



DISCO BOY

A film by Giacomo Abbruzzese

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FESTIVAL DE CANNES

Giacomo Abbruzzese

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Since 2000, the Festival Residence has provided each year accommodation and support to twelve selected young directors in order to help them prepare their first or second feature film. A jury presided by a film director sits twice a year, selecting these young filmmakers on the basis of their short films, or even first

feature film, and the merits of their feature film project. During their 4-and-a-half-month stay in Paris, they work on the writing of their feature film project, have meetings with professionals and try, with the support of the Cannes Film Festival, to bring their project to co-production status.

Technical Information

Title: Disco Boy

Director: Giacomo Abbruzzese

Screenplay by: Giacomo Abbruzzese

Nationality: France / Italy

Genre: Drama

Length: 120 min.

Shooting Location: Paris, West Africa and another European Country

Production Company: Stromboli Film (France)

Production Contact: juliette.sol@strombolifilms.com

Partner attached: CNC – Fond d'aide au développement franco-italien

Director's Bio / Filmography

Born in Taranto, southern Italy, 1983. In 2012 he was in residence at the *Cité Internationale des Arts* in Paris and selected for *Berlinale Talents*. He graduated with special mention from *Le Fresnoy* in 2011. In 2008 and 2009 he was artistic director of the Palestinian public channel AQTV and taught screenwriting and editing at a film school in Bethlehem. His short films *Archipelago* and *Fireworks* have been selected at many international festivals including Oberhausen, Viennale, Clermont-Ferrand, Tampere, Indielisboa, *Nouveau Cinéma* in Montreal, Leeds, Dubai, Winterthur and Molodist. They have also been shown on television in three countries (France 3, Sky Art Italia, SVT). He has received many awards including *Best Short Film* at the Torino Film Festival and a mention for *Best Short film Director* at *Nastri d'Argento*, the Italian critic prize.



SYNOPSIS

Aleksei has crossed the whole of Europe to join the Foreign Legion. He's looking for a new life, for the promise of a French passport. But war in Africa leaves him haunted by ghosts. He comes back to Paris seeking oblivion at night, in clubs; a soldier during the week, a dancer at weekends. Until the moment comes when he is forced to choose between day and night, at the risk of losing everything.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I met a guy in a nightclub once. He was wearing a totally transparent plastic suit, big glasses covered his eyes and he was carrying a fluorescent truncheon. He told me that he was working there as a dancer but that he used to be a soldier. He had led a double life for a whole year, between barracks and nightclubs, where he danced on a cube.

Neither victim nor hero, Aleksei is in a constant process of becoming. And the process of becoming is somehow always innocent, even in crime. During a drink and drug-fuelled period of army leave, Aleksei is followed by his phantoms of war. Suspended in a hallucinatory dimension, dancing is his escape.

I could not make a movie in France like a French person. But I can make a movie as a foreigner about foreigners. I'm searching for what people are, when they are the opposite of what we know about them. The moments where they are between two things, two situations, two places.

SYNOPSIS

Aleksei a traversé toute l'Europe pour intégrer la Légion Etrangère. En quête d'une vie nouvelle, il vise le passeport français qu'on lui a promis. Mais la guerre en Afrique l'a marqué et Aleksei en revient hanté. De retour à Paris, il s'enivre la nuit dans un oubli profond de soi et s'abandonne à l'univers des clubs. Aleksei commence une double vie. Soldat la semaine, danseur le week end. Jusqu'au moment où il sera obligé de choisir entre le jour et la nuit, au risque de tout perdre.

NOTE DU RÉALISATEUR

Un jour, en discothèque, j'ai rencontré un homme qui portait une tenue plastifiée totalement transparente, de grandes lunettes non graduées devant les yeux et une matraque fluorescente entre les mains. Il m'a raconté qu'avant de travailler là comme danseur, il était soldat. Durant toute une année, il a vécu une double vie, entre la caserne et les nuits disco, dansant sur un cube.

Ni victime, ni héros, Aleksei est en devenir. Et le devenir est d'une certaine façon toujours innocent, même dans le crime. La période du congé, faite de longues chutes nocturnes sous l'emprise de drogues et alcool, le confronte aux fantômes qu'il s'est traîné de la guerre. Suspendu dans le monde hallucinatoire de la discothèque, la danse devient son évasion.

Je ne saurais faire un film en France comme un français. Mais je peux faire un film en tant qu'étranger sur des étrangers. En quête de ce que sont les gens quand ils sont à l'opposé de ce que l'on sait sur eux. Les instants où ils vivent entre deux choses, deux situations, deux lieux.

