

DAZZLE COMMUNICATION AND RAI CINEMA PRESENT



FESTA
DEL CINEMA
DI ROMA
OFFICIAL
SELECTION 2016

NAPLES '44

A FILM BY **FRANCESCO PATIERNO**
NARRATED BY **BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH**



DAZZLE COMMUNICATION PRODUCTION WITH RAI CINEMA ASSOCIATE PRODUCER IN BETWEEN ART FILM IN ASSOCIATION WITH ISTITUTO LUCE CINECITTA' SUPPORTED BY BPM BANCA POPOLARE DI MILANO IN ASSOCIATION WITH MANCIO AND E. MARINELLA
FILM RECOGNISED AS A WORK OF CULTURAL INTEREST WITH THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR CINEMA OF THE ITALIAN MINISTRY OF CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ACTIVITIES AND TOURISM WITH THE COOPERATION OF FILM COMMISSION REGIONE CAMPANIA
WITH CARLO PISANI CINEMATOGRAPHER GIANNI TROLO EDITOR MARIA FANTASTICA VALMORI MUSIC BY ANDREA GUERRA PRODUCTION DESIGNER TONINO ZERA COSTUME DESIGNER LAVINIA BONSIGNORE FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GIUSEPPE EUSEPI
PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR MAURIZIO RAMPA LINE PRODUCER LINDA VIANELLO BASED ON THE BOOK BY NORMAN LEWIS PRODUCED BY DAVIDE AZZOLINI WITH FRANCESCA BARRA WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY FRANCESCO PATIERNO





**FESTA
DEL CINEMA
DI ROMA**
SELEZIONE
UFFICIALE 2016



DAZZLE COMMUNICATION and RAI CINEMA

present

NAPLES '44

written and directed by
FRANCESCO PATIERNO

a **Dazzle Communication** production with **Rai Cinema**

associate producer **IN BETWEEN ART FILM**

in association with **ISTITUTO LUCE CINECITTÀ**



supported by **BPM BANCA POPOLARE DI MILANO**
in association with **E. MARINELLA** and **MANCIO**

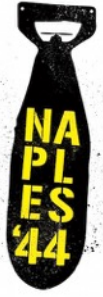
film recognised as a work of cultural interest with the financial support of the
MINISTRY OF CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND TOURISM - DEPARTMENT FOR THE CINEMA



a **FIRST RUN FEATURES** release

written and directed by	Francesco Patierno
based on the book by	Norman Lewis
narrated by	Benedict Cumberbatch
production company	Dazzle Communication with Rai Cinema
produced by	Davide Azzolini, Francesca Barra
associate producer	In Between Art Film
in association with	Istituto Luce Cinecittà
supported by	BPM Banca Popolare Di Milano
in association with	E. Marinella according to tax credit regulations
in association with	Mancio according to tax credit regulations
cinematographer	Gianni Troilo
editor	Maria Fantastica Valmori
original soundtrack	Andrea Guerra
set designer	Tonino Zera
costume designer	Lavinia Bonsignore
line producer	Linda Vianello
production supervisor	Maurizio Rampa
first assistant director	Giuseppe Eusepi
with the cooperation of	Film Commission Regione Campania
world sales	True Colours Glorious Films
production year	2016
genre	documentary
length	85'
language	English/Italian
color	B/W and color





SYNOPSIS

In 1943 a young British officer, Norman Lewis, entered a war-torn Naples with the American Fifth Army.

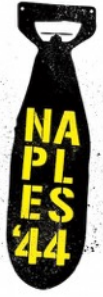
Lewis began writing in his notepad everything that happened to him during his one-year stay observing the complex social cauldron of a city that contrived every day the most incredible ways of fighting to survive.

These notes turned into the masterpiece NAPLES '44.

This film adaptation imagines Lewis returning to the city that charmed and seduced him many years later. This visionary reminiscence is made up of flashbacks between the places of the present that Lewis revisits and the stories of the past.

We will see in eighty minutes a thrilling and unpredictable parade of absolutely unforgettable stories and characters: women in feather hats milking cows in the rubble, statues of saints carried by hysterical crowds attempting to stop Vesuvius erupting and impoverished professionals surviving by impersonating aristocratic uncles from Rome at funerals and weddings.

