

**28 TFF**  
TORINO FILM FESTIVAL

ITALIANA.DOC

# VIA APPIA

di Paolo De Falco

## FILM GRAD

# *Via Appia*

### A FILM BY PAOLO DE FALCO

Running time 1h 55' - Format HD 16:9

Year of production 2010

### GRAD ZERO

VIA SAN DOMENICO SAVIO N° 50 73100 LECCE

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Italy

### LOGLINE

Three real characters travel in different ways on the Appia, the ancient route that led from Rome to Brindisi. They are driven by different reasons and desires but the way sucks them down and moves them progressively through her power, still offering them strong experiences.

### SYNOPSIS

Antonio Pascale, Giacomo De Stefano and Bruno Ostuni, i.e. a famous intellectual writer, with a scientific education, who obsessively thinks to the country and to himself, he is a single-hander, who has been defined as the river man, in the grip of a religious crisis, a railwayman, who drives trains and lover of horses and landscapes.

Three real characters who travel along the south, following more or less precisely and voluntarily the old Appia road, while their pathways physically and ideally entwined and they experience the same progressive abandon to the pure nature.

The Appia, this mythical road that joins Rome and Brindisi, become the still possible setting for a road trip across Italy, across the south, an "unconscious" pathway that sucks down their worries and will to live offering them discoveries and deep feelings.

They travel in different ways and with different means: the first one begins his trip with the car to continue with the trains of the Appulo of the Basilicata and then ending by foot, lost in the countryside with a young archaeologist; the second one arrives by train in a small convent of the eastern Irpinia where he finds, in the wood below, the river Calore, so he begins a wonderful and very hard journey along the southern rivers, with a boat obstinately dragged to the sea through an exhausting fight with the lack of water. The third one drives trains and he has four sons. With them he shares the passion for horses and for this reason, together with them, he gets lost in the remotest and wildest southern landscapes as an old-time Indian.

In the middle there's Cairano, a small village of the eastern Irpinia, which is becoming depopulated and which hosts a show organized by intellectual from the south, as Franco Arminio, another writer who focuses on landscape and territory, and who is the guide of this show.

A sort of poetic and programmatic assembly to built a community (named temporary) able to creatively live in the south and that chooses Cairano itself, a village hanged in time and space, considering its position at the top of a mountain, to bring up there theoretical words, which are probably idle, and concrete revolutionary actions.

A movie that, on a documentary base, creates an intense and metaphorical narrative pathway, in an atmosphere in which images and sounds contribute both in rendering it oneiric; and that gives back, uring the journey, dreams that are probably emblematic, and whose power is left to a deep work of the viewer.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

We travelled following the travellers, who seemed to be moved by the road. As if they were sucked down. But they weren't easy journeys. A deep thirst moved them. Something extreme, destabilizing. Probably for this reason they were extraordinary. Personally, what interested me more was the metaphorical power of these journeys, their symbolic intensity. As the metaphor was, and is still now, an additional effort, a burden to better enjoy the freedom.

## SCHEMA TECNICA

Original title **VIA APPIA**

International title **APPIAN WAY / VIA APPIA**

Year of production **2010**

Country of production **Italia**

Running time 115 min.

Format Betadigitale (**16:9**)

Original format **HD**

The movie dialogue are in Italian with English subtitles.

## CREDITS

Original title **VIA APPIA**

International title **APPIAN WAY / VIA APPIA**

Director **Paolo De Falco**

Production company **Film Grad**

With the support of **Comune di Roma, Provincia di Caserta, Teca del Mediterraneo, Apulia Film Commission and Regione Puglia**

Producer **Paolo De Falco**

Script by **Paolo De Falco**

Freely inspired by a treating of **Fabio Parente, Antonio Pascale and Paolo De Falco**

Voice off of Pascale **Antonio Pascale and Paolo De Falco**

Cinematography **Paolo De Falco**

Editing **Andrea Facchini and Paolo De Falco**

Music **Gianni Lenoci, Giacomo Mongelli, Steve Potts**

Starring (in order of appearance) Antonio Pascale, Giacomo De Stefano, Bruno Ostuni, Marcello Ostuni, Valerio Ostuni, Giuliano Ostuni, Davide Ostuni, Lisa Ginzburg, Francesca Fava, Franco Arminio, Ermelinda Bircaj



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APULIA FILM COMMISSION  
La Puglia è tutta da girare.  
Puglia: a set scene to wander.



Provincia  
di Caserta



Comune di Roma  
Assessorato alle Politiche Culturali  
e della Comunicazione

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Paolo De Falco was born in Novoli (Lecce) in 1965  
e-mail: gradzero@gmail.com

The artistic education of Paolo De Falco originated from theatre and music.

He studied dance, music and acting, meeting, in his educational pathway during his degree in History of Theatre at the Università La Sapienza di Roma, among others, E. De Filippo, L. de Berardinis, P. Stein, C. Bene, P. Brook, J. Grotowsky, C. Quartucci, T. Kantor.

Thanks to a scholarship of the Ministero degli Affari Esteri (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) he studied directing at the Academy of Theatre in Cracow and at the Cricoteka, main office and archive of the Theatre Cricot 2, cooperating with the company of T. Kantor.

Since he was young (he made his debut when he was 20 years old with *Il grande Blek* by G. Piccioni) he worked also as an actor, at first in cinema and then in theatre in several productions. Then he began creating several shows and performances, not only in Italy.

After some theatrical videos, he shot in Albany his first short, *Il ponte*, taken from Kafka's novel *The Bridge* and presented at several festivals in 2002. In 2005 he directed his first feature documentary, *Stella Loca*, entirely shot in Buenos Aires and presented at the Roma Film Festival, the Trieste Film Festival and at the Doc for sale of Amsterdam. Between 2006 and 2010 he produced a series of documentaries in Argentina, Chile e Brazil about Italian immigration, which converged in the ***Archivio liquido dell'identità*** edited by *Grad zero*, of which he is artistic director, and the documentary *Leonardo*, in the official competition at the 26° Torino Film Festival and at the Italia Film Fest – Per il Cinema italiano - Bari 2009.

Paolo De Falco is also a musician.

He joined the *Fools* (included in a compilation of the best Italian rock bands - 1993-94) and the *M.T.U.* (2000).

He composed tracks for several choreographers: R. Mazzotta, A.P. Bacalov, F. Scavetta etc.

From 1994 he was artistic director of several laboratories-residences-exhibitions which were at the border between various creative languages, dealing also with art pedagogy.

He wrote *Anche i pesci balleranno* a book-diary about his theatrical work for Argo Editrice (1999).