



**On the occasion of the 80th Venice International Film Festival, Spazio Berlendis presents the short film:**

***La donna della Barena***

**Wednesday, September 6 2023, at 7 p.m.**

**Spazio Berlendis, Calle Berlendis, Cannaregio 6301, Venice**

*La donna della Barena* is the first short film directed by Alessandro Russo, a young venetian filmmaker born in 1995 who has already won numerous national and international awards (including the *Rome International Movie Awards* and the *8 & Halfilm Awards* in Italy, the *Frida Film Festival* in France and the *Santa Dev International Film Festival* in India).

The story focuses on the figure of Anna, a city girl pushed by events to reflect on her origins, starting with the rediscovery of the places of her childhood. The viewer is accompanied to reflect on the past – and future – of Venice, the ideal setting for the dialogue between the roots and challenges of the generation the protagonist represents. It was indeed the magical venetian lagoon, with its distinct sceneries, that inspired the story and became its protagonist, reflecting both on the thousand faces of a unique territory in the world and on the biographical and existential dynamics of the young people who live there. Margherita Sonogo (winner of numerous awards for her performance) plays the role of Anna, the young woman who, with strength and determination, reclaims her origins, rejecting the mechanisms of a distorted contemporaneity that is often contemptuous of the authentic values on which

Alessandro Russo's work insists. The cast also includes Giuseppe "Suste" Rossi, a fisherman from Burano, and Enzo Dino, a piedmontese actor and director.

Made over the course of a year, the filming took place in the municipality of Lio Piccolo (Venice), also involving students from the Master's in "Fine Arts in Filmmaking" Challenge School at Ca' Foscari University.

This is the full list of awards the short film has received so far:

*Santa Dev International Film Festival* (India) - Best european short film, Best Actress (Margherita Sonego);

*Indian Independet Film Festival* (India) - Best short Film;

Anatolian Film Awards (Turkey) - Best Pictures Short film;

*Indo Singapore International Film Festival* (Singapore) - Best International Short Film, Best Actress (Margherita Sonego);

*Rome International Movie Awards* (Italy) - Best Drama, Best First Time Director (Alessandro Russo), Best Actress (Margherita Sonego), Best Young Actress (Costanza Molin), Best Original Score (Riccardo Di Luca);

*8 & Halfilm Awards* (Italy) - Best European Director (Alessandro Russo);

*Frida Film Festival* (France) - Best European Director (Alessandro Russo).

**SPAZIO BERLENDIS** is a space devoted to art in its countless forms and variations. The project to restore it in 2019 is owed to the determination of Emanuela Fadalti and Matilde Cadenti, ever active in art and architecture in Venice. The careful restoration, while respecting its original structure, has endowed the place with a strong sense of contemporaneity, and thanks to its technical-layout features, has turned it into a special and prominent destination in the city of Venice, ideal for hosting events of various artistic tendencies. Spazio Berlendis is situated in the sestiere of Cannaregio, next to the Fondamente Nuove and a few steps from the Church of Santi Giovanni e Paolo. It arises from the restoration of the former carpentry of the Squero Fassi (known as Squero Vecio, the Old Squero), the oldest one in Venice

**Alessandro Russo**

arfilm.marketing@gmail.com | www.alessandrorussoproduction.com

**Spazio Berlendis**

Calle Berlendis 6301 - 30121 Venice | info@spazioberlendis.it | www.spazioberlendis.it