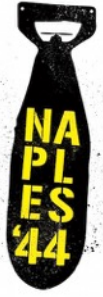
But NAPLES '44 is also – and perhaps above all - a powerful condemnation of the horrors of war, whether just or unjust.



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Naples '44 is the story of an emotional journey bordering on a love affair; one between a person who finds himself almost accidentally in an unknown faraway place and a city torn and traumatised by war. The film describes how Norman Lewis' charm and inquisitiveness for something new gradually turn into ever stronger feelings of empathy towards the population of the city. It describes Lewis' efforts to try and improve the Neapolitans' condition and finally the pain and frustration felt after the sudden news of his imminent departure.

The voice of Norman Lewis, superbly portrayed by Benedict Cumberbatch, becomes our personal guide inside the hidden heart of Naples. Through the stories and fortunes of the people Lewis meets, by the end of this intimate nostalgic journey we can fully share with him a deep feeling for the city.



FRANCESCO PATIERNO

His first feature film, “**Pater Familias**”, in competition at the 2003 Berlin Film Festival, was nominated for three Silver Ribbon awards and a David di Donatello award. It won 12 prizes for best directorial debut (including the Variety Critics choice awards) and was selected for over one hundred film festivals. February 2008 saw the release of “**The Early Bird Catches the Worm**”, selected in competition for the Karlovy Vary Film Festival and nominated at the David di Donatello awards for best supporting actor. In the same year he directed four episodes of the **FoxCrime** TV series “**Donne Assassine**”, winning the Best Director and Best Leading Actress nominations at the 2011 Rome Fiction Festival. In the same year his third feature film “**Things from Another World**” took part in the Controcampo section of the Venice Film Festival and was in competition at the Tokyo Festival. In 2012 his “**The War of the Volcanoes**”, a documentary on the love triangle between Roberto Rossellini, Anna Magnani and Ingrid Bergman, was successfully screened at the Venice, Toronto, London and New York festivals and was sold in over thirty countries worldwide. January 2014 saw the release of his fourth feature film “**People Who Are Well**”, starring Claudio Bisio, Margherita Buy and Diego Abatantuono.

In 2016 “**Naples ‘44**”, based on the book of the same name by Norman Lewis and featuring Benedict Cumberbatch as narrator, was invited to the official selection of the Rome Film Festival, In 2017 it won the Nastro d’Argento (film critics award) for Best Documentary and was nominated for a David di Donatello award.

In 2017 his latest film to date, “**DIVA!**”, featuring eight top Italian actresses, was in the official selection of the Venice Film Festival.

BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH

Benedict Cumberbatch earned an Oscar® nomination for Best Actor for his performance in the 2014 true-life drama "The Imitation Game" as well as nominations for a BAFTA Award, a Golden Globe®, a British Independent Film Award, a Critics' Choice Award and a Screen Actors Guild (SAG) Award®.

In 2015, Cumberbatch starred opposite Johnny Depp in "Black Mass," the story of infamous gangster Whitey Bulger. In 2013, Cumberbatch starred in the film adaptation of the hit play "August: Osage County," as part of an all-star ensemble cast under the direction of John Wells, and in Steve McQueen's Oscar®-winning fact-based drama "12 Years a Slave." Cumberbatch shared in SAG Award® nominations with his cast mates from both films. That same year, he also starred as Khan in J.J. Abrams' "Star Trek Into Darkness" and as Julian Assange in Bill Condon's "The Fifth Estate," and played the dragon Smaug in "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug." He received the BAFTA/LA Britannia Award for British Artist of the Year for his work in all five roles.

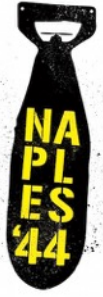
In 2014 Cumberbatch reprised the role of Smaug in the conclusion of "The Hobbit" Trilogy, "The Battle of the Five Armies," and also lent his voice to Agent Classified in the animated feature "Penguins of Madagascar." His other film credits include "Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy," for which he received a British Independent Film Award nomination; Steven Spielberg's "War Horse"; "Wreckers"; "Third Star"; "The Other Boleyn Girl"; "Atonement"; "Starter for 10"; and "Amazing Grace."

Cumberbatch has also been honored for his work on the small screen, most notably in the title role of the BBC's contemporized "Sherlock," winning Emmy® and Critics' Choice TV Awards and receiving Golden Globe® and two BAFTA TV Award nominations for his portrayal of the renowned detective. He also garnered Emmy and Critics' Choice TV Award nominations for his performance in the HBO miniseries "Parade's End," and a BAFTA TV Award nomination for his role in the BBC telefilm "Small Island."

