

ROUGH CAT &
CISA Conservatorio di Scienze Audiovisive

in coproduction with
RSI Radiotelevisione svizzera

presents

ALORS RECHERCHE

TRACKING DOWN MY IDOL



a film by Vittorio Castellano and Giovanni Greggio

Documentary / 47' / Switzerland / 2020
Colour, 2K, 1.85:1, stereo

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Synopsis

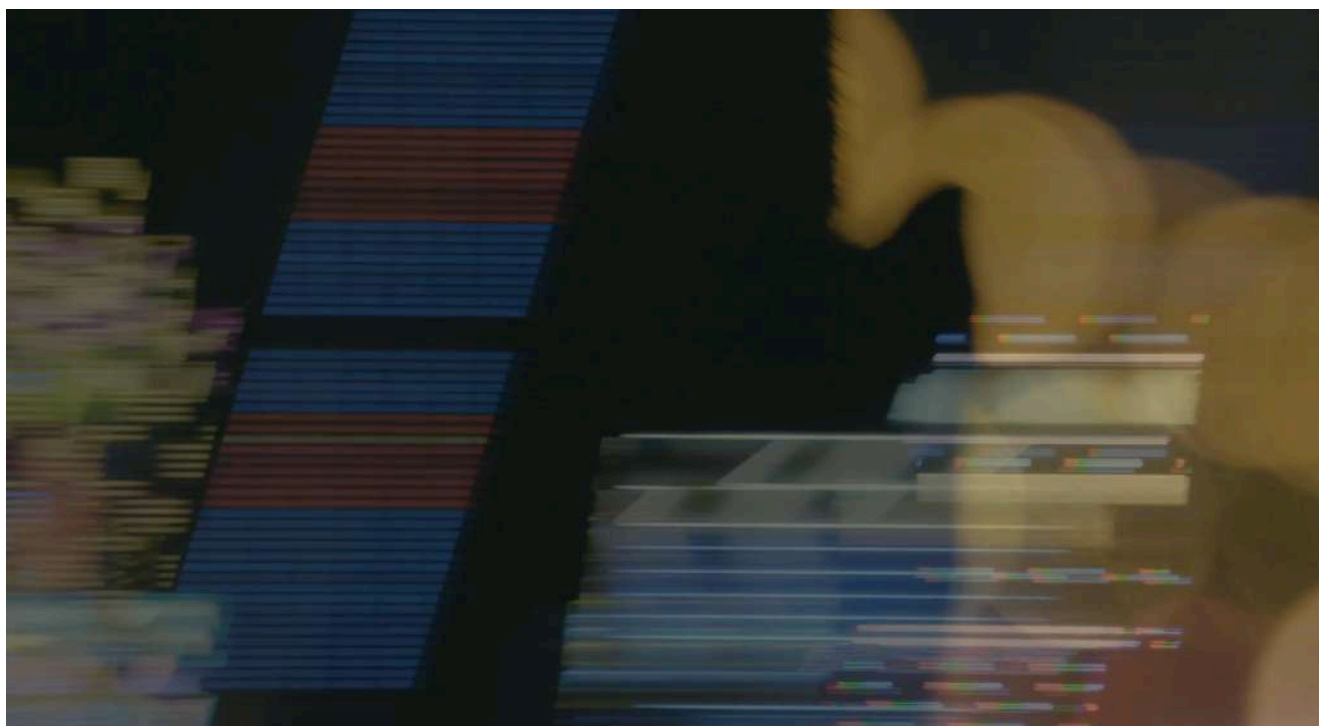
The obsession for a pop star, for his music, and the dream of shooting a film about him.

Together with a small crew, film student Vittorio leaves for Brussels, where he is supposed to meet singer Stromae and ask him for the rights to a song he would like to use in his graduation film. Amidst a thousand unexpected surprises, the shooting soon takes an unforeseen turn, telling a different, more personal story about friendship and desire for redemption; it is told through the eyes of Giovanni, Vittorio's best friend and his travelling companion. Regardless of the outcome of the journey, what matters eventually is just one thing: to keep searching – again and again.



One of the first things Vittorio had told me about his documentary project had been its title, which he flaunted with all the pride you feel when you have found the right line for a film: "Alors Recherche", a misspelling of his favourite Stromae song "Alors on danse": alors on danse pour oublier tous les problèmes... so let us dance, let us search, so that we forget all of our problems. Vitto used to sing it as if he would have wanted to write it himself...".

[excerpt from the narrating voice in the film]



Authors and technical collaborators

original idea **Vittorio Castellano**

treatment **Giovanni Greggio**

directed by **Vittorio Castellano** and **Giovanni Greggio**

camera **Evelin Liguori**

additional camera **Amos Pellegrinelli**

boom operator and sound editor **Vittorio Castellano**

editing **Giovanni Greggio, Amos Pellegrinelli, Valentina Cicogna**

color correction **Michael Bonito**

titles design **Sami El Kelsh**

sound mix **Carlo Moretti @PicFilm**

produced by **Nicola Bernasconi / ROUGH CAT**

and **Domenico Lucchini / CISA Conservatorio Internazionale di Scienze Audiovisive**

in co-production with **RSI Radiotelevisione svizzera**

with the support of

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AUTHOR'S NOTES

Making a documentary about one of my musical idols, Paul Van Haver, best known under the stage name of Stromae: this idea had been in my head for a lot of time, maybe even from the first time I saw him in concert. It was a dream I wanted to realize as a fan of his, as a music lover, and especially as an aspiring director in my final year at film school.

