

la famiglia films

Presents

Love

Running time 14 minutes and 15 seconds



For further information please contact

info@lafamilia.tv

+44 (0)7525 776 947

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

La famiglia proudly presents **Love** written and directed by *Cristian Solimeno*. The film stars *Brett Allen* and *Amanda Ray King*. *Bruce Melhuish* is the Director of Photography.

Love is a controversial, shocking and tragic story about euthanasia and how, through love, a man decides to help his terminally ill wife to end her life. The film tells the story from the point of the first attempt to end her life and is punctuated with flashbacks of their love. As the story progresses we learn more and more about the people they were and the moments that brought them to this desperate conclusion.

Cristian, having completed work on his feature film debut *This Is What It Is* wanted to return to the short film medium to explore certain themes. "I had read an article about a man who was being prosecuted for helping his terminally ill sister to die. They had used a plastic bag to suffocate her. As I recall it took twenty seven attempts before she finally passed away. For days afterwards it went through my head over and over. What an act of selfless love on his part! I thought about how they would have discussed it and just what a desperate situation one would have to be in for it to be a good idea. I was haunted by what must have been the unexpectedly protracted nature of the act. Twenty seven attempts. And then the consequences he knew he would have to face. My heart reached out to those two people."

On the influences of art and in particular Picasso, Cristian says, "I worked to refine and concentrate the flashbacks in to key moments that would tell their story and also give a real sense of who they are and how they love. As I did so, and as the idea of art as life's great consolation became a theme of the film. I realised that I wanted to use a kind of minimalist approach. Picasso is referenced in the film and as I struggled to purify the film, strip it back and make it more profound, I thought of him often. I thought of him spending all those years coming back to his drawings of the bull. Taking away and taking away until in the end just a few strokes of the pencil were left and yet the essence of all those more complex renderings remained. Behind that cartoonish simplicity he ended up with, you have a feeling of all the years and all the process that sits behind it. I wanted to achieve something like that with this film."

The film represented a big turnaround from their recent work on the Cinema Extreme short film *Much Ado About A Minor Ting*. "It was nice to make a film that didn't have huge stunts and a massive cast and crew. We were able to get back to working with a very small crew in a really intimate way that allowed some fantastic and fascinating work to be produced." says Bruce Melhuish.

SYNOPSIS

Short Synopsis

Before a moment of extreme compassion and heartbreak, bittersweet memories of Ernest and Angela's past chart the very depths of their love.

Long Synopsis

Cristian Solimeno's controversial new short film is beautiful, shocking, deeply moving and completely unforgettable. Love follows Ernest (Brett Allen) as he helps his terminally ill wife Angela (Amanda Ray King) to end her life. They are surrounded by sweet and bitter memories of the moments that led them to this awful reality.

Of the film Cristian says 'I wanted the film to ask questions. Is it just about euthanasia, or is it an essay on true love, a study of minimalist storytelling, or a film about the consolations of art?' This beautifully told multi-layered story delivers answers to these questions and raises a few more.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

By the time I came to write the script for "Love" it had already been living in my head for some years. I had read an article about a man who was being prosecuted for helping his terminally ill sister to die. They had used a plastic bag to suffocate her. As I recall it took twenty seven attempts before she finally passed away. For days afterwards it went through my head over and over. What an act of selfless love on his part! I thought about how they would have discussed it and just what a desperate situation one would have to be in for it to be a good idea. I was haunted by what must have been the unexpectedly protracted nature of the act. Twenty seven attempts. And then the consequences he knew he would have to face. My heart reached out to those two people.

Perhaps the event resonated so strongly for me because it reminded me of a couple I had known well in London; Bruce, who was a charming but sometimes quick-tempered man was spending his days and nights caring for his terminally ill wife, Anne. She was lovely and had been a great beauty in her youth and was by then suffering with multiple sclerosis. Their story ended differently but no less tragically. I had always wanted to tell a story that was infused with them.

I had the idea of beginning a film with an act of murder and then turning that act on its head as we come to realise its significance for the characters.

I worked to refine and concentrate the flashbacks in to key moments that would tell their story and also give a real sense of who they are and how they love. As I did so, and as the idea of art as life's great consolation became a theme of the film. I realised that I wanted to use a kind of minimalist approach. Picasso is referenced in the film and as I struggled to purify the film, strip it back and make it more profound, I thought of him often. I thought of him spending all those years coming back to his drawings of the bull. Taking away and taking away until in the end just a few strokes of the pencil were left and yet the essence of all those more complex renderings remained. Behind that cartoonish simplicity he ended up with, you have a feeling of all the years and all the process that sits behind it. I wanted to achieve something like that with this film.

Most of all it is about LOVE. At one point in the film, Ernest is lost in contemplation and Angela is a little concerned about him "What's wrong?" she asks. He replies that nothing is wrong. He says, "I've just never had anyone be as nice to me as you are."

That is the dream of Love expressed in the film, two people that would do absolutely anything for each other. No matter the cost.

I hope you like it.

BIOGRAPHY

Cristian Solimeno, Writer and Director

Cristian started out in theatre, writing and directing himself in plays across London in the early 90's before moving in to film and television where he became best known for his portrayal of Jason Turner in ITV's #1 rated show *Footballers' Wives*. Since then Cristian has successfully juggled careers as an actor, a writer, producer and director. Cristian wrote, directed and starred in *This Is What It Is*, his first feature film due for release in the Summer of 2009.

His acting credits include *Footballers Wives*, *Spooks*, *Strictly Confidential*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *Tunnel of Love* for ITV and the feature films *La Terza madre*, *Comet Impact*, *Highlander: The Source*, *Tuesday*, *Perfect Hideout*, *Rogue Trader*, *Dead Babies* and *Unstoppable*.

Writing credits also include *Tame* for Channel 4, the short films *Not Here Now*, *Much ado about a minor ting* and *Love*.

CREDITS

OPENING CREDITS

La famiglia films presents

LOVE

CLOSING CREDITS

Angela...Amanda Ray King

Ernest...Brett Allen

Written, Directed and Cut by...Cristian Solimeno

Director of Photography...Bruce Melhuish

Producers

Bruce Melhuish

Cristian Solimeno

Executive Producers

Kaleem Aftab

Jesse Lawrence

Post Production

Bruce Melhuish

Sound Design and Mix

Huckleberry

No Words

Written & Performed by

Kenji Watanabe

Musetta's Waltz from Puccini's La Boheme

Recorded by

The RFCM Symphony Orchestra

arrange and conducted by

Dr. Keith J. Salmon