Cumberbatch studied drama at the University of Manchester before training at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. Early in his career, he was seen in a number of theatre and television roles; however, it was his portrayal of Stephen Hawking in the 2004 BBC biopic "Hawking" that brought him international attention and his first BAFTA TV Award nomination. Among his other television credits are "Silent Witness," "MI-5," "Dunkirk," "To the Ends of the Earth," "Stuart: A Life Backwards" and "The Last Enemy."

On the stage, Cumberbatch starred in Danny Boyle's celebrated 2011 production of Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein" at the National Theatre, alternating (with Jonny Lee Miller) in the roles of The Creature and Dr. Frankenstein. Together with Miller, he shared in an Olivier Award, an Evening Standard Theatre Award and a Critics' Circle Theatre Award for the dual roles. He previously received an Olivier Award nomination for his performance in Richard Eyre's 2005 West End production of "Hedda Gabler." His extensive stage work also includes two seasons with the Open Air Theatre in Regent's Park with The New Shakespeare Company; Trevor Nunn's production of "Lady from the Sea"; Tennessee Williams' "Period of Adjustment"; Ionesco's "Rhinoceros"; "The Arsonists"; "The City" at the Royal Court Theatre; and Thea Sharrock's award-winning 2010 revival of "After the Dance" at the National Theatre.

Upcoming, Cumberbatch will play the tiger Shere Khan, in "Jungle Book: Origins,". He recently starred as Richard III in "The Hollow Crown," the BBC's miniseries adaptations of Shakespeare's "Richard III," "Henry IV" and "Henry V." Last year he appeared on stage in London's West End, playing the title role of the Bard's "Hamlet."



Naples '44 is dramatic, moving, and at times devastating documentary about the people of Naples and their experience of total war. Naples was heavily bombed in WWII. Occupied by the Germans, in 1943 a popular uprising occurred and by the following year the city was finally liberated by American and British forces.

During these years the people of the city fought against their oppressors with great courage, and suffered heavy losses.

Francesco Patierno's film shows men, women and children desperately hungry, many of them homeless, and exhausted by the destruction of war. But it's also clear that they are not defeated, that their spirit is very much alive, and fiercely committed to resistance and survival. With film footage from the period, brilliantly intercut with movie stock and contemporary glimpses of the city, Naples '44 is a harrowing portrait of a defiant population which after suffering great losses, finally drove out its Nazi occupiers, and did survive.

Patrick McGrath

(New York, December 2016)

Il manifesto mercoledì 10 ottobre 2018

visioni 13



Massimo D'Alema. È venuto all'evento...



Roberto Antonio. È stato...



Daniela Vigorelli. È stata...

ANTONIOLO GATCIRO

Norman Lewis, britannico, alla...



Il film di Francesco Paterno...

1944, sulle macerie della guerra l'urlo di Napoli devastata

Alla Festa di Roma il film di Francesco Paterno che si ispira alle memorie militari di Norman Lewis

Il regista-Attoria come Aleppo oggi. Francesco Paterno...

Crateri di bombe palati sventrati e bimbi affamati, nella città ferita e violentata

Il film di Francesco Paterno...

EVENTI Tra discese ardite e risalite, voci e suoni della Biennale

MAURO CAMBA

La Biennale Venice 2018...

Il regista-Attoria come Aleppo oggi...

Il film di Francesco Paterno...

48

Spettacoli

Festa di Roma Visione privata per il presidente emerito e La Capria del film di Paterno presentato alla rassegna



Cartolina (dall'inferno)

«Naples '44», tragedia e bombe sulla città Napolitano: ho rivisto tutta la sofferenza di un popolo, aiuterà a capire quegli anni

Il film di Francesco Paterno...



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«Naples '44», tragedia e bombe sulla città Napolitano: ho rivisto tutta la sofferenza di un popolo, aiuterà a capire quegli anni

Il film di Francesco Paterno...

19

Spettacoli

Matt Dillon, nuovo ruolo nella giuria: «Un onore»



Napoli 1944 il buio e la luce

Il film di Francesco Paterno...

Mamet: no iniziato a scrivere per conoscere le ragazze

Il programma...

