

ANNE-MARIE  
LUX

ANTONIETTA "PICCI"  
FERRARI

CLAUDIO  
CAIOLO

GIUSEPPINA  
VIVERA

PAOLA  
CASSETTA

# LENTINI

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY ALESSIA MANDANICI PRODUCED BY ANDREW LONG AND ANDREA SANTORO EXECUTIVE PRODUCED BY  
ANDREA MANDANICI AND MATTHEW MENDELSON SUPERVISING SOUND EDITOR NATHAN HASZ PRODUCTION DESIGN YULANDA  
YO-RONG SHIEH MUSIC BY ALESSANDRO FARO





Anne-Marie Lux (Mila)  
Giulia Cassisi, Roberta Ferrante (selfie girls)

# LENTINI

A short film by Alessia Mandanici

Mila	<b>Anne-Marie Lux</b>
Nonna (Grandmother)	<b>Antonietta "Picci" Ferrari</b>
Tommaso (Father)	<b>Claudio Caiolo</b>
Zia Maria	<b>Giuseppina Vivera</b>
Rosa	<b>Paola Cassetta</b>
Director of Photography	<b>Matthew Mendelson</b>
Editor	<b>Alessia Mandanici</b>
Production Design	<b>Yulanda Yo-Rong Shieh</b>
Hair & Make Up	<b>Francesco Paolo Catalano</b>
Sound	<b>Steffen Flach</b>
Sound Mix	<b>Nathan Hasz</b>
Music	<b>Alessandro Faro</b>
Casting Italy	<b>Nike Pirrone</b>
Script Consultant	<b>Elettra Ciofalo</b>
Assistant Director	<b>Andrew Long</b>
Producers	<b>Andrea Santoro, Andrew Long</b>
Written & Directed by	<b>Alessia Mandanici</b>

D / IT / USA 2021 | 12 min | 23.98fps | ProRes | 1 : 1.78 | Dolby Digital 5.1.

A woman with a black headscarf and a black top is looking thoughtfully towards the camera. The background is a blurred wall with some colorful decorations. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

## SYNOPSIS

Mila, a German-Italian girl, travels to Sicily for the first time since childhood to attend her grandfather's funeral.

Having just arrived, Mila is already trapped in her aunt's welcoming arms and left behind by her father in the middle of a Sicilian mourning ceremony with people she doesn't even recognize.

Not only the language barrier but also the overwhelming Sicilian cordiality make it increasingly difficult for her to reconnect with her grandmother; there's always someone or something that stands in her way.

When she finally has a moment with her grandmother after the burial, there is one final obstacle to overcome.

*Antonietta "Picci" Ferrari (Grandmother)*

# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

As the daughter of a Sicilian father and a German mother, with their family-related and cultural identity, both beauty and struggle have fundamentally shaped how I see the world.

I was fourteen when tensions between the German and Italian side of my family came to a crisis, and I stopped communicating with my paternal grandparents, who moved back to Sicily where my grandfather died twelve years later.

It took me five years and moving to another continent to understand that

my grandfather's death and funeral had triggered an identity transformation, which would ultimately bring me back to my father's hometown: Lentini.

Mila, the protagonist, goes through experiences similar to my own when she is reunited with her Sicilian family. Her internal struggles, feeling torn between alienation and inclusiveness, the wish to communicate, the language barrier, and her own insecurity, is what inspired me to tell this story.

*Alessia Mandanici*



# CAST

The majority of the cast consists of non-actors – citizens of Lentini who have never been on stage or in front of a film camera.

This also applies to some of the main cast: Antonietta “Picci” Ferrari (Mila’s grandmother), Giuseppina Vivera (Zia Maria/Mila’s aunt), and Paola Cassetta (Rosa).

Anne-Marie Lux, in the role of Mila, and Claudio Caiolo, in the role of Tommaso, Mila’s father, are the only professional actors with a stage and/or film background.

