

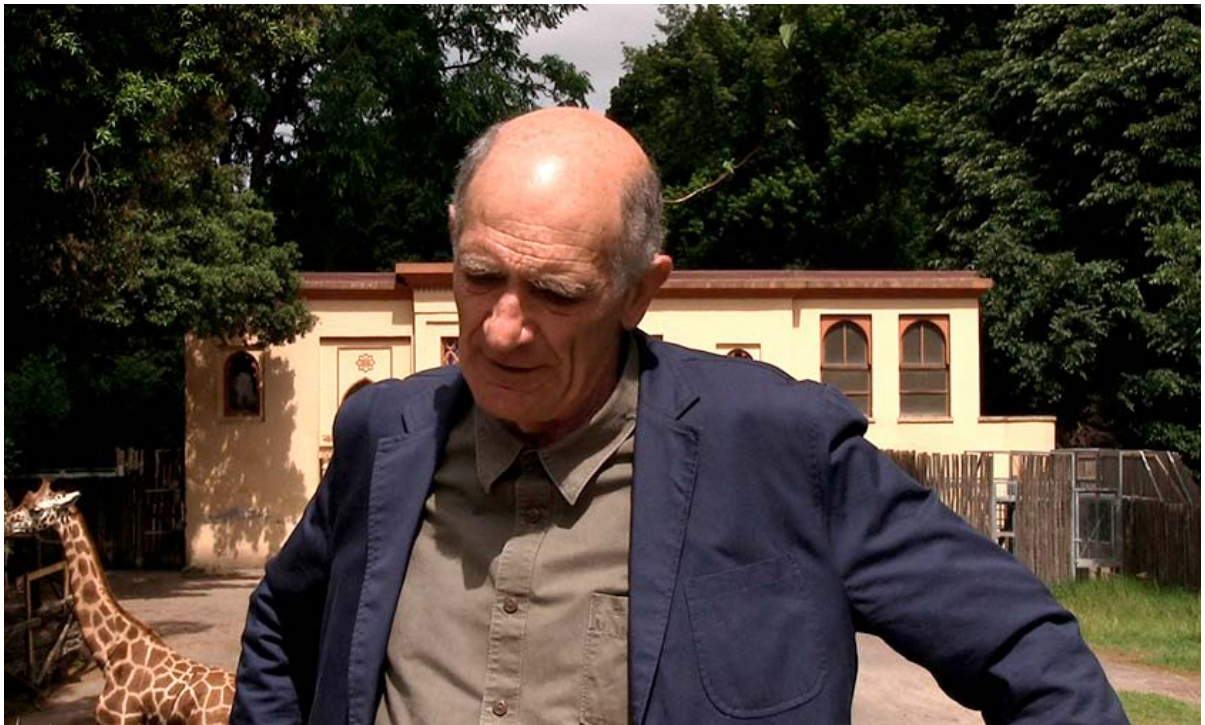
LUOGHI COMUNI

(COMMON PLACES)

Mário Gomes & Marco Ugolini

Paolo Virno, one of the most influential contemporary Italian thinkers, who has been imprisoned in the 1970s for being a member of Potere Operaio, explains the key topics of his philosophical thought and revisits the Years of Lead, a crucial period of the most recent Italian History.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

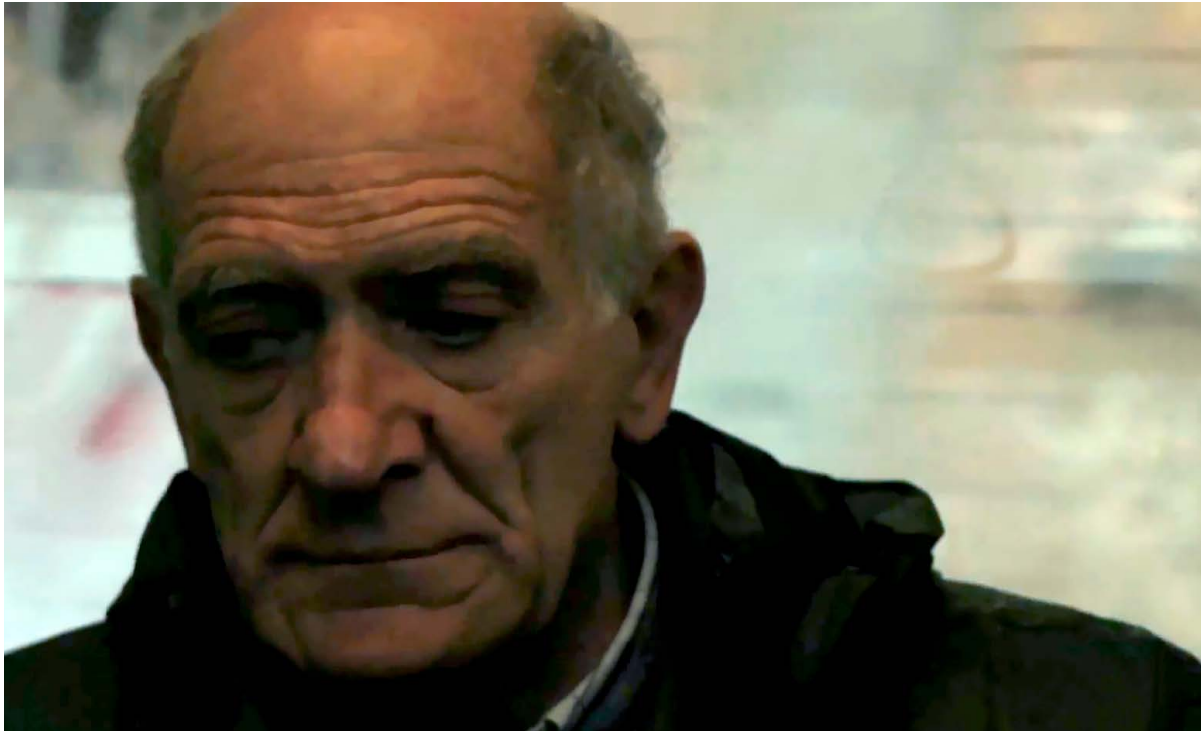


Paolo Virno is one of the most influential contemporary Italian philosophers. His theories regarding post-Fordism and its forms of life have made his books published worldwide. With this documentary, through meeting and interviewing him, the attempt is to examine the thought of Virno and to translate this into moving images.