25

Spettacoli

Napoli '44 come Aleppo cronache sotto le bombe

Il film di Francesco Paterno...

Il bagarinaggio on line Antitrust indaga su Ticketone

Il programma...

Teatri e Concerti

Il programma...

19

Spettacoli

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Il programma...

Teatri e Concerti

Il programma...



“Naples ’44 is one of the books I’m fondest of. Many have tried bringing the book to the big screen, but it’s difficult to translate into a screenplay the many anecdotes the young English officer Lewis collected in his notebooks. I’d given it a thought myself, but eventually gave up.”

Stephen Frears

“Naples ’44 is a harrowing portrait of a defiant population which after suffering great losses, finally drove out its Nazi occupiers, and did survive.”

Patrick McGrath

“The result is a remarkable *film trovato*, a treasure unearthed from beneath the stones of the never-ending city and brought back to vivacious, passionate life.”

Julian Evans, author of the Norman Lewis biography "Semi-Invisible Man"

“In this film I experienced again the immense suffering of the people of Naples, who undoubtedly had to endure some of the most atrocious wounds of the war.”

Giorgio Napolitano (President Emeritus of Italy), Corriere della Sera

“Naples '44 like Aleppo today. A heart-rending documentary by Patierno based on the memories of Norman Lewis.”

Ansa

“A true jewel.” Vote: 7.5

Il Giornale

“From a certain point of view, the wonderful Naples '44 is a radiantly topical film. The segment of a world that in Naples '44 comes back out in to the light and reemerges with an overbearing modernity, turning the silent advance of Vesuvius’s lava of time into a powerful metaphor uniting eras and covering everything: wrong and right, alibis and facts, promises and hopes. And, above all, illusions.”

Il Fatto Quotidiano

“Naples ’44 gives us something we didn’t even know existed: the war in Italy as we’ve never seen it before.”

L’Unità



“Emotions flow vividly in a composition that, with the narrator’s impartial gaze, and one full of pietas, falling on the inflicted and/or accepted miseries of the Neapolitans, talks to us about all wars, under any banner.” Vote: 4.5/5

Il Mattino

“I confess I was struck and at moments intensely touched by this authentic tale of formation that, among other things, coincides with the pillars of my research and reflections on a period I regard as crucial to the understanding of our city, beyond the stereotypes.”

Luigi Mascilli Migliorini (historian)

“Naples ‘44 is a masterly example of what is defined “found footage”, a film made using pre-existing material. A montage documentary (repertory footage and clips from other films) that is absolutely creative and narrative.” Vote: 4.5/6

La Repubblica

“In Naples ’44, Norman Lewis reveals himself on screen too as a memoirist full of talent and humanity.”

Il Venerdì

“If it wasn’t for the time-chiseled patina on the footage dug out from archives around the world, for the powerful images of Vesuvius erupting or for the Caravaggesque faces of the faithful praying before the blood of Saint Januarius, there really wouldn’t be much difference between the Naples of the time and cities martyred by the conflicts of today, like Aleppo, like Mosul (...)”

Il Mattino

“Here’s why you should see the film and read (or re-read) the book.”

Idee e Lifestyle (Sole 24 Ore supplement)

“...the magnificent Naples '44, a film in which the elegant, moving, balanced war diary of Norman Lewis receives a new lease of life thanks to director Francesco Patierno.”

Il Foglio

"A riveting film, a complex portrait of the mystery of Naples."

Corriere della Sera



"The film describes real events, which reach out straight to our hearts."

Il Sole 24 Ore

"Naples in 1944 in a film: the debris, the war, Totò and Mastroianni."

La Repubblica

"It awakens our consciences, numbed by the daily flood of war images."

Il Messaggero

"Among the most applauded films, Francesco Patierno's Naples 44, an unusual but powerful docufilm based on the autobiographical story by Norman Lewis."

Il Giornale

"Francesco Patierno's film-making work is truly complementary to and as worthy as Norman Lewis's work of literature. Wounded, devastated, bombed and raped, in the end a whole city seems to want to come out of the nightmare and shout out against war. Against all wars."

Il Manifesto

"Lewis's diary is empathic, grateful and even enamoured with Naples and the Neapolitans, and Patierno rereads it in the most original of ways. (...) Naples' 44 is a historic memoir and living memory."

