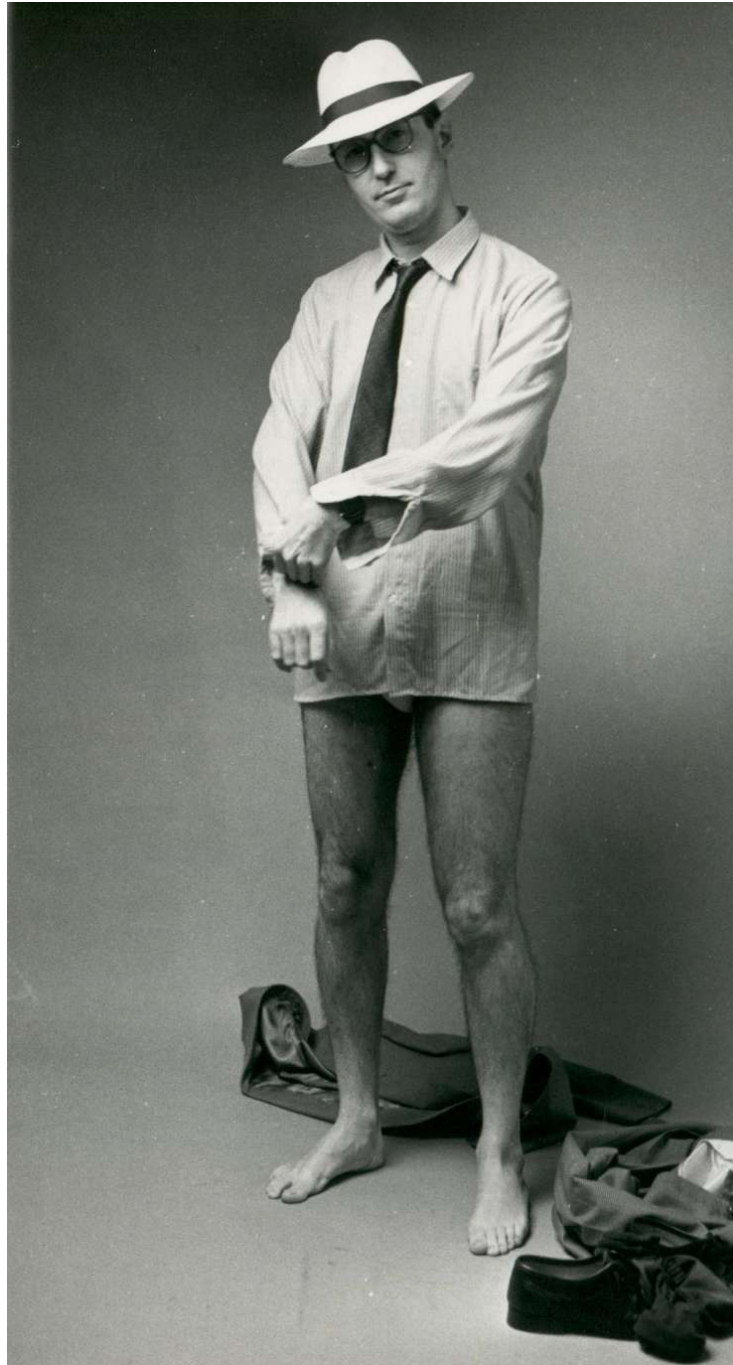


# Let's Kiss

Franco Grillini  
Story of a  
Gentle Revolution

A film by **Filippo Vendemmiati**  
A **Genoma Films** Production





“

Homosexuality spared me at least 25 years of boredom. The miracle is the fact of having achieved a gentle revolution.

# Let's Kiss

Director

**Filippo Vendemmiati**

Story and Screenplay

**Filippo Vendemmiati e Donata Zanotti**

Photography

**Carlotta Cicci, Simone Marchi,  
Stefano Massari**

Soundtrack

**Paolo Fresu**

Editing

**Stefano Massari**

Length

**90 minutes**

Release date

**2020**

A **Genoma Films** Production



“

Listening to me on the radio, my mother asked me, “But what do you have to do with homosexuals?” “I help them,” I answered. That was the day of the final liberation; the adventure could begin.

