

2024-11-01

V0.2

Fiume o morte!

a feature-length hybrid documentary film

112'

0) GENERAL INFORMATION

Original title: Fiume o morte!

English title: Fiume o morte!

Running time: 112 minutes

Production year: 2025

Countries of production: Croatia, Italy, Slovenia

Screening format: 2K DCP (1.78) 5.1 SR

Picture: color and b/w

Languages used in film: Croatian, Italian, Fiuman (Italian dialect)

Available subtitles: English, Italian, Croatian

A) SYNOPSIS (Short Format; 300 chars)

In 1919 the Italian poet, dandy and preacher of war Gabriele D'Annunzio occupied the city of Fiume. The citizens of Fiume, today called Rijeka, retell and reinterpret the bizarre story about the 16-month occupation of their city in a brutally factual yet defiantly punk cinematic journey.

B) SYNOPSIS (Long Format; 1700 chars)

On 12 September 1919, a troop of some three hundred soldiers under the leadership of the flamboyant war loving Italian poet Gabriele D'Annunzio swooped into the Northern-Adriatic port town of Fiume, now Rijeka, wanting to annex the city to Italy. Over the course of the next 16 months, during what is regarded as one of the most bizarre militant sieges of all time his official photography team captured over 10,000 images.

A century later, Rijeka-born filmmaker Igor Bezinović, along with some three hundred citizens, orchestrates a direct-action history lesson focused on the siege and its modern-day implications. The communal undertaking in historical empowerment not only revisits both facts and legends but also puts forward a social counterweight to D'Annunzio's occupational agenda.

The result is a brutally factual yet defiantly punk cinematic journey, deadly serious yet hilariously surreal. It critically examines the tactics of performance, manipulation and propaganda employed during the siege and transgresses them to create a wild ride directly into the heart of chaos. An invitation to dare create new viewpoints, narratives, and experiences, it uncovers nationalist historiographies as effective and obstinate ideological instruments, no matter how absurd or ridiculous.

Fiume o morte! is a film on poetry, dynamite, cocaine, machine guns, football, airplanes, furniture flying out of windows, concerts, prisons, sunbathing, thousands of soldiers, millions of bullets, endless speeches, a platypus and on the power of political performativity. D'Annunzio might as well be considered its trailblazer heralding some of the biggest masters of ghastly political showmanship of our age.

C) DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY (1200 chars)

Igor Bezinović is a filmmaker born in Rijeka, which is now part of Croatia, but at that time belonged to the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, before that partly the Kingdom of Italy and partly the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, before that the Free State of Fiume, before that the Italian Regency of Carnaro, before that Austria-Hungary...

His films include "The Blockade" (Oktavijan prize for best Croatian documentary in 2012), "Veruda" (Oktavijan prize for best Croatian documentary in 2015) and "A Brief Excursion" (Big Golden Arena prize for best Croatian feature in 2017), along with many shorts of all shapes and sizes.

His work has been shown internationally at events including IFF Rotterdam, DOK Leipzig, IDFF Ji.hlava, CPH:DOX, Kurzfilmtage Winterthur, Biennale of Young Artists from Europe and the Mediterranean, Venice Biennale of Architecture (with Hrvoslava Brkušić for Pulska grupa), Museum of the Moving Image, Guanajuato IFF and Viennale, among others.

He graduated in Film directing at the Academy of Dramatic Art in Zagreb, and in Philosophy, Sociology and Comparative Literature at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb.

More information: www.igorbezinovic.net

D) DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

FEATURES

Fiume o morte! (2025)
A Brief Excursion (2017)
The Blockade (2012)

SELECTED SHORTS

Microcassette: The Smallest Cassette I've Ever Seen (2020)
Postcards (2018)
The Lovetts (2018)
A Short Family Film (2016)
Veruda - A Film About Bojan (2015)
From Kršan to Peroj (2015)
A Very Brief Excursion (2014)
Waiting (2014)
Unmediated Democracy Demands Unmediated Space (2012)

Self-Governed Film (2012)
Naked Hours (2011)
In Fond Memory of TDZ (2010)
An Encounter (2009)
Non-Recyclable (2009)
Above-Average (2009)

E) CAST AND CREDITS

E0) SCRIPTWRITER AND DIRECTOR

Igor Bezinović

E1) APPEARING

As Gabriele D'Annunzio:

Izet Medošević
Ćenan Beljulji
Albano Vučetić
Tihomir Buterin
Andrea Marsanich
Massimo Ronzani
Milovan Večerina Cico

Narrated by:

Igor Bezinović
Renzo Chiepolo
Silvana Zorich
Noemi Dessardo
Sandro Ferletta
Lovro Mirth
Andrea Marsanich
Sara Marsanich

E2) PRODUCTION

Produced by:

Vanja Jambrović
Tibor Keser

Co-produced by:

Erica Barbiani
Marina Gumzi

Production management by:

Lucia Candelpergher
Ivana Naceva

Bernard Koludrović
Sonir Srdoč

Casting director and manager:

Sara Jakupec

Associate producer:

Oliver Sertić

E3) CAMERA

Director of photography:

Gregor Božič

E4) POSTPRODUCTION

Editor:

Hrvoslava Brkušić

E5) MUSIC AND SOUND

Music composers:

Giovanni Maier

Hrvoje Nikšić

Sound recordists:

Ana Jurčić

Andrea Blasetig

Sound designer:

Eric Guerrino Nardin

Sound re-recording mixer:

Julij Zornik

E6) PRODUCTION DESIGN

Costume designers:

Tajči Čekada

Manuela Paladin

Set designers:

Anton Spazzapan

Tiziana De Mario

E7) ADDITIONAL CREDITS

Historical consultants:

Federico Carlo Simonelli
Ivan Jeličić

Archive researchers:

Nika Petković
Carole Grand

E8) EXTENDED INFORMATION

Produced by:

Restart (Croatia)
Videomante (Italy)
NOSOROGI (Slovenia)

With the support by:

Hrvatski audiovizualni centar
Eurimages
Ministero della cultura - Direzione Generale Cinema e audiovisivo
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Filmski studio Viba Film Ljubljana
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Hrvatska radiotelevizija
RTV Slovenija
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Grad Rijeka
Grad Zagreb
Friuli Venezia Giulia Film Commission
ANGOA - PROCIREP
Društvo hrvatskih filmskih redatelja