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Production

SMK Factory is an independent film production company born in 2009 in Bologna by a group of media activists, it is constituted first as an Association in 2014 and then founded a production company in 2019. In these years it has produced mainly documentaries with a social background and works of inquiry.

Since its creation, SMK Factory promotes new models of audiovisual production and distribution, based on the involvement of the public through communication, impact and crowdfunding campaigns. The first crowdfunding project dates back to 2011 with the film "Tomorrow's Land" that won several national and international awards, and was also selected at the Al Jazeera Documentary Film Festival 2012 in Doha - Qatar.

Recent productions include: Sarura (Nicola Zambelli, 82', 2022), I'm Still Here (Cecilia Fasciani, 54', 2021), The Milky way (Luigi d'Alife, 84', 2020) The Harvest (Andrea Paco Mariani, 73', 2019).

Its documentaries have been selected for numerous national and international festivals including: Nastri d'Argento (preselection finalists 2021), David di Donatello, Al Jazeera FF, Humandoc in Warsaw, Delhi International Film Festival in New Delhi, IDFA Doc for Sale in Amsterdam, Thessaloniki International Film Festival in Thessaloniki, FINCA Buenos Aires.

At present SMK can count on a complete team of professionals in the audiovisual and cinematographic field. In particular, the Factory's collaborators include:

- **Andrea Mariani**, legal representative of SMK Factory, director and producer
- **Claudio Cadei**, composer, sound designer, and OpenDDB editor
- **Angelica Gentilini**, editor
- **Luigi d'Alife**, director, filmmaker, OpenDDB editor
- **Nicola Zambelli**, director, cinematographer
- **Isabella Urru**, motion graphic animator, OpenDDB editor
- **Marta Melina**, production, crowdfunding and fundraising
- **Cecilia Fasciani**, director and operator
- **Noemi di Giacomo**, production assistant
- **Teresa Sala**, director and filmmaker
- **Rita Marzio Maralla**, visual anthropologist, operator and filmmaker
- **Roberto Zinzi**, operator, editor and filmmaker
- **Calogero Greco**, webmaster
- **Gaia Brauzi**, theatrical distribution
- **Antonio Laforgia**, festival and broadcast distribution
- **Arianna Monteverdi**, press office
- **Silvia Veronesi**, producer and location manager

Crowdfunding and impact campaigns

SMK Factory has chosen to produce its films also thanks to the Crowdfunding, accompanying them with communication and impact campaigns. This makes it possible to cover a substantial part of the living expenses necessary for the realization of the film products and, at the same time, to ensure the diffusion and support of the film after its first theatrical release. Among the most effective examples are:

- The Milky Way (2020), whose online and offline crowdfunding raised 466 co-producers and was able to cover 36% of the film's production expenses.
- The Harvest (2017), whose online and offline crowdfunding raised 350 co-producers and co-producers and was able to cover 35% of the film's production expenses.

Distribution

In 2013 SMK founded **Distribuzioni dal Basso - OpenDDB**, an on-demand platform of multimedia content (documentaries, films, books, music, experimental cinema and investigations), which offers a TVOD and SVOD service, experimenting with modes of support that are based on new formulas of economic relationship and the mechanism of the gift. The project intends to promote an increasing number of young, emerging and independent productions, which mostly use the crowdfunding method, creating networks and connections between productions in Italy and abroad.

Since 2018, SMK has opened up to theatrical and non-theatrical distribution of its films. The Harvest, released theatrically in December 2017, reached an audience of 20,000 with more than 350 tour dates. The Milky Way, released theatrically on February 10, 2020, saw a total of 5,000 live viewers in the face of pandemic difficulties.

From 2021 it starts distributing in theaters works by independent authors who are part of the OpenDDB network, opening collaborations with national and international productions and distributions. Among these we point out:

- In 2021: **The End Will Be Spectacular** (Ersin Çelik, Siria Spagna e Iraq, 2020, 112') produced by Rojava Film Communa; **Nasrin** (Jeff Kaufman, USA, 2020, 92') with the patronage of Amnesty International Italia, **L'Incorreggibile** (Manuel Koser, Italia, 2021, 73').
- In 2022: **Sarura** (Nicola Zambelli, Italia, 80', 2022) **Corpi Liberi** (Fabiomassimo Lozzi, Italia, 2021, 110'), **A Declaration of love** (Marco Speroni, Italia, 2021, 61').

Filmography

Cercando la cura

Teresa Sala | documentary | theatrical release in January 2023

One road. A car. An elderly couple is traveling. In search of something, perhaps a place, or a possibility. The more or less casual encounter with other women, young and old, leads them to travel new roads, to open new gates. But the opposite also happens: new roads taken lead women to get on board and join the journey. This is how the lives of Natalia and Vanni intersect with those of Gabriella, Vasilica, Sofia, Sandra. And then Anna, Dina, Giuliana... A journey that becomes collective. It starts from the words and bodies of those who are beginning to need care and crosses the main paths, the known ones, linked to aging: family, home care (caregivers), nursing homes. And then explores other paths, still unknown, perhaps more difficult, and for this reason more fascinating. One of them seems to lead to a party... because, as we all know, only the celebration of exceptional moments gives value to everyday life. So we stop for a while, we stay, we share. And then we start again, in this journey that never ends, still and always in search of an answer to our needs, or rather, to our desires.

A real and metaphorical journey through the models of care that our society offers for the elderly, imagining utopian communities of mutual aid. But also a journey into the relationship between those who need care and those who provide it, between contradictions and desires of these bodies often invisible.