# Synopsis





“ When I was little I had very blond hair and didn't wear glasses. A beautiful child.

# 1/ A story recorded live

The film is about Franco Grillini, a somewhat late-blooming gay politician from Bologna, born in 1955 into a farming family, with a degree in education, who has always been active in the fight for the recognition of gay, lesbian, and transsexual civil rights.

Through the story told directly by its protagonist, the biopic, with a light tone and using original documentary material, reconstructs over thirty years of political history, bearing witness to a tough and gentle fight in the name of dignity and equality.



“

Homosexuality wears down those who don't have it and especially those who hide it.

## 2/ The life stages

This is a journey – also a sentimental one – touching on the places of his life: from the home of his birth in the country to the university, from the old headquarters of parties that no longer exist to Parliament, and going along the streets and squares of Gay Pride parades, from Rome to New York.

The stages in Franco Grillini's life are punctuated with struggles and victories – from the tragic arrival of AIDS on the scene, with its deaths and the stigmatizing of homosexual relations, to the first same-sex marriage, and then the still-ongoing battle for stepchild adoption – but also the evolution of the social and media's approach to a topic which still today, even though it concerns millions of people, is strongly divisive when it is not ignored.

“

Heterosexuals seem to think that homosexuals spend the whole day having sex, from morning to night. Whenever the subject would come up during a conference, my answer would be an ironic “I wish!”



### **3/ The public and the private**

Grillini talks about public and private aspects with serenity and humor, in a language that his Bolognese accent transforms into a musical lilt, about his firm yet smiling hope for a future without lives lived in fear of social stigma, for the right to health and the full expression of love and affection.

They are stories of love and political battles, both inside and outside of Parliament, insuppressible driving forces for change and a zest for life.



“ When I entered Parliament a psychosis took hold: the fear that I might name names. In the Chamber of Deputies alone there were at least sixty homosexuals.

# Directors' notes

By Filippo Vendemmiati



“

In Italy AIDS was a State massacre. In the 1990s, every week I had to go to a funeral.



# 1/ Directors notes

I've known Franco Grillini for more than 40 years, ever since, in our early 20s, we shared the same passion and same political commitment in a small left-wing organization. A few years later I found him among the national founders of Arcigay (the Italian Gay Association), a branch of the same association I was in, ARCI (the Italian Recreational and Cultural Association). I was working in cinema, and like many back then – the preconception was firmly rooted everywhere – I wondered, “What? I can't believe it!”

Down through the years we traveled parallel paths, always following each other from a distance, with great mutual esteem and interest: he with his battles for freedom, and I with my odd work as a “journalist-director”. Franco is a very cultured person, a formidable speaker endowed with real charisma. He knows how to use irony and provocation, and has a formidable memory, but most of all he believes in what he's doing.

## 2/ Directors notes

The pretext for the film came about just before Christmas 2018, when the City of Bologna awarded him the “Nettuno d’Oro”, the maximum recognition for one of its citizens. It was as if I were hit by a stroke of lightning; for quite some time I had been looking for a story, a life that was worth telling about, one that was emblematic and impressive on both the social and personal levels.

Like when I did the film on Pietro Ingrao, “Non mi avete convinto”, a story that would also speak of me, through a person to be loved and with whom to filmically construct that poetic closeness without which you feel no need or desire for the project.

### 3/ Directors notes

I dropped him a note, saying:  
“Dear Franco,  
Here I am again, this time not to be surprised,  
but to feel proud of your story, because it is also  
somewhat mine and that of our generation.

After so many years, we can say that many of  
our ideas were defeated. The world has changed,  
and not in the direction we would have wanted. But  
the world has not changed us, who have remained  
the same as back then, always with our heads  
held high and with the same sacrosanct hopes  
and illusions. This, after all, is the greatest victory.  
I would like to tell about your life in my own way,  
in the way that you, who know me, know well: the  
story by images, in short, cinema”.