Stromae the Belgian musician, singer, dancer, singer-songwriter, showman, and all-round artist: I loved every movement he made, every note and every word he uttered, however little I understood French. I saw a lot of me and my personality in his music and biography: the loss of his father, the passion for hip hop, a certain penchant for theatricality, the desire to make it at all costs, and to prove your worth to the world.

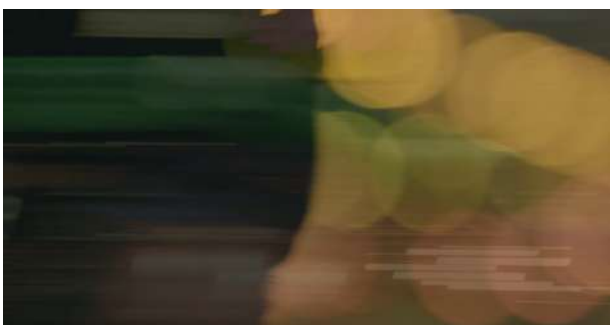
The deep connection I felt to him led me to imagine a film in which his figure and mine intertwined through similarities and reflections, in which his songs would be the background for my telling about him and myself. But his songs were as essential to my project as they were financially unaffordable... There was no way a student could afford his music rights; so, I thought that my graduation film could be a sort of on the road documentary in the company of Giovanni Greggio, a great friend of mine and a former student of the same school. The story would be about us setting out on the road and filming everything, looking for Stromae by our own efforts, meeting him and asking him in person for the rights to one of his songs to be used in this hypothetical film about him; a film in which I would retrace both his life and mine, and somehow bring out my dreams, my need to express myself, and my determination.

In the wake of this obsession, we set off with a small crew and started to shoot. But things turned out differently than we had imagined. Before I left, I speciously started to film my family (in order to "test" the crew), bringing out very intimate and private things, almost to satisfy an unconscious need that actually led me towards an entirely different film. Then, once we were on our way to Brussels, the project soon began to run in circles, and the search for Stromae gradually lost its original drive and energy.

The editing of the footage we had shot in those weeks, of course, turned out to be troublesome. The film was edited and un-edited a thousand times without ever being able to find the right key to keep it together, until my producer and I realized that I could not be telling the story in the first person. So, we entrusted it to Giovanni, who put it together from scratch and turned it into a personal story which was less about the trail of the idol – to paraphrase the byline of the film – than about the strong and somewhat crazy experience we had gone through together.

The film thus changed its perspective and shape: no longer an on the road experience in search of Stromae as told by me, but the story of that film and that experience as told by my assistant director and best friend, who eventually became a full-fledged co-author. A film about a young, penniless, troubled young director with a love for cinema and music, equipped with the brass and the resolve to put his whole self into the fulfilment of a dream in spite of difficulties, doubts, and fears. As in any road movie worth its salt, here, too, the journey proved to be more important than the final destination and initial goals, thus turning into that particular, unrepeatable condition in which we reflect on the meaning of our actions, of our journey, and of who we are.

Vittorio Castellano



AUTHOR'S BIO-FILMOGRAPHIES

Vittorio Castellano (born in 1994) had a passion for music and cinema since early childhood, and as an adolescent he decided attend a technical high school that allowed him to acquire a 5-year-diploma in Audio-visual Production. He later attended the CISA International Conservatory of Audio-visual Sciences and got his BA in Filmmaking in 2016, specialising in Sound Design and Direction. Over the years he worked several times as a director, making documentaries, commercials for private companies, and several music videos for bands. He is currently working as a sound engineer for the Swiss company PIC Film, and is planning to make a documentary about an internationally renowned boxer, which is due for shooting in 2021.

Director and Video Maker

Alors recherche / documentary (47', CH 2020)

Gli 8 elementi / documentary (25', CH 2015)

You wanna fight , Asso style / Music video

You look, Marco Padula / Music video

In3c, Sottosuolo Click / Music video

New heart, Ocean of tears / Music video

Boom operator

I Segreti del Mestiere - prod. ROUGH CAT (2019)

Frontaliers Disaster, Il Film - prod. Inmagine SA (2017)

La forma dell'acqua - Serie Tv, prod. Swiss Emotion (2017)

Papà Blog - Serie Tv, prod. E-Mission, RSI (2015)

Several short films made in collaboration with CISA and RSI

Sound engineer

Hot Wheels - Mattel, commercial

Vis Viva - short movie, prod. ROUGH CAT (2018)

Commercial for AC Milan Channel

Le voyage de Laura - documentary, prod. Pic Film

Anime e sangue - TV series with Two little mice

Amatrice, doc. about the town of Amatrice after the earthquake of 2016 - prod. The blink fish

Swiss Elvis - doc., prod. PIC Film

Seminterra - doc., prod. PIC Film

The moving factory - doc., prod. PIC Film

Sound Designer

Guè Pequeno e Marracash - SANTERIA OFFICIAL TOUR , prod. Universal Music Italia

Ultimo, Il Pagante - Official music video, prod. Warner Music Italia

Commercial for several companies (Mattel, Giochi Preziosi,...)

Giovanni Greggio was born in Soverato (Italy) in 1993, but lived in several Italian cities before moving to Bergamo, where he completed his studies. In 2012 he moved to Lugano, Switzerland, to attend the CISA International Conservatory of Audio-visual Sciences, where he specialised in Direction and directed his first short films. He has been living and working as a video editor and director of music videos, commercials and documentaries in Milan, Italy, since 2016.

Director

Alors recherche (author and co-director, 2019)

Fin du Vac - short movie (2015)

Comparses - short movie (2014)

