

# PAPA

"Nothing is predictable"

A Film By Gerard Silano



“If your motives are pure  
then I truly believe that to tell a  
story is to heal and you must  
always, always tell your story”

Sir Ben Kingsley





# PaPa

PaPa is inspired by true events

Set in the rustic village of Alberobello, Italy; Cizio, a nine-year old boy, a natural at playing the accordion, has one passion; to be Batman. His best friends orphan Alfonso and Mariella with Down Syndrome and non verbal, relish their part they play in his dream.

The village becomes a daily captive audience for this mini "Caped Crusader". However his father Ferdinando, who should be his biggest fan, is consumed by jealousy. His mother is too weak so it's up to Cizio's grandmother to stand up to this vengeful man.

Cizio is a star when playing to his audience but when the curtain comes down all the residents become complicit to the rumours to what is happening at home. The story comes to a head when the festival comes to town. The locals encourage Cizio to take centre stage for their own enjoyment unaware of the chain of events that they have started.

The more attention Cizio gains, the more Ferdinando feels lack which leads to unthinkable consequences. It is through close friendships and a resilience that is beyond inspiring that this young soul manages to never let go of his dreams.

# Writer Gerard Silano

When my mother told me this story, I was moved and horrified that a father could not only physically abuse his flesh and blood but was mentally able to rationalise his despicable actions.

Soon after I was compelled to write the story. I was suffering with chronic fatigue and spent almost a year in bed and while my body wasn't working my mind was in overdrive. As I put pen to paper, I couldn't shake the feeling of familiarity. As I continued to write I became the memories of my own abuse which I had buried deep.

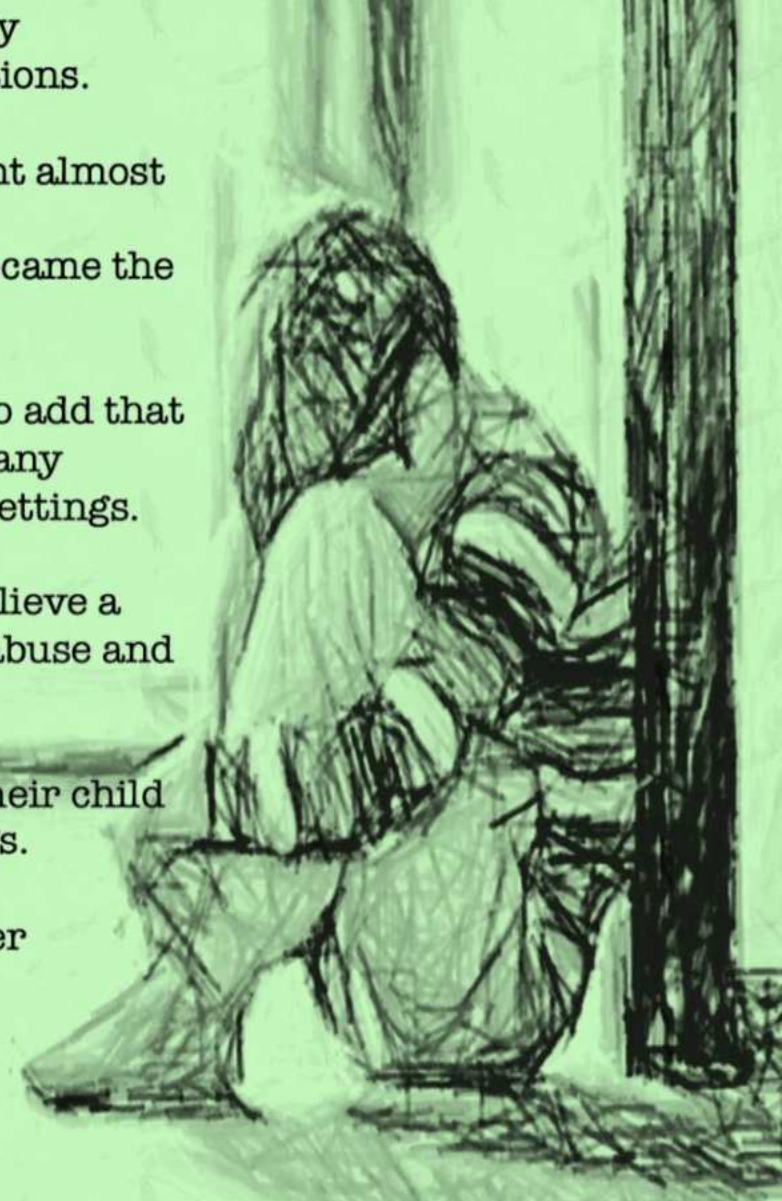
I understood through my own therapy the reason that I needed to tell the story. I hasten to add that this story is not about me but I understood why my inner child related to Cizio and that many stories have been swept under the carpet for a myriad of reasons from shame to cultural settings.

