



**CANNES DOCS**

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TORINO FILM FESTIVAL

**OFFICIAL  
SELECTION**

# LUX SANTA

A documentary by Matteo Russo

Produced by NAFFINTUSI

**Rai Cinema**



**Calabria  
Film  
Commission**

**NAFFINTUSI**  
in collaboration with  
**RAI CINEMA**  
presents

# LUX SANTA

Documentary|2023|75'|ITA

Written by  
**MATTEO RUSSO e CARLO GALLO**

Directed by  
**MATTEO RUSSO**

a production by  
**NAFFINTUSI**

in collaboration with  
**RAI CINEMA**

with the support of  
**Fondazione Calabria Film Commission**

**LUX SANTA | ARTISTIC CAST**

Lupin Zucchero

**FRANCESCO VACCARO**

Zucchero

**FRANCESCO SCARRIGLIA**

Pidux

**ENRICO SCERRA**

Citos

**ANTONIO CITATI**

**LUX SANTA | SCHEDA TECNICA**

Director

**Matteo Russo**

Produced by

**NAFFINTUSI di Orazio Guarino e Marco Santoro**

In collaboration with

**Rai Cinema**

With the support of

**Calabria Film Commission**

Executive producer

**Vincenzo D'Arpe**

Assistant director

**Carlo Gallo**

Story and Screenplay

**Matteo Russo e Carlo Gallo**

Cinematography

**Andrea Manenti**

Music

**Ginevra Nervi**

Camera operator

**Arianna Pucci**

Editing

**Mattia Soranzo**

Colorist

**Rosario Balistreri**

Sound

**Filippo Manni e Nicolò Bolognesi**

Year of production: **2023**

Length: **75'**

Color

Location: **Crotone (Calabria, Italy)**

Language: **Italian**

Status: **in distribution**



## LUX SANTA | SYNOPSIS

Crotone, small town in southern Italy, about 70 thousand inhabitants. Every 13 December on the silent background of the sky and the sea, groups of children honor the tradition of the fires of Saint Lucia building and burning majestic wooden pyramids.

Popular legend tells that Santa Lucia was blind.

The paintings portray her with a lost look in the void and in hand a silver plate with eyes. Therefore, the ritual, in the town, does not only derive from a banal tradition, instead has the intent to return through the fire light (lux) to Saint Lucia in his day.

To move the story will be the group of boys in the neighborhood "Fondo Gesù" that in their days, through the streets of the city to the search for wood, deal with their personal problems.

Children who at the age of 15 find themselves to live already without their fathers and are forced to be men, feeling the insurmountable weight of the loss of adolescence. There are those who deal with a father in prison, who has never known him or who, from here to shortly, will lose him.

A rite that of the Fires of Saint Lucia that unites them as brothers in pursuing a single objective: to achieve the the city's tallest and most imposing structure. The majestic Burning pyramid helps them find again, as well as youth lost, even the "lux" in their dark lives.

## **LUX SANTA | Director's note**

The (neo)realistic matrix with which the themes are treated gives great importance to the socio-anthropological component, through which young people of Rione Fondo Gesù are shown and retracted in the social dynamics that support it. People are used rather than characters - or rather starting from the first to build the seconds. This cinema matrix of reality is often interrupted by a built language typical of films thus revealing a hybrid style.

Lux Santa has the intent to lift the veil from the black chronicle and show spirals of a beauty usually hidden. Document a millennial tradition that can withstand the years and raise it to a spiritual level. Our protagonists, through their eyes full of pain, lead us through the ways of show us how in such a hostile territory (Fondo Gesù), life, friendship and union around this tradition popular helps them survive the absence of their fathers.

The first goal I set myself is to shorten the distance, first, between me and my "new friends" and bring the viewer closer to those lives, so that completely natural. Give the feeling to those who watch be there with them to overcome every obstacle and to reach the summit of the majestic pyramid. Thus, shorten the distance between work and reality, between subject and object.

The narrative structure is merges with the documentary scenario of the film. Tradition and the myth of Saint Lucia are narrated through the deeds of teenagers of Rione Fondo Gesù. The wall between reality and but fiction is invisible, the documentary elements disappear every time the narrative structure (which tells the problems of our protagonists) takes over.

I had access to these lives entirely exclusively, won the trust of the dowel families, after dowel and now I find myself having a second family- I felt obliged to bring their fragility, their strength, their dreams, their beauty.