[Instagram](#)

Sarura

Nicola Zambelli | documentary | 84' – 2022

Sarura is a village made of caves located at the gates of the Negev desert, inhabited until the mid-90s by semi-nomadic Palestinian shepherds, abandoned after the construction of two Israeli colonies and the repeated attacks by settlers with the complicity of the Israeli army. Today the caves of Sarura have been restored by a group of young Palestinians, gathered in a collective called “Youth of Sumud” (resistance): they are the sons and daughters of nonviolent militants of the popular resistance committee of the adjacent village of At- Tuwani, who for more than 20 years have managed to resist evacuation attempts of their land thanks to nonviolent actions and the solidarity of Israeli and international peace activists. The boys and girls of YOS are trying to bring back life in the village of Sarura, planting olive trees, escorting the shepherds of the area with their cameras and helping other villages threatened with eviction orders by the Israeli government with their presence. A fragile but powerful struggle, capable of undermining the expansion plans of the government of Israel that would like to remove all the shepherds of the area. With “Tomorrow’s Land” (2010) we talked about At-Tuwani’s experience of resistance, today with “Sarura” we want to imagine the future that will come together with the new generation.

Website: <https://www.sarurafilm.com/> | [Trailer](#)

Festival:

FIFDH Geneva - **Impact days 2020** | **Visioni dal Mondo** - Visioni incontra 2020

I'm Still Here

Cecilia Fasciani | documentary | 54' – 2021

I'm Still Here tells the story of the association PLUS – Persone LGBT+ sieropositive, in the year of its tenth anniversary, as well as the 40th anniversary of the first diagnosis of HIV/AIDS. The stories of the protagonists, intertwined with the history of the LGBT movement, are retraced from a historical, social and political point of view and enriched by precious archival material. Highlighting all the social aspects of HIV, from stigma to fear, from loneliness to awareness, means putting back at the center the bodies and the stories of people, occupying the public space with their needs and desires, also through artistic performances, which become moments of claim, visibility and redemption.

Website: <https://stillheredoc.it/> | [Trailer](#)

The Milky Way

Luigi D'Alife | documentary | 84' – 2020

During the day, the mountains between Clavière and Montgenèvre host thousands of skiers on vacation in the 'Milky Way' ski resort; at night, the same mountains are crossed by the hidden forest trails of dozens of migrants leaving Italy on their journey beyond the border to France. The Milky Way is an account of the solidarity of the inhabitants and of the dangers faced by the migrants, told through glimpses into their lives and through graphic novel animations on the background of the mountain world, in the awareness that – here as well as at sea – no one has to be left alone.

Under the Patronage of Amnesty International Italia.

Website: <https://www.milkywaydoc.com/> | [Trailer](#)

Festival:

Preselection of 2021 **Nastri d'Argento** | DamsLab mention for best director, **Terra di Tutti Film Festival** 2020

The Harvest

Andrea Paco Mariani | documentary | 73' – 2017

Thousands of foreign workers support today the most known Italian excellence: agri-food production. A docu-musical shows their daily exploitation. Gurwinder comes from Punjab, he's been working for years as a farm hand in Agro Pontino, not far from Rome. Since he first came in Italy, he's been living with the rest of the Sikh community in Latina province. Hardeep is also Indian, but her stress is Roman, and she works as a cultural mediator. She, born and raised in Italy, is trying to free herself from the memories of a family that emigrated in another age, while he is forced, against his faith, to take methamphetamine and doping to bear the heavy work pace, to be able to send money in India.

Website: <https://www.theharvest.it/> | [Trailer](#)

Festival:

Delhi International Film Festival 2017 (India) | Special Mention **Warsaw HumanDoc Film Festival** 2017 (Poland) | Winner Best Documentary **Noida International FF** 2018 (India) | **IDFA – Doc for sale** 2017 (Holland) | Second Prize **Finca Buenos Aires** 2018 (Argentina) | **Cinemambiente** Torino 2018 – Panorama (Italy) | **Working Title FF** 2018 (Italy) | **Pesaro Doc Fest** 2018 (Italy) | **Sardinia FF** 2018 (Italy)

– Diari di Cineclub Price | **San Francisco Green Film Festival** 2018 (USA) | **Independent Film Festival Osnabrück** 2018 (Germany) | **Festiver** 2018 (Colombia) | **Terra di Tutti Film Festival** 2018 – Special Mention (Italy) | **CinePobre FF** 2018 (Mexico) | **FINCADH Film Festival** 2018 (Costa Rica) | **FINCADH Film Festival** 2018 (Paraguay) | **Tutti nello stesso piatto FF** 2018 (Italy) | **Sikhlens FF** 2018 (USA) | **Festival Cinema Diritti Umani di Napoli** 2018 (Italy)

Quale Petrolio?

Andrea Legni | documentary | 40' – 2016

<https://www.openddb.it/film/quale-petrolio>

Green Lies

Andrea Paco Mariani, Angelica Gentilini | documentary | 68' – 2014

<https://www.openddb.it/film/green-lies/>

Vite al Centro

Nicola Zambelli, Fabio Ferrero | documentary | 76' – 2014

<https://www.openddb.it/film/vite-al-centro/>

Kosovo vs Kosovo

Andrea Legni, Valerio Bassan | documentary | 52' – 2012

<https://www.openddb.it/film/kosovo-versus-kosovo/>

Tomorrow's Land

Andrea Paco Mariani, Nicola Zambelli | documentary | 78' – 2011

<https://www.openddb.it/film/tomorrows-land/>

La Resistenza Nascosta

Andrea Paco Mariani, Francesca Rolandi, Monika Piekarz | documentary | 90' – 2009

<https://www.openddb.it/film/la-resistenza-nascosta/>