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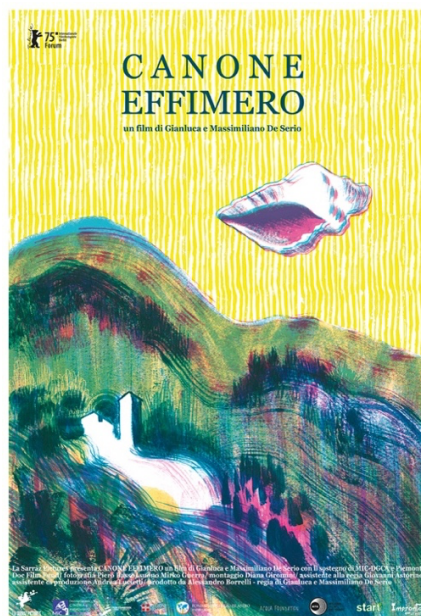
# Canone Effimero

a film by

Gianluca De Serio and Massimiliano De Serio

Produced by

Alessandro Borrelli



With the support of Direzione Generale – Cinema e Audiovisivo MIC  
With the support of Film Commission Torino Piemonte – Piemonte Doc Film Fund

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## Synopsis

*Canone effimero* is a journey into a hidden Italy, far from modern narratives, exploring the cultural resistance found in the gestures of builders of ancient instruments and voices. It's a collection of fragments that form a survival code, with the Italian hinterland made up of faces, voices, and stories. The project mixes performance and autobiography, reflecting alive traditions passed through oral history. The ancient instruments connect to nature and celestial order, while also representing a Mediterranean meeting with Africa and the East. The film highlights polyphonic traditions from various Italian regions, challenging the marginalization of these cultures and re-centering them through a visual approach inspired by Byzantine icons and medieval art. The result is a collective diary, a fragile code to be completed.

## Crew

Director: Gianluca De Serio, Massimiliano De Serio  
Producer: Alessandro Borrelli  
Story and Treatment: Gianluca De Serio, Massimiliano De Serio  
Photography: Piero Basso  
Editing: Diana Giromini  
Sound Engineer and Editing: Mirko Guerra  
Directors assistant: Giovanni Astorino  
Production assistant: Andrea Lucietti

Duration: 120'  
Feature-length documentary  
Color  
Original language: Italian  
Country of production: Italy  
Shooting format HD – Screening format DCP

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

The Italian hinterland is made up of faces, voices, ancient stories and daily practices that draw a network of echoes and assonances. Faces and bodies, hands, work tools, family photographs, whispered voices seen up close are splinters of personal and collective histories, loves and abandonments, journeys and returns.

Mixing performance and autobiography, the protagonists of *Canone effimero* thus bear witness to cultures that are still alive, and to vocal and musical techniques codified over time through the oral passage. Looking for points of connection and internal recalls, one can glimpse a self-portrait of a submerged and vital country.

Framing this picture are the artisan gestures handed down from master to pupil, along with an ethereal spiritual horizon: in the luthiery of ancient and mysterious instruments, such as the Calabrian lyre or the medieval organistrum, the direct extension of the spirit of nature or the celestial order, its conduit to the human, is reflected. These instruments are also images of a Mediterranean world meeting with Eastern and African lands. And in the midst of these horizons, voices surface: the polyvocal Arbëreshë women's songs of the Lucanian Pollino, the hypnotic litanies of the Nebrodi Mountains in Sicily, the incredible polyphonic vocal technique of Ceriana in the Ligurian hinterland, and again the lonely splinters from the Marche, folk songs of love and struggle.

Faced with the tendency to file away the margins, with *Canone effimero* we try to re-center our gaze on a landscape little seen or told. Bodies and landscapes are bound into "pictures," in a 1:1 format. The faces are like Byzantine icons or medieval miniatures, the composition eschews the naturalism of documentary filmmaking and approaches statuary or painting.

The film thus lives on as autonomous portraits, artifacts unearthed and brought to light, illustrated pages of a collective diary, a fragile code to be completed.

## GIANLUCA AND MASSIMILIANO DE SERIO

### Biography

Born in Turin on December 15, 1978, twins Gianluca and Massimiliano De Serio have been collaborating since 1999, creating films, documentaries, and installations. Over the years, their work has been featured at national and international film festivals and exhibitions, earning them numerous awards and recognitions.