1 in 5 children are abused in the U.K. Imagine how many of them around the world so I believe a project of this nature should hit the cinema screens where I hope it may finally end child abuse and "Enlighten the known to the unknown"

There are over 781 million illiterate adults around the globe, for those whom may abuse their child or their children; Cizio, may be able to visually help them understand of their wrong doings.

On May the 8th of 2018 at 3am I woke up went into my lounge and noted on a piece of paper "I have finally shed my skin" A new me presented itself.

Cizio has become in a rather peculiar manner; My recovery Story.



## Director / Producer - Gerard Silano

Gerard of Italian parentage, studied and speaks the language too; originally trained as an actor at Mountview Theatre Conservatoire in London and starred in the feature movie Amy Foster with Rachel Wiesz and Vincent Perez directed by Beeban Kidron.

He also worked in the operatic theatres; English National Opera and the Royal Opera House with Director Francesca Zambello and Sir Jonanthan Miller and played the protagonist at the English theatre of Hamburg in the play Birthday Suit.

After being featured as a photographer for The Lonely Planet, Gerard found his passion lay in directing so he studied directing at Raindance.

Gerard's last project took him to Kenya where he directed and produced a documentary in collaboration with the charity Tarantula Rubra where the children of the Apulia region would learn the cultures and traditions of Kenyan orphans and vice versa. A story of solidarity and understanding.

Gerard is a member of the British Academy of Film & Television Arts "BAFTA"



## D.O.P Kit Fraser

Kit Fraser began his career working with some of the world's most revered cinematographers, such as Oscar winning Slavomir Idziak, Andrew Dunn, BSC and Henry Braham, BSC. After graduating Westminster Film School in 2005 he became the youngest DOP to be signed on Arri Crew's roster and was featured as a "Rising Star" by Kodak and noted as "Ones to Watch" by the British Society of Cinematographers.

Kit has also been lighting for 15 years, working predominantly in advertising for the first 10 years, shooting for *Gucci*, *Christian Dior* and *Lancome*, to name a few. During this time he continued to shoot drama and short films which have picked up many awards and nominations including a BAFTA Nomination for Best Short, *Two & Two* and his work on the short film *Boxer on the Wilderness* was nominated for "Best Cinematography" at the British Independent Film Festival.

In 2015 he shot the critically acclaimed feature film, *Under the Shadow*, which premiered at Sundance in 2016 and went on to win numerous festivals around the world as well as a BAFTA for Outstanding British Debut.

In 2017 he was announced as one of BAFTA's "Breakthrough Brits". Most recently Kit has shot the feature film *Possum* (35mm) which won Best Cinematography at Brooklyn Film Festival, *Farming* which won Best Film at Edinburgh Festival, *Wounds* for Netflix, *Eternal Beauty* (35mm), *Shadow in the Cloud* (to be released in 2021)

Kit has just completed filming on *The Fantastic Flitcrofts* (35mm) starring Mark Rylance and Sally Hawkins.

He is represented by Independent Talent in the EU and ICM in the USA.