## ANNE-MARIE LUX (MILA)

Born in 1989 in Haan, Germany. Studied acting at the Hanover University of Music, Drama and Media, the Film Academy Baden-Württemberg and the Susan Batson Studio in New York City. She was engaged at the Stuttgart State Theatre, with Victor Bodo and Roland Schimmelpfennig, and received a

nomination for Best Upcoming Actress in 2019.

In 2020, Anne-Marie made her TV debut with the ARD series *Tatort – Hetzjagd*. Her other films include *Familienerbe* (D: Holger Haase) and the ZDF series *Lena Lorenz* (D: Jan Bauer).

## CLAUDIO CAIOLO (TOMMASO)

Born in 1966 in Sant’Agata di Militello, Sicily. Studied acting at Massimiliano Milesi in Rome and the Scuola Teatro Avogaria in Venice. Claudio worked on more than 35 productions since 1997, including TV, series, and theatrical films. His most notable works include *Die fetten Jahre sind vorbei* (D: Hans Weingartner), *Il Pugno di Gesù* (D: Stefan Jäger), and *Louis van Beethoven* (D: Niki Stein).

Claudio was awarded the prestigious German Max-Ophüls-Preis in 2001 for his feature script *Birthday*.





# CREW

*LENTINI* is a curricular project, made during the second year of NYU's Graduate film program.

Unlike most student films, this production was supported by industry professionals who dedicated their talent, time and equipment.

Crew members from different parts of the world, including the US, Germany, Italy, Sicily (yes, we consider this another country), Brazil and Taiwan joined forces to make this film possible.

## ALESSIA MANDANICI (WRITER/DIRECTOR)

Born in 1988 in Mainz, Germany. Studied communication design at the University of Applied Sciences in Wiesbaden, where she made a short, *Spieglein, Spieglein* (2012; Audience Award ex-ground filmfest 25, 62nd Berlinale Hessen Talent), and a music video, *Time to go* (2013; 64th Berlinale Hessen Talent).

After sharpening her visual skills as a

freelancer in Berlin, she moved to New York City to study film in 2018.

Alessia is a 2022 NYU Production lab fellow and holds an MFA from NYU's Graduate Film program. She is currently in development of her debut feature.