In 2007, *L'Esami di Xhodi* won the Special Jury Prize at the Torino Film Festival and was screened at festivals such as Cinéma du Réel in Paris, the Montevideo Film Festival, and the Rome Film Fest. In 2009, their documentary *Bakroman* received the Best Italian Documentary award at the Torino Film Festival.

Their first feature film, *Sette opere di misericordia*, premiered in competition at the Locarno Film Festival in 2011, where it won the Don Quixote Prize and the Youth Jury's second prize. In 2015, they presented *I ricordi del fiume*, a documentary that debuted at the Venice Film Festival, later competing at the prestigious Visions du Réel in Nyon and hitting Italian theaters in 2016.

Their most recent work, *Spaccapietre*, was the only Italian production selected for the 2020 Giornate degli Autori competition at the Venice Film Festival.

Since 2006, the De Serio brothers have collaborated closely with the Turin-based production company La Sarraz Pictures.

### Filmography

- *Spaccapietre (Una promessa)*, 2020
- *I ricordi del fiume (River Memories)*, doc 2015
- *Sette opere di misericordia (Seven Acts of Mercy)*, 2011
- *Stanze*, 2010
- *Bakroman*, 2010
- *L'esame di Xhod (Xhodi's Exam)*, doc 2007

## LA SARRAZ PICTURES

La Sarraz Pictures srl is a film and television production company with its legal and operational headquarters in Turin and an additional operational office in Rome. It was founded in 2004 by Alessandro Borrelli, who is currently the sole administrator.

La Sarraz Pictures' mission focuses on the research, development, and production of projects by authors who create works with an original narrative approach and visual style.

It is recognized at the European level as a production company of "quality cinema," thanks to the numerous awards and recognitions received for feature films, creative documentaries, and animation works produced since its inception.

In October 2011, La Sarraz Pictures was selected by ACE (Ateliers du Cinéma Européen) to represent Italy at the 21st edition.

Since its foundation, La Sarraz Pictures has always been oriented toward co-producing with international production partners.

For this reason, La Sarraz Pictures is highly known and appreciated internationally, having produced with almost all countries in the European area and also with non-European countries, co-producing several times with Australia, Canada, Brazil, and Argentina.

Since 2010, the company has also been involved in theatrical distribution, initially handling its own productions and, since 2017, acquiring titles not directly produced by the company.

## **Filmography**

(selected 2019-2025)

- *Canone effimero*, by Gianluca and Massimiliano De Serio, 2025 (Italy) **Berlinale Forum**
- *First Person Plural*, by Sandro Aguilar, 2025 (Portugal, Italy) **Rotterdam Film Festival**
- *At the Last*, by Mario Balsamo, 2024 (Italy – Portugal) **Torino Film Festival**
- *Cesare trough the time*, by Angelo Loy, 2024 (Italy) **Rome Film Fest**
- *Role Model*, by Nejc Gazvoda, 2024 (Slovenia – Italy – Czech Republic – Serbia) **Tallin FF**
- *The Return of Maciste*, by Maurizio Sciarra, 2023 (Italy) **Rome Film Fest**
- *Nowhere in the world*, by Vanina Lappa, 2023 (Italy) **Festival dei Popoli Florence**
- *El Juicio*, by Ulises de La Orden, 2023 (Argentina – Italy – FR – NO) **Berlinale Forum**
- *I will not starve*, by Umberto Spinazzola, 2022 (Italy – Canada) **Haifa Film Festival**
- *Illyricvm*, by Simon Bogojevic Narath, 2022 (Croatia – Italy – Slovenia) **Sarajevo FF**
- *Chef Antonio's recipes for the revolution*, by Trevor Graham, 2022 (Australia – Italy) **Melbourne Film Festival**
- *The Moment of Transition*, by Chiara Marotta, 2021 (Italy) **IDFA Amsterdam**
- *Una Promessa*, by Gianluca and Massimiliano De Serio, 2020 (Italy – France) **Venice FF**
- *At the Matinée*, by Giangiacomo De Stefano, 2019 (Italy) **Biografilm Bologna**
- *Dimmi chi sono*, by Sergio Basso, 2019 (Italy – Germany) **Hamburg Film Festival**