

# Paperheart

With Stefania Rocca



Special Mention  
Audience Award



Written and directed by Kristina Sarkyte

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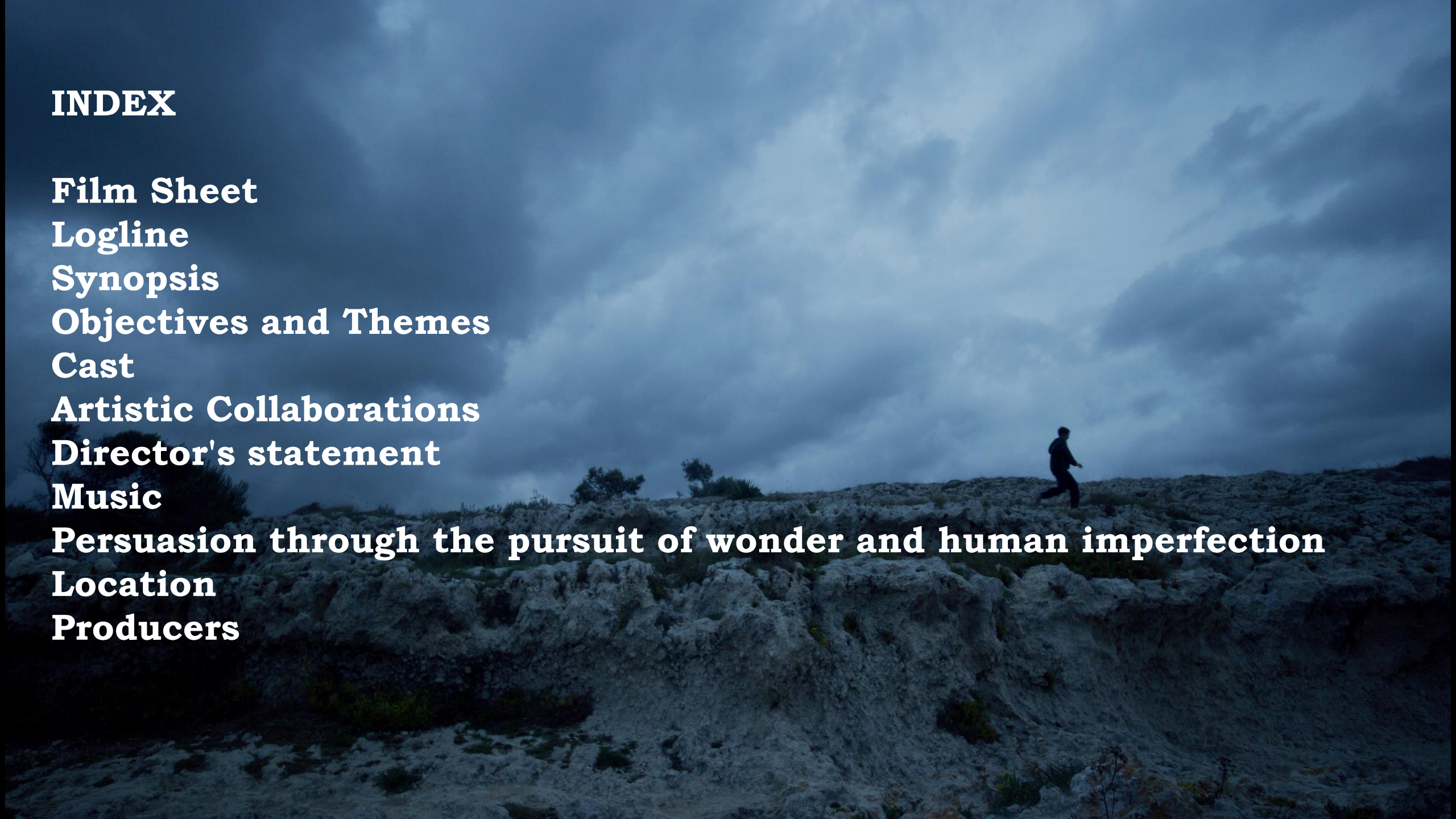
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Fabian  
Negrin

