

Personal Information

Michael Petrolini

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BIO:

MICHAEL PETROLINI was born in Turin in 1992 and raised in Parma. He graduated from the Socio-Psychopedagogical high school before starting his university studies in Sociology in Milan. After the first year of university, he dropped out to work in California, sparking a passion for travel that led him to work and explore all five continents for the next six years. In 2017, he enrolled in the Rosencrantz & Guildenstern film academy in Bologna to learn the language of cinema and start filming his documentary "Honeydew-The End of Illegality," which has been in production since 2020 by Indyca. The documentary was selected at IDS Academy, Thessaloniki Pitching Forum, Bio to B, MFI script, Cannes Doc, and received support from the regional grants of Piedmont, Emilia Romagna, and the European grant. In 2020, he moved to Bologna and began his second documentary, "Rent Strike Bolognina," which won a special mention at "Visioni dal Mondo." He often works as a camera assistant/video assist on film sets, music videos, and corporate videos. In 2021, he founded his production company, Raw Sight, driven by the desire to create documentaries. In 2022, he started the project "Mater," produced by Raw Sight, supported by the Film Commission Emilia Romagna and MFN-Milan Film Network.

FILMS:

RENT STRIKE BOLOGNINA

Written by Michael Petrolini, Francesco Cibati, and Marco Bergonzi.

Directed by Michael Petrolini.

Documentary produced by Raw Sight in co-production with ComboProductions.

Preselected at the Giornata degli Autori, Turin Film Festival, and Vision du Réel. Selected for the Vision du Réel Market and winner of a special mention at "Visioni dal Mondo."

Synopsis:

In a deserted Bologna due to the pandemic, thirteen apartments in a public housing building unite against the greed of the sole owner, fighting for the right to housing and against those who speculate on basic needs. Rent Strike Bolognina is Italy's first and most extensive rent strike caused by Covid-19.

UMAR

Written by Michael Petrolini, Francesco Cibati, and Marco Bergonzi.

Directed by Francesco Cibati.

Short film produced by Raw Sight in 2021.

Selected at national and international festivals, including Fidba, and winner of a special mention at the Lavori in Corto festival in Turin. It is now in exclusive distribution for Rai.

Synopsis:

Umar, 24 years old, arrives in Trieste from Pakistan after a long and terrible journey on foot. He has witnessed his best friend's death, been tortured by the Croatian police, risked losing his leg, and ultimately survived. Today, thanks to Linea d'Ombra, an association that welcomes migrants arriving from the Balkan Route, Umar feels at home again.

IN PRODUCTION:

HONEYDEW-THE END OF ILLEGALITY

Written by Michael Petrolini, Francesco Cibati, and Marco Bergonzi.

Directed by Michael Petrolini and Marco Bergonzi.

Selected at IDS Academy in 2020 and at the Thessaloniki Documentary Festival Agora Docs, it has already won the regional grant from Piedmont and the European grant. Currently in co-production with Indyca and Raw Sight.

Synopsis:

Maureen, sixty years old, lives in a remote corner of Humboldt County, known for over fifty years for the intense production of marijuana sold illegally worldwide. In the '80s, after traveling the country in an old school bus and performing with her country songs, she settles in the small village of Honeydew. A rural place, hard to reach, with questionable rumors. Thanks to her charisma and eccentric yet confident personality, Maureen becomes a reference point in Honeydew. Her property is crossed all year round by a surprising variety of people, including romantic hippies, wealth-hungry entrepreneurs, or nostalgic loners. However, it is also transient figures who return every year during the working seasons, playing an important role within the community: travelers, musicians, clandestine or free spirits of all kinds who cyclically interfere with the unstable balance of Honeydew. Today, Maureen is at a crossroads: will she be able to stay in Honeydew now that legalization has overturned the power dynamics of the past and her daughters have moved elsewhere, or will she have to start over completely? The most significant change, however, plays out on an individual level. Now approaching old age and with what she built seeming destined to collapse, she has the opportunity to return to the beginning of her journey, to that school bus she never truly scrapped, to her music and her blueberries.

MATER

Written by Michael Petrolini, Marta Palmieri, Marco Bergonzi, Francesco Cibati.

Directed by Michael Petrolini.

Produced by Raw Sight.

Documentary in the writing phase with the support of the Film Commission Emilia Romagna and Milano Film Network.

Synopsis:

Michael is an adopted boy who investigates his origins at the age of 25 when he finally has legal access to the file concerning his childhood. Mater is a dive into the past intertwined with the present, where questions related to the parallel lives and social opposites of two mothers of the same child emerge. A journey that intimately explores the lives of two families, one adoptive and one biological, closely capturing issues and concerns of contemporary Italian society, where the class divide still constitutes a fundamental pillar.

ROMINA

Written and directed by Michael Petrolini, Valerio Lo Muzio, Emiliano Trovati.

Produced by Fase3 and Raw Sight.

Documentary in production with the support of the Film Commission Emilia Romagna and MIC.

Synopsis:

Romina is a 20-year-old girl of Ecuadorian origin, born and raised in Bologna. She works at Amazon at night, and precarity looms in her life: her work contract, essential to support herself and her family, may not be renewed. Romina has an innate talent: boxing. She approached the noble art thanks to a friend, Alan. She trains at the popular gym Bolognina Boxe, an environment that is anti-sexist, anti-racist, and anti-fascist, welcoming all the boys from the Bolognina neighborhood, a multiethnic area in the city's outskirts. Night shifts on the assembly line of the big multinational are a barrier to her dream of fighting in the Olympics with the Italian jersey.

LUPUS MAGISTER

Written by Marco Bergonzi, Francesco Cibati, and Michael Petrolini.

Directed by Marco Bergonzi.

DOP Michael Petrolini and Marco Bergonzi.

Produced by Raw Sight.

Documentary in the writing phase.

Synopsis:

Renzo is a master of soap bubbles. At 73, with two strokes behind him and a walking stick with an engraved flute that he plays in the wind, he copes with the current health crisis by posting videos where he performs his daily routine online. In a lively Livorno populated by unusual showbiz characters, the film evokes the turmoil of an artist who does not want to be forgotten.