The themes that Virno explores in his discourse relate to a series of keywords: virtuosity, general intellect, institution, common places, human nature, negation, infinite, etc... Virno's theories offer a non-conventional view on our current reality and on human conditions nowadays.

Together with Virno, the directors organised and recorded a series of "philosophical walks", in the metro, in a supermarket, at the zoo, etc ... This way, the challenge is to create a link between theory and the so-called daily life.

Virno is seen giving a lecture about St. Augustine, smoking cigarettes and drinking coffee. He talks about human nature, in a Zoo, in front of a cage with monkeys, and, in an occupied theatre, Virno talks about the concept of performance and its paradigmatic relevance within a Post-Fordist society. While shooting the film, the two directors become acquainted with Kadia, a young actress that works in a toy shop to earn her living. In the only scene where she appears, she becomes the character of a social design that is at the core of Virno's thinking, that relates to virtuosism and contemporary forms of labor.



Also, a dialogue is established between the interviews scenes and the urban scenes. Here, Rome is portrait in the everyday life. We see images of trams and migrants at work. It is not the touristic cliché of Rome that is seen, but rather an image of sad decadence, this way mirroring Virno's critique on Post-Fordist Capitalism.

The project to fill a movie with Virno's philosophical views fails, however, once his political past comes into play. These days Paolo Virno teaches philosophy at the University of Roma Tre, but at the end of the '70s he was arrested in a large-scale "anti-terrorist action," and spent almost 4 years in prison. His history and views on this epoch provide an insight into one of the major subjects of the recent History of Italy and turn the film "Common Places" into a quest for traces and clues.

Virno is one of those Italian intellectuals (together with Toni Negri, Giorgio Agamben, Franco Bifo Berardi) known under the name of Italian Theory, or *post-operaisti*, post-workerists. This film is the first one of a trilogy, with 2 more documentaries portraying Franco Bifo Berardi and Giorgio Agamben, who are known internationally for belonging to the same group of thinkers. The second film, with "Bifo", is already at the stage of being shot.

DIRECTORS AND PRODUCERS

Mário Gomes
Marco Ugolini

BIO-FILMOGRAPHY

This is the first feature documentary film from the duo Mário Gomes/Marco Ugolini. This is also the first film of a trilogy, all dedicated to contemporary Italian philosophy.

Mário Gomes (PT/DE) was awarded a PhD in Literature and Cultural Anthropology from the Universities of Bonn and Florence. He has lived in Berlin since 2007, where he works as a musician, writer and film maker. After several short films, micro-documentaries and video-clips, in 2010 he completed his first main feature documentary film, *Muito Além*, which was shown in several festivals around the world.

www.muitoalem.com

Marco Ugolini (IT) is a Visual Artist and Graphic Designer. He studied at the ISIA in Florence and later was awarded a Master Degree in Design from the Sandberg Institute (Rietveld Academy) in Amsterdam. Thanks to prizes and scholarships he has participated in artists residency programmes in Brazil, Germany and Ireland. He explores the territories where art and design overlap and realises videos as well as multimedia and site-specific artworks.

www.jesuismontre.org



Muito Alem - Mario Gomes, 2010
Still from Video



Fauna - Marco Ugolini, 2010
Still from Video

POSTER



TRAILER

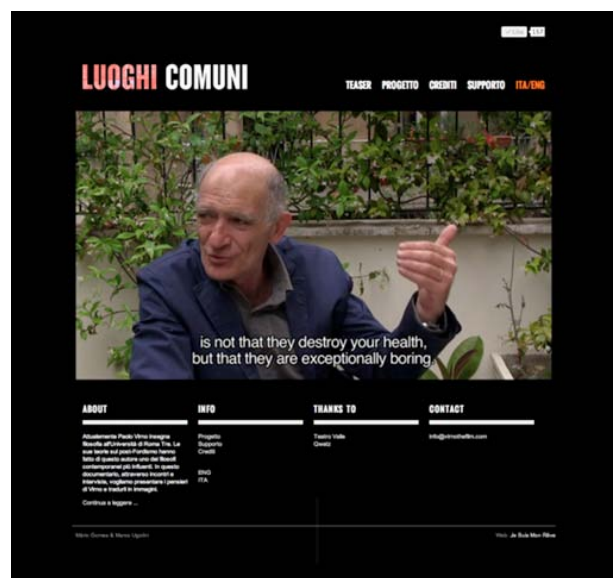
A trailer of the film is available at this link:
vimeo.com/69552253



WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK

A website for the film is available at this link:
www.facebook.com/virnothefilm

www.virnothefilm.com



SUPPORT

This film was self-produced and realized thanks to the donations to the project on the Crowd-funding platform Indiegogo.



Semiotext(e), the american publisher of the author Paolo Virno, has contributed to the production of the film.

Semiotext(e)

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