HYPERREALITY  
PRESENTA



Audience Award  
Special Mention



# CUORE di CARTA

REGIA DI KRISTINA SARKYTE

STEFANIA ROCCA  
GABRIELE STELLA  
ISABELLA BRIGANTI  
FRANCESCO CARRASSI

CUORE DI CARTA PRODOTTO DA HYPERREALITY S.R.L. IN COLLABORAZIONE CON RAI CINEMA  
CON IL CONTRIBUTO DI APULIA FILM COMMISSION E CON IL SOSTEGNO DELLA DIREZIONE GENERALE  
CINEMA E AUDIOVISIVO - PRODOTTO DA KRISTINA SARKYTE IN COLLABORAZIONE CON STEFANIA ROCCA,  
ISABELLA BRIGANTI, ALESSANDRO QUARTA, VINCENZO FALCONE, GIAN GABRIELE FOSCHINI  
E GABRIELE STELLA - PRODUZIONE ESECUTIVA BRANDOS FILM - SOGGETTO E SCENeggiATURA DI KRISTINA SARKYTE  
MONTAGGIO DEBORHA BRANDONISIO - MONTAGGIO PRESSA EBBETTA CLAUDIO SPINELLI  
TONICO E VINO GIACOMO RENDE - FARMACIA LAURA PERRINO - TRUCCO GAIA SANTORO  
FORNICO MELASUORELLA GIANLUIGI GALLO - SCENOGRAFIA DI FABIO TRESCA - COSTUMI DI FRANCESCA FERRARO  
FOTOGRAFIA STEFANO TRIA - MONTAGGIO DI ANNALISA FORGIONE - MUSICA DI ALESSANDRO QUARTA  
ORGANIZZATO SEI CENTRALE LEO DE MATTEIS - REGIA KRISTINA SARKYTE



Genre: drama

Duration: 85'

Year: 2025

Author: Kristina Sarkyte

Director: Kristina Sarkyte

Cast: Stefania Rocca

Gabriele Stella, Isabella Briganti,  
Francesco Carrassi.

Production: Hyperreality srl.

Produced in collaboration with:

Stefania Rocca, Gabriele Stella, Isabella Briganti,  
Alessandro Quarta, Giangabriele Foschini,  
Vincenzo Falcone.

Funds obtained: Mibact Selective Contributions,  
Apulia Film Commission Fund, Tax Credit- Mibact,  
Rai Cinema.

Budget: 432,000.00 euros

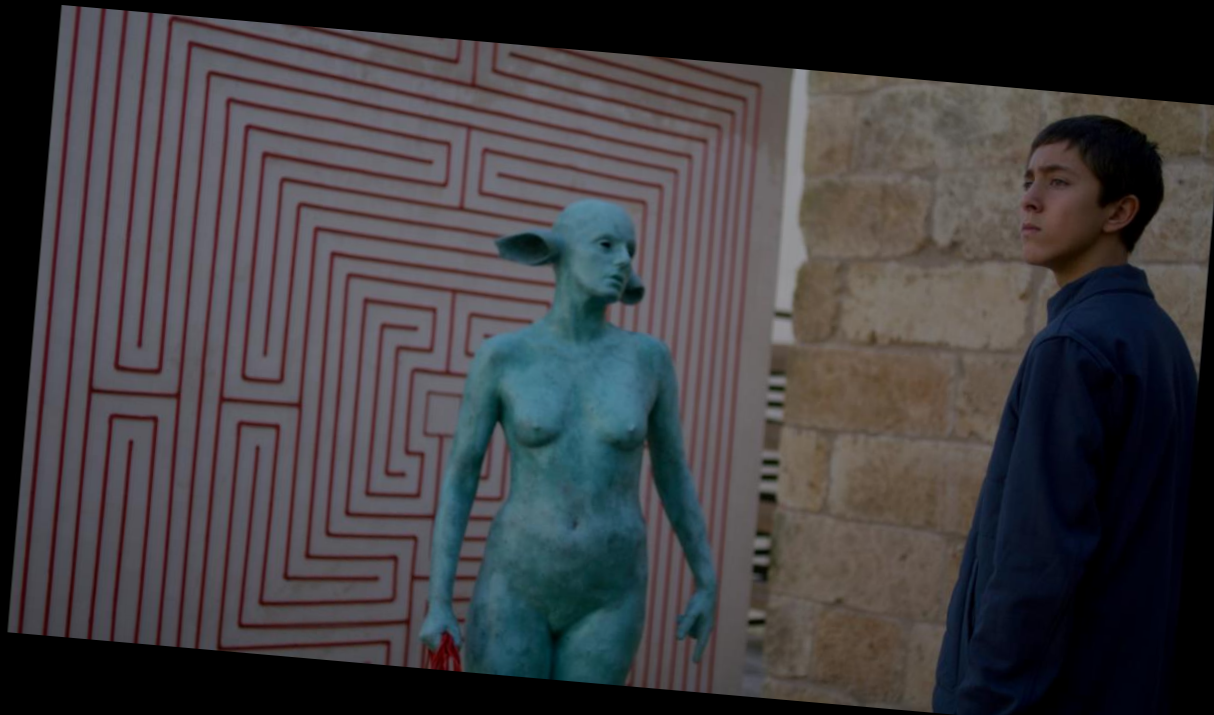


**LOGLINE:**

**WHEN YOU WALK ON DREAMS EVEN THE  
WORST EVIL REMAINS AT THE BOTTOM OF  
THE DARKNESS.**



**Synopsis: Luca is a sweet and intelligent boy who tries to grow up and survive in a degraded family situation. His brutal father wants him to be more masculine. Only at his neighbors Luigi and Pietro's house, Luca feels appreciated. Will he be able to maintain his beautiful soul in a dark and limiting reality?**



“Every director has a reason for filmmaking. I have immense faith in the power of this wonderful medium. I believe that cinema can change the way we think , can make us become more empathetic, more sensitive, more inclusive, and more capable of putting ourselves in others’ shoes. I thought of “Paper Heart” as a film capable of giving value to those who fight, even when they are children, even at unequal arms like David against Goliath. It is for those who always dream and those who never give up. It is not important where you are from or who you are. No one, no one, for any reason can take away your dreams and you soul. There is always hope and always a solution”.



