YOYO, and later as an animator of commissioned films. In 2021 she is one of the co-founders of Ibrido Studio, an independent animation production company based in Turin.

## Graduations films

### GIGGINO 'O BELLO

Graduation film *La Poudrière* – 2015 – 5 minutes

Special Mention and Jury Award in the European Student Competition at the International Animation Film Festival ANIMATEKA 2016

Best Short Film Award, Terra di Cinema Festival 2016

### DOVE TI NASCONDI

Co-directed with Nadia ABATE & Francesco FORTI

Graduation film *CSC* – 2013 – 6 minutes

Scuola Video Multimedia Italia Award at Concorso Nazionale FEDIC 2013

Giotto Award at the Giffoni Film Festival, Valle Piana (SA) 2013

Audience Award at the PM gLocal Film Festival 2013

Premio Giuria Giovani Award at the International Melzo Film Festival 2013

## TUFO is her first professional film



# Les Contes Modernes

## Patrice NEZAN & Laurent VERSINI

Les Contes Modernes, i.e. The Modern Tales, aims at taking part in intellectual debates within our contemporary societies by any means necessary (fiction, animation and creative documentary).

Les Contes Modernes federates authors and artists of various horizons (film directors, visual artists, choreographers, graphic novelists, philosophers, game-designers etc.) who question the world surrounding us in all its complexity and who put the esthetic search at the heart of their creations. Our artistic process in favor of body movement more than dialogues is an attempt to draw a universal language, to step across the borders.

Les Contes Modernes is a production company based in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region, South of France, between Lyon and Marseille, in La Cartoucherie, center of excellency for the animation industry.

Les Contes Modernes supports projects which develop a humanist, empathic and creative approach on the world of today and of tomorrow.



# Ibrido Studio

## Federico TURANI

IBRIDO is an independent animation studio based in Italy that has been making 2d, 3d and Stop-motion animation since 2016, ranging from film to music-videos, commercials, video-games and VR.

Our focus is to co-produce with international partners while building up an Italian network, sharing art and culture, growing both as a company and as human beings.

Company History: After training at Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia - Animation school and working on different projects in Italy and abroad, we got together one evening in Turin and, after a beer (or maybe two) and a 'bicerin' (or maybe two), we had an idea.

The idea to create something new, fresh and dynamic, that doesn't uniform our different styles under a label, but enhances them, giving space to a vision of artistic, handcrafted and choral animation that we can develop together.

# ShowLab

## Alfio BASTIANCICH

SHOWLAB is a TV content production company. In the past few years, the company has moved closer to young audiences with animated series such as YOYO (52 x 7 ', 2017), co-produced with RAI Fiction, Grid Animation and Telegael, or Miracle Tunes (51 x 26 ', 2018), a very successful Japanese format that ShowLab adapted for the Western market.

Another example of content produced by ShowLab, aimed at teenagers and young adults, is the documentary on delinquency for RAI 3 "(Two Points open the parenthesis" and the development of MY FAITH about teenagers' faith in the world.







# Contacts

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