Il Fatto Quotidiano

"These days, it's no big surprise if the best images of Italian cinema come from the past. In Naples '44, though he takes as a starting point the simple illustration of Norman Lewis's text, Francesco Patierno – with a mix of well-known or previously unseen archive footage and clips from dramatic films or comedies – manages to compose a tableau of the city that transfigures the literary text, in this way affirming the legitimacy and originality of his film."

Il Sole 24 Ore

"...not a nostalgic operation but a docufilm that helps us understand how the mechanisms of war always remain the same."

Corriere del Mezzogiorno

"...it will inevitably leave a scar in your heart."

Ciak



“Applause for Patierno’s documentary at the Rome Film Festival”

Askaneews

"Naples '44 is an acute and poetic documentary, moving towards the end and enlightened in the choice of words and images, which succeed in retracing a most painful historical period in a splendid and awe-inspiring city..."

cinefilos.it

"...touching, at times heart-rending, and so terribly and wonderfully true."

SpettacoloMania.it

“Third of the Italian titles included in the official selection, "Naples '44" surprisingly comes across as the one that best manages to come into contact with the ceaseless sense of crisis that our times emanate, successfully convincing us deep down, with no reserve."

ondacinema.it

“Naples ‘44 is a bold project uniting literature and the cinema.”

Huffington Post

“Francesco Patierno confirms himself as an auteur capable of taking uncommon paths in the map of Italian cinema. And he leaves us with a rich, stratified and solid film that leaves room for thought; something so important in a contemporary scenario like ours, inclined to easy oblivion and short memory."

close-up.it

“Francesco Patierno, a Neapolitan filmmaker of rare sensitivity, has written a heart-rending, ironic, wonderful documentary..."

Chiararibaldo.com

“Not just the story of a war, but of a people and a city.”

Cinque Quotidiano

“Francesco Patierno directs a work of memory reconstruction as if he were conducting an orchestra... giving new life, with an effective union of history and visualness, to pages written over seventy years ago.”

PerinSala.it



“A most fascinating documentary-based work which is at the same time poetical... A film with an international appeal. Absolutely not to be missed.”

Cinecircus.it

“Naples '44 arouses in the spectator emotions with delayed action, just like the bombs the Germans had scattered round the city, programmed to explode after their escape, and it forces us to think about the collective repression in our minds of that period. A work well worth seeing over and over to be able to fully appreciate the game of cross-references between fiction and reality.”

Fabio Avallone, Il Napolista

“A sort of pulsating hyper-text that confronts itself with literature and the cinema...”

Cineforum.it

“The director’s point of view is never complacent or nostalgic, never picture-postcard or banal, but dense, with an active involvement and a sense of wonder that not even the mayor of Naples De Magistris could match. Authentically a portrait to remember and savour like a frugal but dignified dish of times gone by.”

ilfattoquotidiano.it

“A work that invites us to reflect on the meaning of the word freedom and its price.”

Taxidriver.it

“Naples '44 captures the sense of a humanity that refuses to give up to the horrors of war, and in so doing shows all its modernity.”

FilmTv

“The author’s journey is also one into the history of our country, to try and understand its contradictions, its virtues as well as its meanness.”

Cinetvlandia

" ...when "found footage" becomes poetry"

repubblica.it



“It looks at the past, but with the declared aim of presenting a confrontation with the present. Francesco Patierno’s Naples '44... describes the reality of city capable of inventing life from nothing.”

roma.repubblica.it

”... an intense film, with great care for every single detail, both in terms of the literary adaptation process and of the great work of research gone into retrieving the archive footage.”

Cinemamente

“Naples '44 is a film that uses our history to allow us to look at the events of today and the various wars around the world through a magnifying glass.”

Artspecialday.com

"Blood and tears, laughter and oddities: Naples '44 is a journey back in time that describes tactfully and dramatically the routine of war. Benedict Cumberbatch is the Charon narrator that accompanies us into the Naples of 1944, torn apart by the bombings."

everyeye.it

“Naples '44 is an authentic pearl of a film, in competition at the Rome Film Festival. Not only was it the best feature of the sixth day, but most probably keeps under thumb most of what we’ve seen of the programme so far.”

mygenerationweb.it

“Francesco Patierno’s Naples '44 is a concentrate of beauty and poetry like very few other films we’ve seen at the Rome Film Festival.”

magazine3d.it