



sky original

L'ARTE DELLA GIOIA

by **VALERIA GOLINO**

world premiering at the 77th edition of the Cannes Film Festival

From the scandalous, posthumous novel by Goliarda Sapienza,
a Sky original series produced by Sky Studios and Viola Prestieri for HT Film

**Starring Tecla Insolia, Jasmine Trinca, Valeria Bruni Tedeschi,
Guido Caprino, Alma Noce, Giovanni Bagnasco, Giuseppe Spata**

**Written by Valeria Golino, Luca Infascelli, Francesca Marciano, Valia
Santella, Stefano Sardo**

DUE OUT IN ITALIAN CINEMAS MAY 30
DISTRIBUTED BY VISION DISTRIBUTION

Valeria Golino's "The Art of Joy" will have its world premiere at the 77th edition of the Cannes Film Festival. Produced by Sky Studios and Viola Prestieri for HT Film and loosely based on the posthumous novel of the same name by Goliarda Sapienza (published by Einaudi), long rejected by Italian publishers until it became a hit abroad, the Sky original series, which will be presented in

Cannes 77 official selection, tells the story of a girl in early 20th-century Sicily who discovers her sexuality and the desire for a better life than the one she has always had. **The series will be launched by Vision Distribution in all Italian cinemas in two parts: the first from May 30 and the second from June 13.**

Winner of the David di Donatello, the Nastro d'Argento, the Globo d'oro, the Ciak d'oro and the Coppa Volpi at the Venice International Film Festival, Valeria Golino has already been in Cannes with her films "Miele" and "Euphoria", both selected in the *Un Certain Regard* section in 2013 and 2018, respectively.

The Art of Joy is written by **Valeria Golino, Luca Infascelli, Francesca Marciano, Valia Santella** and **Stefano Sardo**.

The cast includes **Tecla Insolia** (*La bambina che non voleva cantare, 5 minuti prima*) as Modesta, the unscrupulous, sensual and courageous main character; **Jasmine Trinca** (*Fortunata, