

Nu Image

presents

BEFORE IT HAD A NAME

a film

by

GIADA COLAGRANDE

written

by

GIADA COLAGRANDE e WILLEM DAFOE

with

WILLEM DAFOE

GIADA COLAGRANDE

Publicist

Studio PUNTOeVIRGOLA

CREW

directed by **GIADA COLAGRANDE**
screenplay by **GIADA COLAGRANDE, WILLEM DAFOE**
original story by **GIADA COLAGRANDE, WILLEM DAFOE**
cinematography by **KEN KELSCH**
edited by **NATALIE CRISTIANI**
costumes by **ENNIO CAPASA**
production designer **LINO FIORITO**
sound by **JOSHUA ANDERSON**
music by **GYORGY LIGETI**

a production **NU IMAGE**
EMMETT/FURLA FILMS
BIDOU PICTURES

produced by **RANDALL EMMETT, RITA CAPASA, BRIAN BELL**

executive producers **FRANK FRATTAROLI, GEORGE FURLA, AVI LERNER**

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CAST

Eleonora **GIADA COLAGRANDE**
Leslie **WILLEM DAFOE**
Jeff **SEYMOUR CASSEL**
Gail **EMILY MCDONNELL**
Waiter **ISAACH DE BANKOLÉ**
Karl **CLAUDIO BOTOSSO**

SYNOPSIS

Upstate New York, Inverno.

A young Italian woman, Eleonora, inherits from her deceased lover an enigmatic modern house covered with black rubber, and goes to see it for the first time.

She wants to create a memory of her beloved Karl, going through the part of his past she's never known.

As soon as she arrives she meets the caretaker of the house: Leslie. He introduces her to the house. And to Karl's past.

The moment he leaves her alone, the house shows its eccentricities and nothing seems to function. She feels out of control and at the mercy of it. She panics and calls Leslie to come and help.

He returns. From that moment, she realizes how much she needs him. And becomes more and more dependent on him. He starts taking care of her: she is now part of the house.

The house reveals secrets about Karl, making Eleonora realize she's been so devoted to someone she didn't know at all. And the more she finds out, the more she transfers her devotion to Leslie, who we discover is the real inhabitant of the house.

They become lovers.

But while Eleonora can only live with obsessive love, Leslie has avoided love all his life. The rubber house forces them into a space of intimacy, where they must abandon their natures.

Living out a dangerous and beautiful illusion, they will try to change their destiny..

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

'Before it had a name' is the title of an American radio show from a few years ago.

It told stories of things and events before they had a name, and how the name determined the perception and comprehension of the thing itself, imposing it a nature, often different and always simpler and reductive of its original nature, which is mysterious and undefinable.

The movie was born from this idea, as if it were another episode of the same series, another story of 'Before it had a name'.

The main characters are an Italian woman, an American man and a rubber house.

In telling their story I looked for the impossibility of defining them, for exploring without judging. I tried to imagine Space, Memory, Fear, Love, and maybe also Madness, before they had a name.

Bio

Giada Colagrande - director, writer, actress

Giada Colagrande was born in Pescara, Italy, on October 16, 1975. She completed her high school studies in Italy, Switzerland and Australia. In 1995 she moved to Rome where she attended the University of Rome, "La Sapienza", in History of Art and Cinema, and began directing videos on contemporary artists.

In 1996 she directed "FUORI CENTRO" (hi8, 7 minutes), based on a performance by the artist Maurizio Savini.

In June 1996 she started her collaboration with the artist Andrea Fogli and co-directed two videos with him, "BUON VIAGGIO ALICE" and "L'UOMO COLORATO E LA DAMA BIANCA".

In 1997 she directed her first short film "CARNAVAL" (35mm, 13 min.), selected by the RomaFilmFestival in 1998.