# CAST

WITH STEFANIA ROCCA



ISABELLA BRIGANTI



GABRIELE STELLA



GIORGIA SCIALPI



FRANCESCO CARRASSI

The Apulian artist Nicola Genco, in a completely exceptional way and for the first time opens his house-museum to the public and authorizes filming in his laboratory.



Giuseppe Ravizzotti paints for Paperheart a symbolic picture that represents the essence of the protagonist's desire.



## Directors Statement

We wanted to denote together that even in the darkest realities you can fight by dreaming like Luca. We wanted to say once again “no” to femicide, “no” to homophobia, “no” to gender violence and yet another strong “no” against sexist education.

We all wanted to shout “yes” for freedom of choice, life and expression in any sector: yes to hope and poetry.

We also wanted to remember that you can always dream everywhere.

The screenplay was studied and modified over a several years. The protagonist Gabriele Stella received the script six years before filming. I asked him to study singing and he did it.





Stefania Rocca, Isabella Briganti and Alessandro Quarta collaborated on the production. As well as Vincenzo Falcone who followed us from the beginning for all the administrative issues. The team of idealists was joined over time by the artists Nicola Genco, who hosted us in his House-Museum, and Giuseppe Ravizzotti who painted the work inspired by the film. Brandos Film and Giangi Foschini were executive producers. Without them the film simply would not exist. I talk about the others in the space dedicated to my vision because seeking artistic collaborations expresses one of the fundamental parts of my vision: if for me cinema is a weapon and if we just want to fight and share our ideological battles, it is necessary to do it with the best company. I am convinced that beauty and poetry that inhabits the best artists are the best tools to persuade and sensitize the other persons . Thanks to them, a richer and more engaging whole can be recreated that ultimately also welcomes the viewer.

Experimenting is important to me as a matter of creative urgency, and if it can't be done with images, I try to experiment with sound. 'Paper-heart' will therefore be the first film that has its own heartbeat. It is artificially alive. If it is agitated, its heart beats more intensely; if its cinematic story progresses slowly, so does its heartbeat. The low vibrations of the heartbeat, barely perceptible, are not heard very well by the ear but are felt by our stomachs, by our entire body – every organ vibrates according to different frequencies. Just as images impact our brain and hormone production, so too do sound and frequencies affect us. I tried to recreate the primitive connection of a heartbeat – a guiding pulse that should facilitate the transmission of emotions in this way, creating an intuitive and non-verbal bond with the viewer.

But why do all of this? Why do I make films? I would love to know that you were moved. If it happened, the cortisol, endorphins, and serotonin in the last scene of the film should have traveled through your synaptic connections, bringing you pleasure. The visual experience acquired, connected to the positive emotions felt, could permanently leave within you the experiences and ideas I wanted to share.



# Music by Alessandro Quarta



After reading the screenplay *Paperheart*, Alessandro Quarta embraces the project and decides to collaborate on its production. His music released in the album «Five Elements» and distributed by Virgin makes up the soundtrack of the film.

# Persuasion through the pursuit of wonder and human imperfection

Cinema for me is a weapon. A weapon that I use to fight the battles I believe in, in the only way that is similar to me. I am certainly not alone, we live in a mediatic war every day and the battlefield gets a place at first in our mind. It starts by sowing ideas to gather support which then becomes behavior. In this mini independent battle I started from the nucleus of society: the family.

I decided to make my first work about a degraded family that is destroyed by ignorance. A second decision was the importance of Luca's redemption. He walks towards his salvation and growth thanks to the freedom of artistic expression, to his fantasy and his own dream that is immaterial and priceless. Will he be able to stay strong enough? It seemed to me a battle to undertake.



Paperheart was shot in Scorrano, Maglie, Porto-Badisco, Spongano and Putignano.



Produced by  
Kristina Sarkyte

In collaboration with:

Stefania Rocca  
Isabella Briganti  
Gabriele Stella  
Alessandro Quarta  
Vincenzo Falcone  
Giangabriele Foschini

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**Produced by Hyperreality srl.  
In collaboration with Rai Cinema with the contribution of Apulia  
Film Fund and with the support of General Management for  
Cinema and Audiovisual Arts.**

**Produced by Kristina Sarkyte in collaboration with Stefania  
Rocca, Isabella Briganti, Vincenzo Falcone, Giangabriele Foschini,  
Gabriele Stella and Brandos Film.**

**Written by Kristina Sarkyte, First Assistant Director - Deborha  
Brandonisio, Direct cut editing – Claudio Spinelli, Mixing Engineer  
Giacomo Rende, Music Composer- Alessandro Quarta, Boom  
Operator – Gianluigi Gallo, Art Director – Fabio Tresca, Costume  
Designer Francesca Ferraro, DOP – Stefano Tria, Editing –  
Annalisa Forgione, Production Manager – Leo De Matteis,  
Directed by Kristina Sarkyte.**

