

KINO LORBER

Presents



Mondocane

Directed by **Alessandro Celli**

OFFICIAL SELECTION
Venice International Film Festival Critics' Week – 2021

Italy | 2021 | 110 mins | Color | 2.35:1 | Italian with English subtitles

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LOGLINE

Two best friends, almost brothers caught between love, crime and ambition in a world of the future that looks frighteningly like our own.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

When two best friends join a gang in post-apocalyptic Italy, they find everything they ever wanted: money, family, and a charismatic, if dangerous, father figure. With a new female friend pushing them further apart, an obsessed cop hounding the gang, and their leader becoming increasingly unhinged, the boys barrel toward a confrontation that will determine if their bond is strong enough to survive.

SYNOPSIS

In the not-too-distant future on Italy's southern coast, the city of Taranto has become a toxic wasteland ruled by warring gangs and surrounded by barbed wire, where best friends Pietro and Cristian dream of escaping their hardscrabble existence for a better life in nearby New Taranto. Opportunity knocks when Hothead, the charismatic and dangerous leader of a local gang called the Ants, recruits the two boys and gives them everything they fantasized about: money in their pockets, a family, and a father figure. The friendship begins to splinter, though, as Cristian displays a surprising talent for mayhem and quickly rises through the ranks. With a new female friend pushing them further apart, an obsessed cop hounding the gang, and Hothead becoming increasingly unhinged, the boys barrel toward a confrontation that will determine if their bond is strong enough to survive. Recalling everything from *Mad Max* to *Lord of the Flies* to *Waterworld*, director Alessandro Celli's thrilling feature debut is a stylish post-apocalyptic vision and an inspiring testament to the power of friendship in an unjust world.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

This story can be many things: a provocation, an existential tale, a coming-of-age story about the search for family and individual identity. But above all it is the story of a friendship. And to tell the story of these two orphans, Pietro and Cristian, I needed a context somehow devoid of the rules of the bourgeois world. This dystopia is not purely science fiction, but is inspired by the lively debate on the fate of the Taranto steel plant and its people. I imagined a social failure, the regression to a pre-developed world of stark contrasts. From a visual point of view, I chose warm colors, taking as a reference Latin American cinema. Inspired by its atmospheres and its absurd contradictions, I tried to tell the story of the children's dream when it comes true, from their point of view: sun, sea, a new family, two pennies in their pocket, a girl in a café. 'I'm on top of the world, what could go wrong?'

– Alessandro Celli



DIRECTOR'S BIO

ALESSANDRO CELLI

Alessandro Celli is an Italian-Canadian director and screenwriter who has made several short films that have won more than 30 international awards and, in Italy, a David di Donatello, a Golden Globe and two special mentions from the jury at the Nastri D'Argento. In 2014, he began working with Palomar productions as a director and screenwriter, working on the development of his new projects. He also worked as an assistant director and director for kids' TV series.

A film by

ALESSANDRO CELLI

Starring

DENNIS PROTOPAPA • GIULIANO SOPRANO • ALESSANDRO BORGHI • BARBARA RONCHI
LUDOVICA NASTI • FEDERICA TORCHETTI • JOSAFAT VAGNI • FRANCESCO SIMON

Produced by

MATTEO ROVERE

Co-produced by

SANTO VERSACE | GIANLUCA CURTI

CAST

Pietro/Dogworld (“Mondocane”) DENNIS PROTOPAPA

Cristian/Pisspants (“Pisciasotto”) GIULIANO SOPRANO

Hothead ALESSANDRO BORGHI

Katia BARBARA RONCHI

Sabrina LUDOVICA NASTI

Sanghe FEDERICA TORCHETTI

Tiradritto JOSAFAT VAGNI

Tarallo FRANCESCO SIMON

CREW

Directed by **ALESSANDRO CELLI**

Screenplay by	ALESSANDRO CELLI ANTONIO LEOTTI
Director of Photography	GIUSEPPE MAIO (A.I.C.)
Editor	CLELIO BENEVENTO
Music by	FEDERICO BISOZZI DAVIDE TOMAT
Production Designer	FABRIZIO D'ARPINO
Costume Designer	ANDREA CAVALLETTO
Casting Director	FRANCESCA BORROMEO
Assistant director	TIZIANO GRASSO
Producer	MATTEO ROVERE
Co-Produced	SANTO VERSACE GIANLUCA CURTI
Executive Producer	PAOLO LUCARINI