From November 1997 to December 1999 Giada Colagrande worked on the contemporary art project "Volume", which includes artists such as Alfredo Pirri, Jannis Kounellis, Bernhard Rüdiger, Nunzio, Raimund Kummer, Gianni Dessi', Sol Lewitt, Maurizio Savini. She directed a 10 minute documentary in digital video on each one of these artists. The series was selected by the RomaFilmFestival in 1999.

In 1998 she directed her second short film "FETUS - 4 BRINGS DEATH" (35mm, 25 min.). In April 2000 she directed "n.3" (digital video, 7 min.), which was in competition at the Bellaria Film Festival and was screened in many other festivals.

In 2001-2002 Giada Colagrande wrote, directed and starred in her first feature film "APRIMI IL CUORE" (Open My Heart).

It opened at the Venice Film Festival 2002, and then was selected by many international film festivals such as:

- Sulmona Film Festival 2002, in competition: prize for best director
- Tribeca Film Festival 2003 (New York), in competition
- Open Roads 2003 (New York, Lincoln Center)
- Paris Cinéma 2003, in competition: prix de l'avenir
- Cairo Film Festival 2003
- Oldenburg Film Festival 2003
- Denver Film Festival 2003
- Habana Film Festival 2003
- RomaFilmFestival 2003: special mention
- Melbourne International Film Festival 2004
- Bangkok International Film Festival 2005

APRIMI IL CUORE was released in Italy by Lucky Red in 2003 and in the USA by Strand Releasing in 2004.

Giada Colagrande was nominated for Best Italian New Director at Nastri d'Argento (Silver Ribbon) 2003, from the Italian

National Syndicate of Film Journalists.

"BEFORE IT HAD A NAME" is her second feature film.

Willem Dafoe - writer, actor

Willem Dafoe is one of the founding members of The Wooster Group, the New York based experimental theatre collective. He has created and performed in the group's work since 1977, both in the U.S. and internationally.

In 1979, after being seen in the theatre, he was given a small role in Michael Cimino's "HEAVEN'S GATE", from which he was fired. His first feature role came shortly after in Kathryn Bigelow's "THE LOVELESS". From there, while continuing his work with the Wooster Group, he went on to perform in over 50 films:

in Hollywood ("SPIDERMAN, THE ENGLISH PATIENT", "CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER", "WHITE SANDS", "MISSISSIPPI BURNING", "STREETS OF FIRE"),

in independent cinema in the U.S. ("THE CLEARING", "ANIMAL FACTORY", "BASQUIAT", "THE BOONDOCK SAINTS", "AMERICAN PSYCHO")

and abroad (Lars Von Trier's "MANDERLAY", Yim Ho's "PAVILLION OF WOMEN", Yurek Bogayevicz's "EDGES OF THE LORD", Wim Wenders' "FARAWAY SO CLOSE", Brian Gilbert's "TOM&VIV").

He has chosen projects for diversity of roles and opportunities to work with strong directors. He has worked in the films of: Wes Anderson - "THE LIFE AQUATIC", Martin Scorsese - "THE AVIATOR", "THE LAST TEMPTATION OF CHRIST", Paul Schrader - "AUTO FOCUS", "AFFLICTION", "LIGHT SLEEPER", David Cronenberg - "EXISTENZ", Abel Ferrara - "NEW ROSE HOTEL", David Lynch - "WILD AT HEART", William Friedkin - "TO LIVE AND DIE IN LA", Oliver Stone - "BORN ON THE FOURTH OF JULY", "PLATOON".

He was nominated twice for the Academy Award ("PLATOON" and "SHADOW OF THE VAMPIRE") and once for the Golden Globe. Among other nominations and awards he received an LA Film Critics Award and an Independent Spirit Award.

His upcoming projects include Spike Lee's "INSIDE MAN", Paul Weitz's "AMERICAN DREAMZ" and the Nobuhiro Suwa segment of "PARIS, JE T'AIME".

Written with Giada Colagrande, "BEFORE IT HAD A NAME" is Mr. Dafoe's first screenplay.