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PRESETTTS

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PREMIERE

MONSTE

A film by Sophia Lassi

- Year and place: 2025, Italy (Tuscany)
- Duration: 14:49
- Format: DCI scope 2K (2.39) 2048X858
- Subtitles: English, Italian
- Genre: Dramatic short film/coming of age
- Production: Ostinati dei Lassi di Lassi Massimo
- Budget: low budget
- Shooting location: Bibbona, Cecina, Marina di Bibbona
- Footing period: Autumn 2024
- Mounting system: mounted on Da Vinci Resolve 19
- Soundtrack: Sophia Lassi and Francesco Mignogna are the authors of the original music (*Monster's Twist* and *Monster's Rain Theme*), Sophia Lassi is the author of the music tracks *Senza Ragione* and *Daltonica*, plus she adapted vocals and piano from *Bohemian Rhapsody*

SYNOPSIS

Francis is a troubled girl living her teenage years badly, especially after a fight with her best friend, which turned all her schoolmates against her. Her only safe haven are bike rides and the piano, but these can only give her momentary relief from the pain. She feels wrong and inadequate. Is she really the monster everyone thinks she is?



ARTISTIC CAST

ACTORS

Francis - Sophia Lassi
Michele - Massimo Lassi
Classmate - Lorenzo Zambolin
Classmate - Ilaria Pantani
Kristen - Barbara Lottini
Emily - Noemi Arringhieri

Victory - Nicole Corrente
Dog in the pine forest - Bolt

COMPARESE

Tiziano Andrenacci, Mia Bonardi, Bianca Chioncini, Gabriele Corrente, Massimo Ficcanterri, Gioia Morlot, Gianni Orlandi, Elia Pedrini, Sabrina Taddei, Gioele Zangarelli.



TECHNICAL CAST

Director - Sophia Lassi
Subject and screenplay - Sophia Lassi Director of
Photography - Massimo Lassi Editing - Simone
Gazzola
Audio: Stefano Cenci and Tony Puja
Original music - Sophia Lassi & Francesco Mignogna Colour -
Gianluca Procaccini
Edition secretary - Astrid Giambertone Backstage
photo and video: Emerson Ferri Costume designer
- Astrid Giambertone

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY

Sophia Lassi, born in Volterra on 17 June 2009, is a singer, actress, director and screenwriter. At the age of six, she was cast in the Rai 1 drama *Luisa Spagnoli*, and from here she was sucked into the world of cinema, which became her greatest passion. In addition to *Luisa Spagnoli*, she also stars in Francesco Falaschi's docu-film *La Fabbrica di Storie* and in Eugenia Costantini's short film *Niente*, which participated in the Turin Film Festival 2023. In 2024, she is the protagonist of Ado Hasanovic's short film *Portami a Casa*. In 2024, she also took part in the second edition of *Io Canto Generation* on Channel 5 with Gerry Scotti. She writes several songs that she publishes: *Mondo Fantasy* (2022), *Mi limito mi limito* (2023), *Senza Ragione* (2024), *Daltonica* (2024). For each song he also creates a video clip published on his YouTube channel. His most



great dream remains to become a director and screenwriter this will lead her, despite her young age, to write his first short film.

In fact, at the age of 12, he began writing the screenplay for *Monster*, the short film that tells the story teenager Francis. This short film is a test for her, which will make her overcome the psychological trauma of middle school, during which Sophia was severely bullied.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

At the age of 12, when I came up with idea for the short film 'Monster', I had almost reached a point no return: I couldn't stand the idea of going to school, I hated almost all my classmates and teachers who were blind - or pretended not to see. Every day was like torture hell: they humiliated me by throwing everything at me, they kicked my desk and my chair, every time I tried to intervene or say something was someone making a nasty, acid comment about me. It all started with an argument with my best friend, we were always talking about the our future together high school and university (we had very similar passions for writing and journalism).