His answer was immediate: “Let’s get together  
right away. I really like the idea, but let’s hurry; I  
don’t have much time left.” Franco is very frank.

## 4/ Directors notes

We got together, started off without any rules, and closed ourselves indoors for several days. I was accompanied by my wife Donata, my favorite screenwriter and irreplaceable compass during emotional storms.

Franco the tireless talker, his anecdotes are endless. Photographer, a personal and historic archive that can't go to waste. I wrote the screenplay. He will be the sole actor, simply playing himself. There won't be any other voices, just his, so captivating with the melodious Bolognese inflection that makes it sound musical.

There is still a lot to do. He knows it, but has no longer told me to hurry.



*“There is still a lot to do. He knows it, but has no longer told me to hurry.”*

In the photo, Franco Grillini and director Filippo Vendemmiati along the streets of Bologna, in 2019, during the Gay Pride events.

# Distribution and promotion plan



# 1/ Multi-platform distribution

The film will initially be promoted on the national and international festival circuit, also participating in the markets all over the world.

Distribution in movie theaters is planned for later, both via traditional cinema circuits and through the new big screen programming forms.

After the cinema circuits, the film will be distributed on the national and foreign television market thanks to the support of a specialized distributor: contacts are already underway with RAI, which will be the first intermediary for the sale of the “free TV” rights.

As for the foreign market, there are numerous television channels, in addition to public broadcasters, that devote large programming segments to biographies.

## 2/ Festivals

The film will be proposed in all the main national and international film festivals, including:

**Cannes Film Festival** (France) | **Berlinale** (Germany) | **Sundance Film Festival** (USA) | **Mostra Internazionale del Cinema** (Venice, Italy) | **Hot Docs** (Canada) | **IDFA - Documentary FF** (Amsterdam, Holland) | **Locarno Film Festival** (Switzerland) | **Leipzig Film Festival** (Germany) | **Festa del Cinema di Roma** (Italy) | **Bellaria Festival** (Italy) | **Toronto Film Festival** (Canada) | **RainDance** (London, England) | **Festival di Rotterdam** (Holland) | **Vision du Réel** (Nyon, Switzerland) | **Turin Film Festival** (Italy) | **Haba- na Film Festival** (Cuba) | **Thessaloniki Documentary Festival** (Greece) | **Full Frame Documentary FF** (Durham, NC, USA) | **Doclisboa** (Portugal) | **É tudo verdade** (São Paulo, Brazil) | **Ficci** (Colombia) | **One World Film Festival** (Czech Republic) | **Dok.fest Munchen** (Germany) | **Biografilm Festival** (Bologna, Italy) | **Sheffield Doc Fest** (Scotland) | **Cinema du Réel** (France) | **Fidocs** (Chile) | **Karlovy Vary International Film Festival** (Czech Republic) | **San Sebastian International Film Festival** (Spain) | **Shanghai International Film Festival** (China) | **Tribeca Film Festival** (NY, USA) | **Tokyo International Film Festival** (Japan) | **London International Film Festival** (England) | **CPH:Dox** (Denmark) | **Documentary Oscar** (USA) | **Efa** (Europe) | **Doc/it Professional Award** (Italy) | **David di Donatello** (Italy) | **Nastri d'argento** (Italy).

## **3/ Events**

- Launch press conference
- Film premiere event
- Special events in Italy and abroad (cultural centers, embassies, consulates)
- Special events in collaboration with the Region of Emilia Romagna – City of Bologna

## **4/ The movie theater circuits**

- Movie theaters and arthouse cinema circuits in Italy and around the world
- Independent cinema circuits
- Movie theaters of institutions, associations, organizations, foundations
- Film festivals
- Cultural, historic, and cinema events

## **5/ Television broadcast, on-demand, and DVD distribution**

The film will be distributed on the television circuits of public broadcasters, but will also find a place in the lineups and on the channels devoted to edutainment and infotainment, as well as on the pay-per-view /on-demand circuits.

In addition to TV distribution, it is planned for the film to be published as a DVD, to be distributed with local and/or national newspapers.



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