



42, rue René Boulanger | 75010 | Paris  
R.C.S. de Paris : B 481 518 405 (2005B05959)  
SIRET : 481 518 405 00024  
T.V.A. : FR 90 481 518 405  
PHONE: + 33 1 42 40 12 84  
FAX: + 33 9 57 73 07 66  
MOBILE: + 33 6 14 45 62 78  
SKYPE: matteolovadina  
EMAIL: m@reelsuspects.com  
WEB: www.reelsuspects.com  
PRINTER FRIENDLY

# ACROSS THE RIVER

A film by LORENZO BIANCHINI

92 min, ITALY, 2014, ITALIAN/SLOVENIAN, Colour, HD

## LOGLINE

An ethnologist working in remote woods, trapping animals and mounting cameras on them to monitor their behavior remotely. The recordings lead him to a remote village, the site of an ancient curse, where he is trapped due to heavy rainfall.

## SYNOPSIS

The ethnologist naturalist Marco Contrada reaches the wooded areas of eastern Friuli, on the border with Slovenia, to carry out his usual work of the census of wild animals. Marco observes wild boars and deers, looks for traces of predators, maintenances traps and cameras scattered over the forests to film animals.

Looking at the computer filming the webcam on a fox, he realized that the animal comes close to the ruins of abandoned houses in the inner part of the forest. The next day he goes in search of those houses. Marco crosses with his van the ford of a turbulent river while the rain begins to fall and makes it rough. Marco reaches those homes, it's an abandoned village surrounded by a dead silent. Bad weather continues to rage and swell the waters of the streams making inaccessible Marco's way back and trapping him "beyond the ford. Old photos, found in the village school, make suspect of something. Something different from a wild animal. Fragments of a distant past emerge from the darkness. The rain is relentless, the unbearable frost and moisture get into the bones of Marco who is desperately seeking a shelter in the houses of the abandoned village. A country that, time after time, seems to trap him, swallows him. Marco stays in a kind of ancient curse that continues to live in that lost corner in the woods where solitude reigns supreme. Inhuman screams echoing, now near, among the streets of the ghost village.

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## FANTASIA FESTIVAL REVIEW

“The most downright efficient, atmospheric horror film in this year’s selection and a chilling discovery from Italy, *ACROSS THE RIVER* prioritizes a slow-building, intense crescendo approach to its atmosphere of disorientation and dread, forsaking cheap scares for the sake of terrific sound design, carefully placed shadows and rustling leaves. Thrusting you deeper and deeper into the clutches of his dark, otherworldly woods, director Lorenzo Bianchini offers an almost dialogue-less hybrid of *THE BLAIR WITCH PROJECT* (without it being subjective found footage) and *INTO THE WILD*, pulling you into the supernatural wilderness one discovery at a time, insidiously even, until you are, like his protagonist, completely trapped and at the mercy of what lies within. The unique infrared wildlife footage peppered throughout takes on a vividly evocative quality, as uncanny images of the wilderness are produced, forcing you to wonder as to what is really there. A classical horror tale spun from the interstices of man and his digital technologies as confronted with the (super)natural world of yore, *ACROSS THE RIVER* is a brilliant opposition of new and old narratives, building towards a downright terrifying finale that will recall, in intensity and affect, both [REC] and Bobcat Goldthwait’s Bigfoot found-footage film *WILLOW CREEK*, also playing this year. Wander, wonder and dare cross the river, you will be glad you did.”

— Ariel Esteban Cayer

## ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

### Lorenzo Bianchini / Director

Born in 1968, he is an Italian independent horror filmmaker.

In 1997 he makes his first short movie, the psychological thriller ***Paura dentro*** (Fear inside), followed by another short about satanism, ***Smoke allucination*** and in 1999 by the movie ***I denti della luna*** (Fangs of the moon), the tale of a small town plagued by a werewolf.

His first full-length feature film in 2001 ***Radice quadrata di tre*** (Square root of three) resumes the same subject of *Smoke Allucination* and is also spoken in Friulian, the language of the region where Bianchini lives.

After shooting other two low budget movies ***Custodes Bestiae*** (Keeper of the beast) and Film ***Sporco*** (Dirty Film), in 2008 he directs *Occhi*, a psycho thriller produced this time by a Portuguese independent film company, Contracosta Film. Lorenzo Bianchini wrote, screenplayed, directed and edited these works.

"Radice Quadrata di Tre" and "Custodes Bestiae" have had a distribution with an unexpected success of critical acclaim (national and international) . "Radice Quadrata di Tre" has sold over two thousand copies (without hiring). The critics have pondered how these films have made themselves talked about (into internet sites like "Twitch", "10K Bullets", "Nocturna" and national and international press) considering the independent productions.

Considered a cult director among his fans he draws his inspiration from some of the most famous Italian horror directors of the past such as Lucio Fulci, Dario Argento, Mario Bava.

### Filmography

(2013) “Oltre il Guado” (“Across the River”), video, thriller-horror, (director, writer, editor)

(2010) “Occhi” (“Eyes”), video, psycho thriller, (director, writer, editor)

(2006) “Film Sporco” (“Dirty Film”), video, thriller, (director, writer, editor)

(2005) “Custodes Bestiae” (“Keeper of the Beast”), video, thriller-horror, (director, writer,

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editor)

(2001) "Radice Quadrata di Tre" ("Square Root of Three"), video, thriller-horror, (director, writer, editor)

(1999) "I Dincj de Lune" ("Fangs of the Moon"), medium length video, thriller-horror, (director, writer, editor)

(1998) "Smoke Allucination", video short, thriller, (director, writer, editor)

(1997) "Paura Dentro" ("Fear Inside"), video short, psychological thriller, (director, writer, editor)

## CREDITS

Executive producer: GIANLUIGI PERRONE

Production Company: COLLECTIVE PICTURES

Produced by: OMAR SOFFICI

Written by: MICHELA BIANCHINI AND LORENZO BIANCHINI

Directed by: LORENZO BIANCHINI

Director of photography: DANIELE TRANI

Music by: STEFANO SCIASCIA

Sound designer: DAVIDE PIOTTO

Visual effect supervisor: EDOARDO VOJVODA

Starring: MARCO MARCHESE, RENZO GARIUP and LIDIA ZABRIESZACH.