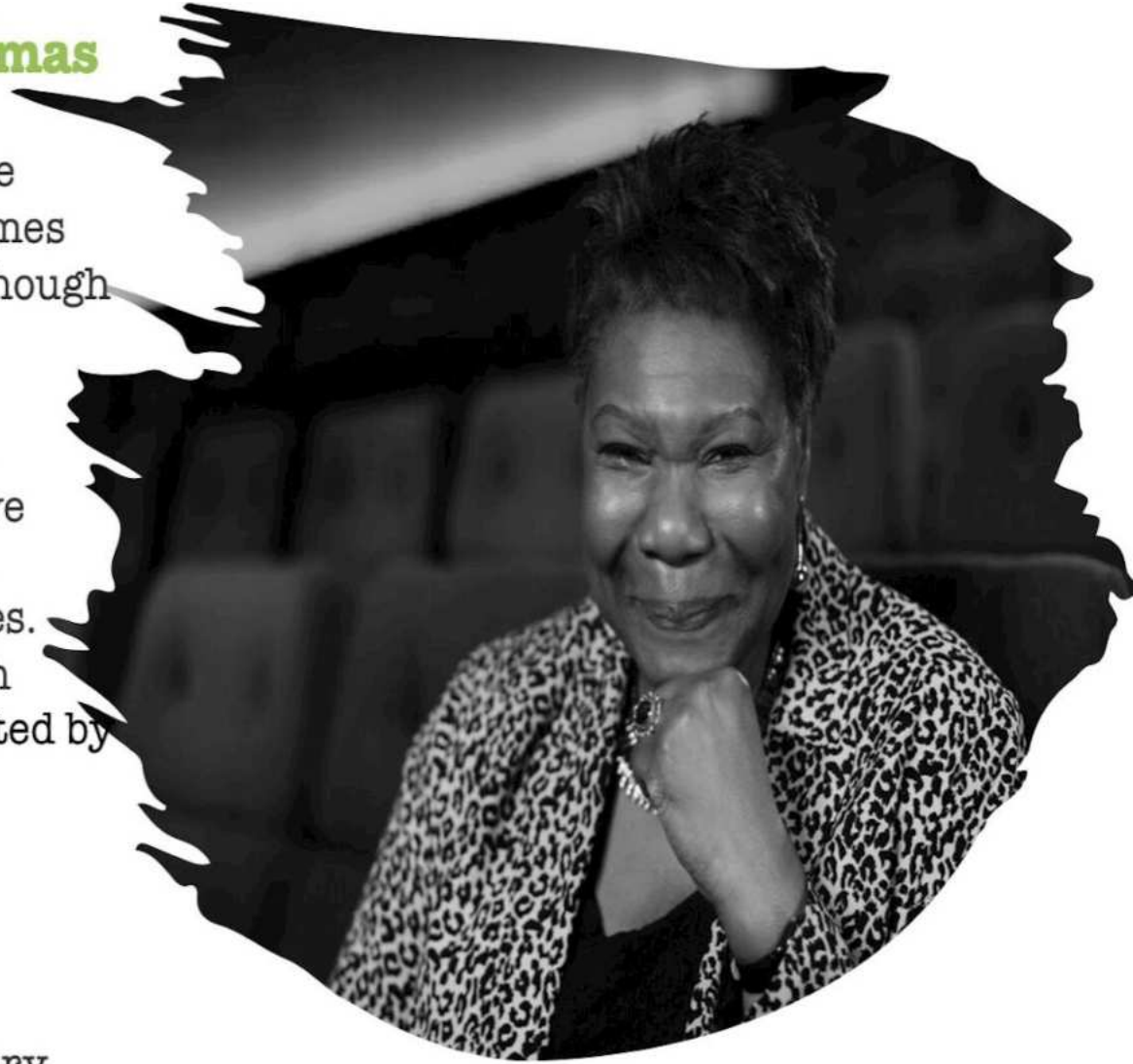
## Executive Producer/Script Supervisor - Emma Thomas

One of Emma's first jobs was at Elstree Studios on Jim Henson's The Muppet Show, where she would meet Hollywood stars including James Coburn and Gene Kelly. "I thought I'd died and gone to heaven... although I was essentially working for a bunch of puppets!".

Since then, she has worked on a wide variety of television dramas, comedies and feature movies too; more than 50 across her extensive career, covering everything from Goodnight Sweetheart, Birds of a Feather and Man Down to The Bill, Luther and The Canterbury Tales. Most recently, she was script supervisor for Soon Gone: A Windrush Chronicle: Four Weddings and Farming; a feature written and directed by Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje.

Emma also actively mentors other women in the industry.

In 2019 Emma was awarded the Bafta Special Award at the British Academy Television Craft Awards for her contribution to the industry.





# Character Breakdown

CIZIO - 9 years old. Very slim, light brown skin, mini dreads.

FERDINANDO/Papa - 30-35 years of age. Boy like. 5'11 in height. Muscular physique, Dark hair extremely handsome.

ANNARITA/Mother - 30-35 years of age or maybe a little older. Simple light brown skin almost flawless.

ALFONSO/one of Cizio's best friend - tall, rather skinny than slim, gothic like 16 years of age. Long dyed black hair if possible and goth like with it too. (make up can be added of course)

MARIELLA/another of Cizio's best friend - mute, down's syndrome, cute a little pixie like, 28 years of age.

NONNA LIDIA/ - tough, glamorous but in a rustic manner. Takes no nonsense.

ANGELA/owner of the café/Deli - must also be a little on the glamorous rustic side but corpulent in looks. Brash and sure of herself.

CLAUDIA/Mariella's mother - 45-50 years of age. Dresses down a lot not too glamorous at all - large in looks. Silver, grey hair.

BARBARA/Cizio's Godmother - extremely stylish, cropped blonde spiky'ish hair. Fearless but with a very big warm heart.

DANIELLE/Barbara's husband & Cizio's Godfather - visually impaired, musician and singer.

MARIO/the gang leader - late 20' a bit of a Matt Dillon look. Strong in character.

GINO/empath and heartfelt character smartly dressed but always has his shirt hanging out to one side.

