

REEL SUSPECTS

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PRINTER FRIENDLY

RITUAL A PSYCHOMAGIC STORY

A film by Giulia Brazzale Luca Immesi
Freely adapted from "The Dance of Reality"
by Alejandro Jodorowsky

"This film is therapeutic" - Alejandro Jodorowsky
Music by Moby, Patrizia Laquidara, Michele Menini

94 min, Italy, 2013, Colour, HD & DCP

SYNOPSIS

Ritual is a shocking story. This film seeks to explore the territory of maternity, psychomagic, madness, superstition and popular beliefs. The fragile Lia (Désirée Giorgetti) and the sadist Viktor (Ivan Franek) have a very strong and passionate relationship but when she gets pregnant and he forces her to interrupt the pregnancy, their relationship breaks apart and Lia falls into a deep depression. After an attempted suicide she decides to leave Viktor and, in the last desperate effort to cure herself, she goes to visit her old aunt Agata (Anna Bonasso) in her creepy 18th century villa in Mason, a small village of the Veneto countryside in Italy.

Mason is a place full of magic, popular beliefs, traditional culture, myths and legends. Lia's aunt is familiar with all these rituals and she is the healer of the village. The old aunt had always been passionate about psychomagic* and popular medicine. Agata has learned these methods of healing from Fernando (Alejandro Jodorowsky), her dead Chilean husband. She wants to try to cure her niece with a psychomagic act. Lia, when she was a child, used to spend every summer in that place. It seems Lia feels better returning in Mason but the serenity doesn't last long: the first night at the villa she sees the Anguana (Patrizia Laquidara), a magical creature from the popular legends of Veneto. She meets also two strange children that they come often to visit her singing old popular rhymes.

After some weeks Viktor arrives in Mason. Lia agrees he can stay there with her. Viktor is unaware of the curative methods of the aunt and, being completely skeptical, when he discovers what kind of medicine the aunt applies he considers Agata a charlatan.

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Taking advantage of Viktor's absence due to an argument with the aunt, the two women hurry to perform the rite in order to liberate the unconscious mind of Lia from her sense of guilt but Viktor comes back and tries in every way to stop the psychomagic act.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Luca Immesi (Communication Sciences, Master of filmmaking at New York University, Reducation, Los Angeles). Giulia Brazzale (Psychology, La Sapienza, Rome).

They founded in 2003 Esperimentocinema, independent production company. Resourceful and eclectic the two filmmakers play complementary roles. They were chosen from one of the historical realities of Italian cinema, the F.lli Cartocci srl, to work within its workforce and take care of production and postproduction of various audiovisual products. From Script to directing, editing to color correction, Luca Immesi and Giulia Brazzale, are able to deliver an high quality audiovisual product, conceptually original at low cost. They prefer a cinema faces the introspection of human being, they love video art and documentary style, their works are distributed and rewarded throughout the world and they have been exhibited in important international arts exhibitions.

PSYCHOMAGIC

Psychomagic according to Alejandro Jodorowsky tries to cure the psychological wounds of an individual by liberating the subconscious from the emotional traumas experienced. The therapy is based on the belief that by carrying out certain determined actions it is possible to speak directly to the unconscious part of the mind, overcoming and mastering the censorship and resistance of our consciousness. The psychomagician prescribes a ritual that uses the symbolic language of our unconscious mind in order to communicate with it directly. The psychomagician, basically, makes us carry out a particular action with strong emotional and symbolic connotations but without assuming the protection of or becoming a guide to the subject for long periods (as happens in psychotherapy). Psychomagical acts are paradoxical acts that are able to shake the pathological and compulsive rigidity that we are prisoner to.

CAST

Désirée Giorgetti
Ivan Franek
Anna Bonasso
Alejandro Jodorowsky
Cosimo Cinieri
Patrizia Laquidara
Roberta Sparta
Fabio Gemo
Nicola Arabi
Gaia Ziche

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CREW

Director	Giulia Brazzale Luca Immesi
Scriptwriter	Giulia Brazzale Luca Immesi
Cinematographer	Luca Coassin (A.I.C.)
Sound	Francesco Morosini
Original music	Michele Menini
Additional music	Moby, Patrizia Laquidara, Luca Immesi
Editor	Giulia Brazzale Luca Immesi
Costume Designer	Margherita Brazzale

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Alejandro Jodorowsky

Alejandro Jodorowsky is a Chilean-French filmmaker, playwright, actor, author, comic book writer and spiritual guru. Best known for his avant-garde films, he has been "venerated by cult cinema enthusiasts" for his work which "is filled with violently surreal images and a hybrid blend of mysticism and religious provocation." MoMA of New York projected Alejandro Jodorowsky's 1973 cult film *The Holy Mountain*. He is the father of Psychomagic, the ultimate of surrealism.

Ivan Franek

His first major role was appearing as Tobias in the romance drama film "Brucio nel Vento" (English: Burning in the Wind) (2002), directed Silvio Soldini. He has performed in more than 50 Italian and French films.

Désirée Giorgetti

Désirée Giorgetti comes from a theatrical family (her father is the director of the historical Italian theatre magazine "Sipario"). She is a cinema and theatre actress and a soprano. *Ritual – A psychomagic film* is her third feature film.

Moby

Moby is an American electronic musician. Worldwide, he has sold over 20 million albums. Moby wrote the soundtrack of the last film of the Oscar winner Paul Haggis with Russell Crowe "The Next Three Days".

Patrizia Laquidara

Patrizia Laquidara is an Italian singer internationally famous. She won the prestigious Italian Tenco price 2012.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Ritual is the first movie in Europe that has been shot on Red Epic 5K Raw digital camera. With the same technology they shot *Prometheus*, *The Girl with the dragon tattoo*, *Spiderman 4*, *The hobbit*.