*Matteo Russo*

## **MATTEO RUSSO | Director**



Born in Crotone in 1992. In 2011 he met cinema at the Academy of Fine Arts in Bologna, founding a collective to shoot the first video clips. In 2014 on the set of the film "Confusi e felici" by Massimiliano Bruno, he plays the role of assistant director. After this first experience he produced and directed the first two personal film projects: "Voglia di fragola" written by Emilio Maria Costa and "Storia di una donna che amava suo figlio" selected in many national and international film festivals. Over the years he has directed various video clips and commercials such as the commercial for "Barilla" and the documentary on the singer Clementino. In 2018 he produced and directed: "Amal" and "Amare affondo" purchased by Rai Cinema in 2019. Just in this year, he studied at the NYFA in Los Angeles where he shot the short film "Tell Me Your Name" in Hollywood. In 2020 he founded the Calabria Movie International short film festival. He currently continues to collaborate with various Italian productions such as Italian International Film, Fabula pictures, 11 Marzo Film, Daitona, Naffintusi. In the last two years he has dedicated himself to his first feature documentary "Lux Santa" produced by Naffintusi with Rai Cinema.



**Lux Santa (Documentary 2023)** – Director, screenwriter – Produced by Naffintusi with Rai Cinema

**Tell me your name (Short film 2020)** – Director, screenwriter - Produced by - NYFA Los Angeles

**Amal (Short film 2020)** - Co-director, screenwriter - Produced by MAKÈFILM

**Amare Affondo (Short film 2019)** – Director, screenwriter - Produced by MAKÈFILM - 20 Official International Selection (Amarcort FF, Pentedattilo FF, KINOFilm Manchester, Pride queer Australia, Napoli Film Festival, Ivelise CineFestival, 34° Lovers FF); Best Short Film Cala Film Fest; Best Actor Filoteo Alberini

**L'idea si fa impresa! (Spot 2017)**- Director - Produced by - Cliente: Easy Social Job

**Clementino Miracolo Documentour 2015 (Documentary 2015)** - Director – Produced by Thaurus, Hi, Toys videoproject

**Storia di una donna che amava suo figlio (Short film 2015)** – Director, screenwriter - Produced by Hi, toys videoproject, EsperiaTv - 5 nomination “TMFF 2016”; Official selection “CinemadaMare 2016; Official selection “Social World Film festival”; Official selection “Roma Tre Film Festival”

**Voglia di fragola (Short film 2015)** – Director - Produced by Hi, Toys videoproject - Official selection “LosAngeles cinefest”, Winner “Miglior film sperimentale” “TMFF 2016” , Glasgow





**Naffintusi** is a production company founded in 2004 from the meeting between the director, screenwriter and producer Orazio Guarino, and the executive producer Marco Santoro. The will of Naffintusi from the beginning has always been that of position within the small group of producers independent Italian films that prefer stories from innovative character, unconventional and with a great attention to the aesthetics of the final products. The goal is to create high-quality audiovisual products, following the development in every step, from the ideation to the theatrical release or on modern streaming platforms. At the base of Naffintusi productions there are ideas, to develop man hand, to ensure that the final product can reach the as many spectators as possible. The characteristics that distinguish Naffintusi as home production are first of all a dynamic structure, formed by young talents of the Italian and international, united by the passion for work cinema, the great experience developed in addition to fifteen years of set and continuous synergy with other important reality not only in the cinema but also in music and art in general. Naffintusi has its operating base in Rome providing production services executive for films, documentaries and music videos.

In 2022 Naffintusi co-produces the short film "Happy new year, Jim" by Andrea Gatopoulos, selected for the Directors' Fortnight Réalisateurs of the 2022 Cannes Film Festival that becomes the Italian short film with multiple selections Oscar and EFA qualifying. In 2023 coproduces the short film "Eschaton AD" by Andrea Gatopoulos at the Locarno Festival in the Pardi di Domani section. Also in 2023 coproduces the short film "Las Memorias perdidas de los arboles" by Antonio La Camera who wins the award for Best Short Film at the Week of the Critics of the International Art Exhibition Cinema of Venice. Currently Naffintusi is engaged in the pre-production of the new film by director of Orazio Guarino "Let the flames burn" and in the theatrical release of the documentary by Matteo Russo "Lux Santa" produced in collaboration with Rai Cinema.

## **PRESS |**



## **NAFFINTUSI | Contact**

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