



MEZZANOTTE DI SEGNI

a short film by **MARINO GUARNIERI**



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Short Movie / Animation

English Title MIDNIGHT SIGNS

Technique 2D

Duration 3' 40"

Country Italy

Format 1920 x 1080 (1,66 : 1) / 24 fps / Stereo

Direct by Marino Guarnieri

Distribution MAD Entertainment

www.mezzanottedisegni.it

SYNOPSIS

In a small room overlooking the Bay of Naples, a young designer, suspended in time and in the night, faces the eternal struggle of the artist who tries to tame its instruments in order to use them as an extension of himself to express their imagination.

In light of a magical moon, the conflict turns into a real battle, physical and symbolic.

Dream and reality mix with the black ink and the power of color, up to the realization that sign as a sign we approach more and more to become masters of our imagination.

In a dreamlike vision of enchanted moment in which today becomes tomorrow.





MARINO GUARNIERI

Director, animator, illustrator.

After working as a graphic designer, through all forms of expression and communication in the last 20 years, in the end he discovers his true love: the animation. He conceives, designs and participates in the creation of commercials and music videos, television themes and educational products, documentaries, specials and feature films.

Assistant director, head of 2D, lead animator and editor of the animated feature film **The Art of Happiness** (L'arte della Felicità), produced by Mad Entertainment and winner of the European Film Awards in 2014 for Best European Animated Feature Film.

He is Professor of Animation at Academy of Fine Arts of Naples and at Scuola Italiana di Comix, for which he directed the commercial **Chi sogna disegna** and the short film **Midnight Signs**.

He directed his first animation feature film **Gatta Cenerentola**, alongside I. Cappiello, A. Rak and D. Sansone produced by Mad Entertainment in collaboration with Rai Cinema and distributed by VideA. The movie has been selected to compete in the Orizzonti category at 74th edition of the Venice International Film Festival and won a lot of prizes around world.

He is actually the president of **ASIFA Italia** (Italian Association for Animated Films).

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENTS

“ Every artist will appreciate how difficult it is to master the tools of self expression in order to convey what goes through his or her head; a blurry image which only begins to sharpen once it is set on paper, and consequently shared. This is the story of how we must sometimes struggle against the very tools that are supposed to let us express ourselves, battling against them until they finally bend to our will and come to our aid, rather than acting as an obstacle.

“ The initial concept for the film was inspired by the very nature of the task at hand, since the short was put together by the Digital Animation students of the Italian School of Comix, Naples. Similarly to the story's hero, they too have had to learn how to "tame" pencils, paper and peg bars, not to mention graphic pads and computer programs, in order to complete their formation and launch their career with this first experience of professional group work.

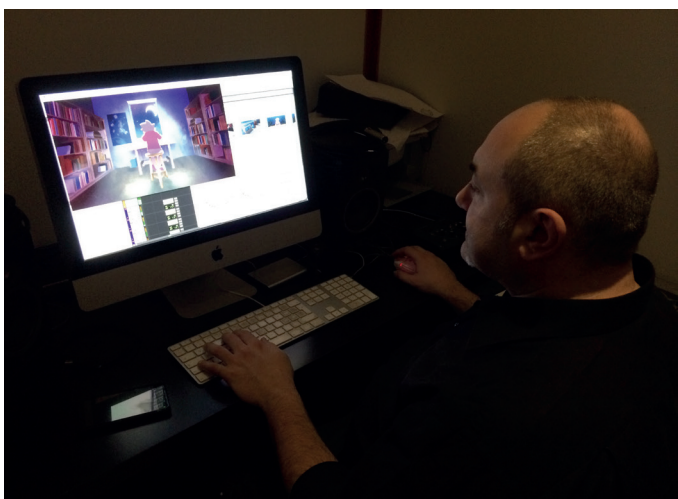
“ I like to define it an "educational short" in that it was the animators' first real experience of creating a movie. Likewise, the background was created by professional animators who were curious to experiment with the digital painting of the scenes, thus providing a new learning experience for them too.



OFFICIAL SELECTION & SCREENINGS







CREDITS

Marino Guarnieri Direction
Script
Character Design
Storyboard
Backgrounds
Lead Animator
Compositing
Editing

Chiara Coccorese
Roberta Iannarone
Carmen Tedeschi
Paola Pedrizzi
Luca Poce
Andrea Accennato
Andrea Moriello

Animation

Annarita Calligaris Backgrounds
Laura Sammati
Ivana Verze

Luigi Scialdone Voice
Music Score
Mix Audio

In collaboration with **Scuola Italiana di Comix & MAD Entertainment**