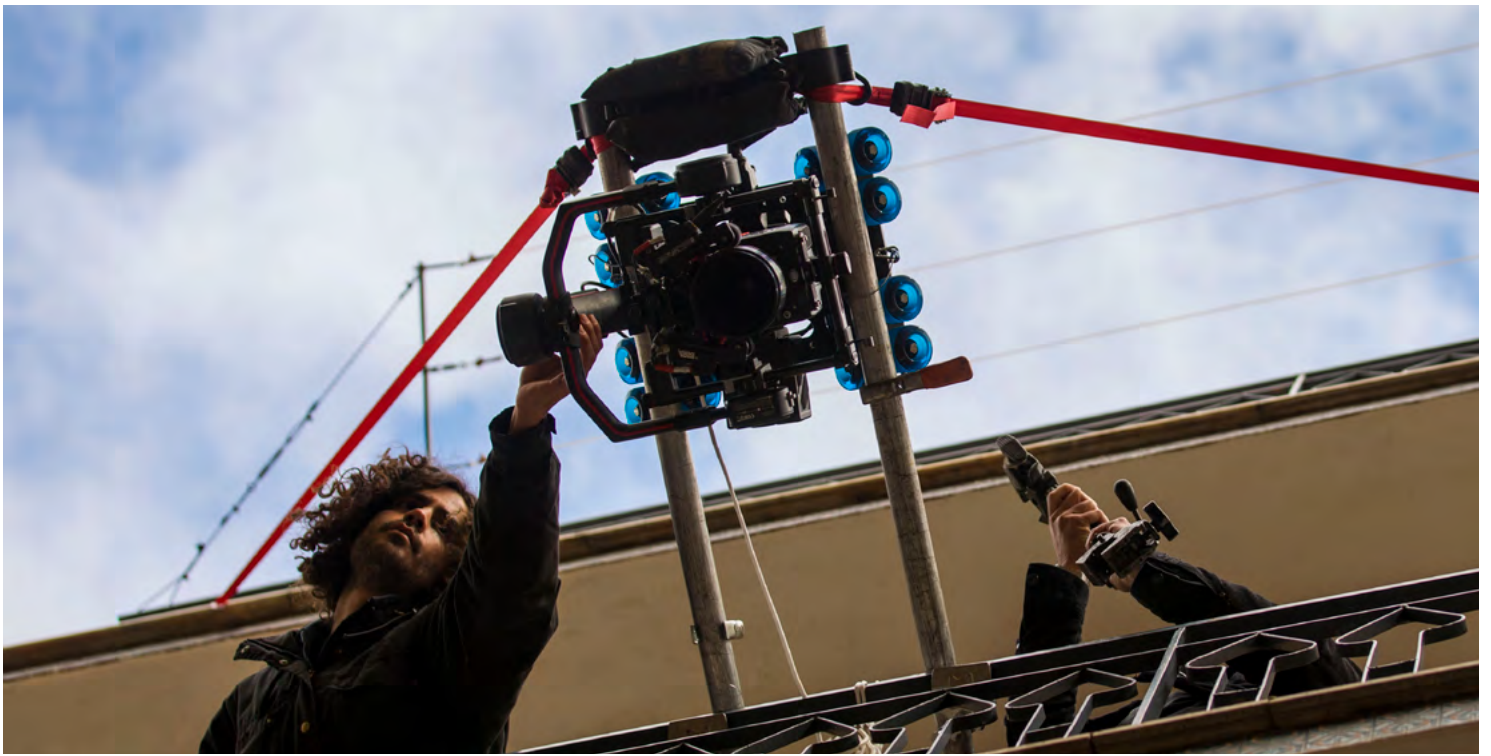
## MATTHEW MENDELSON (CAMERA)

Born in 1982 in New York. Studied Film at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, where he was awarded the Arri Volker Bahnemann award for Excellence in Cinematography in 2011.

Notable works include *Daughters* (D: Chloé Zhao), which earned him the Best Cinematography award at the San Gio Festival, *Clean* (D: Ísold Uggadóttir), and *Wait 'til the Wolves Make Nice* (D: Jessica Dela Merced).

Matthew has shot films around the globe, including in China, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Iceland, Mexico, Japan, and Italy.







## FESTIVALS & AWARDS

**27<sup>TH</sup> STONY BROOK FILM FESTIVAL 2022**  
*World Premiere; Winner Opening Night Short \*\**

**BAHAMAS INT'L FILM FESTIVAL 2023**  
*Caribbean Premiere*

**29<sup>TH</sup> AUSTIN FILM FESTIVAL 2022**  
*Texas Premiere*

**FESTIVAL DEL CINEMA DI CEFALU'**  
*Sicily Premiere*

**37<sup>TH</sup> FORT LAUDERDALE INT'L FILM FESTIVAL**  
*Florida Premiere*

**76<sup>TH</sup> INT'L FILM FESTIVAL SALERNO 2022**  
*Italy Premiere; Winner Targa Short Film Prize*

**19<sup>TH</sup> DAM SHORT FILM FESTIVAL 2023**  
*Nevada Premiere*

**AMARCORD IL GIRO DEL MONDO IN 80 CORTI,  
9<sup>TH</sup> EDITION, 2023**

\*\* In its 27 years, *Stony Brook Film Festival* never had a short on opening night. *LENTINI* was the first film the audience saw in 2022 and was awarded *Opening Night Short* for this special occasion. *LENTINI* was followed by the screening of *Peaceful* (written & directed by Emmanuelle Bercot).

# LENTINI

## CONTACT

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