MARTIN EDEN
A FILM BY PIETRO MARCELLO
When Martin falls in love with wealthy and well-educated Elena, he is caught between his dreams of rising above his humble origins to become a writer, his love for the woman he hopes to marry and his political reawakening that leads to a conflict with her bourgeois family.
When unskilled laborer Martin Eden meets Elena, the daughter of a wealthy industrial family, it’s love at first sight. The well-educated, refined young woman soon becomes an obsession for Martin who hopes that his dreams of becoming a writer will help him rise above his humble origins to be able to marry Elena. With determination and at the cost of great hardship, Martin sets out to get the education that his class has never allowed him to receive. Finding support in an older friend, left-wing intellectual Russ Brissenden, Martin soon gets involved in socialist circles, leading not only to political reawakening and destructive anxiety, but also to a conflict with Elena and her bourgeois world.
Martin Eden tells our story, the story of people who weren’t educated by their families or in school, but on the road. It’s the novel of the self-taught and those who believed in education as an instrument of emancipation, but were somehow let down by it. Going beyond this first reading, however, «Martin Eden» not only tells the story of a young proletarian who falls in love with a young woman of a higher social class and begins to dream of becoming a writer, it also paints the portrait of a successful artist (a shadowy self-portrait of Jack London himself), who inevitably loses the sense of his own art. We loosely interpreted London’s novel and took «Martin Eden» to be a fresco that foresaw the 20th-century’s perversions and torments, as well as its crucial themes: the relationship between the individual and society, the role of mass culture, the class struggle... In the movie, the parable of the negative hero created by London opens with footage of the anarchist Errico Malatesta, then draws parallels with the lives and works of a number of the poète maudit writers of the 1900s, from Vladímir Majakóvskij to Stig Dagerman and Nora May French. We imagined our Martin crossing the 1900s, or rather a crasis, a dreamlike transposition of the 20th century, without time constraints, no longer in the original California of the novel but in a Naples that could be any city, anywhere in the world.
Born in Caserta on July 2, 1976, Pietro Marcello studied painting at the Accademia di Belle Arti and was one of the founders of the DAMM community center in the Montesanto district of Naples. In 2007, Pietro’s «Crossing the Line» was screened in the Orizzonti section of the 64th Venice Film Festival. In 2009, he directed his first feature, «The Mouth of the Wolf», winner of the 27th Turin Film Festival, the Caligari and Teddy Bear prizes at the Berlin Film Festival, and the David di Donatello and Nastro d’Argento awards for best documentary. In 2011, he directed «The Silence of Pelesjan», which was presented at the 68th Venice Film Festival. In 2015, he directed «Lost and Beautiful», which was screened in competition at the Locarno Festival, took home the Göteborg Film Festival’s Bergman Award and the Nastro d’Argento for best documentary. Pietro Marcello’s latest feature, «Martin Eden», will be screened in competition at the 76th Venice Film Festival.

PIETRO MARCELLO

BIOGRAPHY

2019: Martin Eden
2015: Lost and Beautiful (Bella E Perduta)
2014: L’umile Italia (Short)
2011: The Silence of Pelešjan (Il Silenzio Di Pelešjan)
2009: The Mouth of The Wolf (La Bocca Del Lupo) (Documentary)
2007: Crossing the Line (Il Passaggio Della Linea) (Documentary)
2005: La baracca (Short)
2004: Il cantiere (Short)
2003: Scampia (Short)
2003: Carta (Short)
Born in Rome in 1984, Luca Marinelli enrolled in the city’s Silvio D’Amico Accademia Nazionale D’Arte Drammatica, graduating in 2009. He has been a voice-over artist from an early age, but his acting career began in 2006. He has been cast in various theatrical roles. During a performance of a play, the director Saverio Costanzo noticed Marinelli and cast him as Mattia, the protagonist of «The Solitude of Prime Numbers» (2010). The film was shown in competition at the 67th Venice Film Festival. In 2011, he returned to Venice competition with «The Last Man on Earth» directed by Gianni Pacinotti (better known as GIPI), with a convincing performance as a transsexual. RAI spotted the talented Marinelli and cast him alongside Paz Vega and others as St. Joseph in Giacomo Campiotti’s international co-production «Maria». His work in television continued in 2014 with the film «A Dangerous Fortune» for the German market, followed by «Trust» (2017) directed by Oscar winner Danny Boyle, playing alongside Donald Sutherland.

He worked with Paolo Sorrentino on «The Great Beauty» in 2012. At the 2013 Berlinale, Luca was the European Film Promotion’s Shooting Star as one of the top ten talents in European cinema. Other collaborations include «They Call Me Jeeg» (2014) by Gabriele Mainetti and «Don’t Be Bad» (2016) by Claudio Caligari. He’s currently shooting the US movie «The Old Guard» by Gina Prince-Bythewood in the UK and Morocco alongside Charlize Theron.
Jessica Cressy was born and raised in Paris. She is the protagonist of the video series «Capri Rendez-Vous», directed by Francesco Lettieri to accompany the five new songs by «Liberato». She worked with Simone Spada on his movie «Tomorrow is Another Day». Jessica can be seen in a new Netflix movie to be directed by Elisa F ukas. She also took part in the sequel «Calibro 9» directed by Toni D’Angelo.

At a very young age, Denise Sardisco moved from Sicily to Rome, where she studied acting. She continues to develop her skills and spends time in both Italy and Spain, where she’s learning Spanish and studying acting in Spanish. Sardisco initially worked in theater and television with director Daniele Vicari in «Before Nightfall» (2017) and with Marco Pontecorvo in «Carlo & Malick» (2018). «Martin Eden» is her first role in a feature film.
Luca Marinelli: Martin Eden
Jessica Cressy: Elena Orsini
Denise Sardisco: Margherita
Vincenzo Nemolato: Nino
Carmen Pommella: Maria
With Carlo Cecchi: Russ Brissenden
THEATRICAL SALES

Chris Wells
Director of Theatrical Sales
KINO LORBER
cwells@kinolorber.com

PRESS

Charlie Olsky
charlie@cineticmedia.com
Isaac Davidson
isaac@cineticmedia.com
David Ninh
dninh@kinolorber.com