LUKE/21 years of age. Cambridge taught. Very old school - Always carrying a reflex camera. Pretty smart in looks corduroy fan'ish, cravat type fella.

ALBERTO/Angela's husband, 6ft in height; timid in his 50's hair whorl type hair. Wears glasses. Police officer. Somewhat eccentric.

# Mamma



DENNY MENDEZ



THANDIE NEWTON



TEZETA ABRAHAM

# Ciao Angela!!

Eddra Gale as Saraghina in Fellini's 8½





ALESSANDRO BORGHI

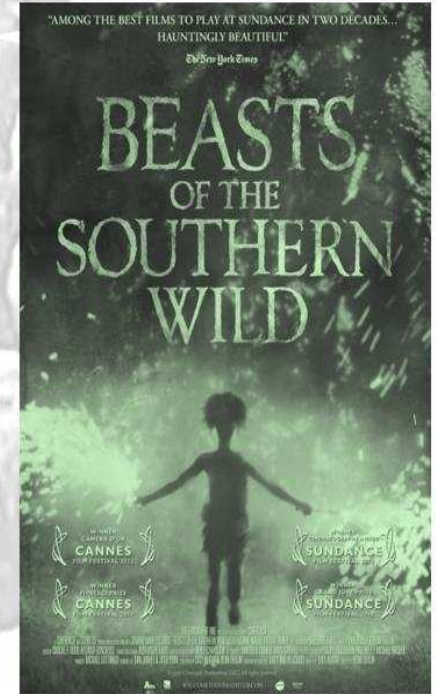
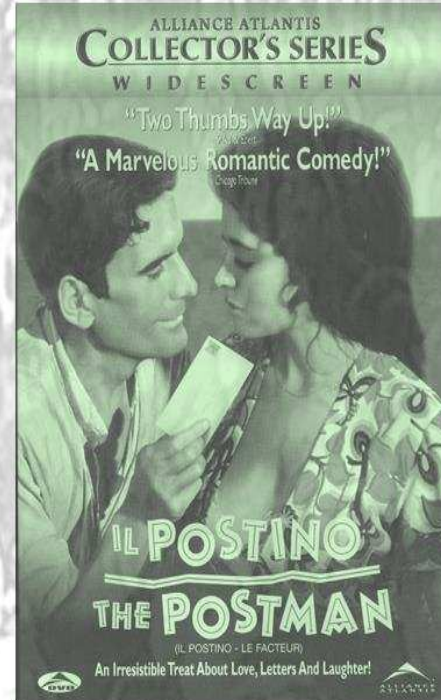
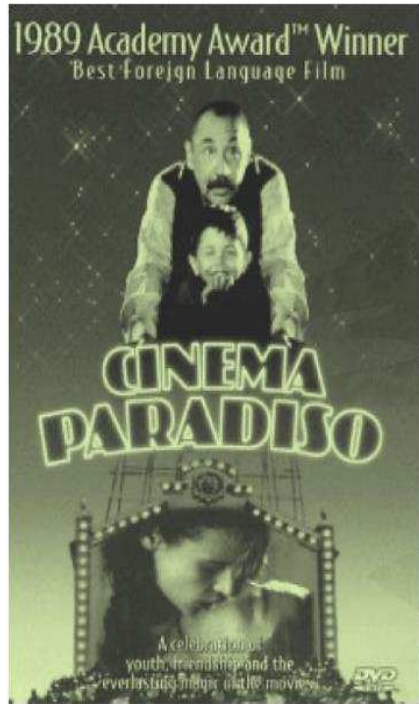


GABRIELE PLANAMENTE



LUCA MARINELLI

## Audience - International



PAPA will be for the International Market what with its Officially Selected' laurels script form and the Zoetrope team, there is no need to make this project into an English language type movie. Following the success of the above Oscar winning stunning beauties, (Beasts of the Southern Wild the then 9 year old Quvenzhané Wallis was OSCAR nominated for best actress.) there is definitely a market out there for this kind of movie.

Plus the narrative is very easy to follow as it is an extremely visual cinematic piece.

A photograph of a religious festival in front of a church. Two large statues of saints, Cosma and Damiano, are being moved on a platform decorated with red flowers. The statues are dressed in ornate, colorful robes. A large crowd of people, including men in suits and uniforms, is gathered in the foreground. Various flags, including the Italian flag and a blue banner with a coat of arms, are visible. A cameraman is filming the event on the right. The church's entrance is in the background.

# Festival of the Twin Saints Cosma and Damiano



Location - Alberobello - Apulia - Italy



# THANK YOU!

We look forward to hear from you.



**KAZUKI FILMS**

ENLIGHTENING THE KNOWN TO THE UNKNOWN

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