Only now that I am 15 do I realise how toxic the our friendship and manipulation, ghosting and gaslighting that I suffered. I got eighth grade that every nastiness or "joke innocent" I felt like hetic and bored with

everything and everyone, constantly. High school was salvation for me, but One thing was still missing: I needed to close that chapter of my life for good. So, at the age of 14, I finished the script of 'Monster', my first short film.

The short film aims to address the problems adolescence and the malaise that we young people constantly feel (especially in situations of social isolation, as mine was), but which we do not have the courage to express or face. Talking to parents, or teachers, is not simple, in fact adults have forgotten what it means to be a teenager. We feel shame and humiliation, we feel powerless in the face of injustice, we wish we were not seen as victims, and pretend everything is fine.

With 'Monster' I want to tell the story of a teenage girl, Francis, and remove the blindfolds of adults. We children do not tell everything, on the contrary! Rather, we tend to tell many lies, just to protect ourselves from judgement or out of fear! That is why it is impossible to always know what is going on our heads, but it is important to try to understand, to help these two worlds, the adult world and the of the boys, to get closer and thus improve each other.

I would like to send a message of hope to all those who have thought, even , that their life was not enough to be lived, as I also mistakenly thought.

"Monster" opens with the protagonist, Francis, looking at a very large knife and reflecting on it. Meanwhile, she uses her imagination, as if it were a mirror of her pain. Immediately afterwards

He suppresses these thoughts by talking to his reflection in the glass of the sideboard. During the short film, the value of mirrors and his own reflection in them will become increasingly important.



Next, the focus shifts to Francis' school life, which suffers greatly from the teasing and nastiness of his classmates. In the scene, two classmates try to invite her to get on the bus with them; they might be mistaken for friends, but they are nothing more than acquaintances. Relationships between boys are much more complicated than they seem and being nice does not mean caring about someone or being their friend.

In the next scene, Francis rides his bike through the pine forest near his home, it is understood that he has a distorted view of reality, in which everything appears slower and scarier. It is also realised that she cannot be herself in public, around people she feels awkward and runs away.

When Francis is about to start high school, he tries to take courage, but the shadow of his past and the manipulation he suffered still remains in the scene. In fact he is reading with a torch: "The Donato Carrisi's 'Suggestore' reminds her how cruel people can mould the minds of the weakest to hurt them.

Once he starts high school he is reunited with an old friend from kindergarten, Emily, who is nice and funny, but Francis knows that their friendship is not very deep. In the two scenes (in front of the high school and in the theatre), the social detachment of young people from real life is noticeable. In Francis and Emily's dialogue, there is music and you cannot hear the words, which are probably frivolous and superficial. Instead, during the chat, through Francis's narrator's voice, the emotions of the two girls come through and through the messages they manage to communicate. This is a criticism of the communication between young people that takes place almost exclusively through the screen of a phone: just because it is easier to hide behind a mobile phone than to have a real face-to-face conversation.

A year passes: while Francis plays the piano singing "Bohemian Rhapsody" he has a sequence of flashbacks starring his ex-best friend Vittoria. Here we follow the path of their friendship, the promises, the afternoons spent together, for years, until the final break-up, passing through Vittoria's manipulation to make Francis believe she was worthless. Vittoria claimed that only by being with her and doing what she told her would Francis be 'normal' and accepted by everyone.

The scene ends with Francis singing "I sometimes wish I'd never been born at all..." to the Queen, i.e. claiming that "I sometimes wish I'd never been born." With this self-destructive thought the last scene of the short is introduced.

In this long monologue in front of the bathroom mirror, Francis expresses her will to die, driven by her reflection, which makes her feel inadequate. When she is about to head her room, however

changes her mind. As stands on the threshold, thunder is heard: this is the moment when Francis finally falls in love with herself. The thunder represents the 'lightning strike'.
The short film ends with a message of hope: Francis enters his room and closes the door, aware that tomorrow will be a new day, because, as his father says, "I live and it is already a lot."



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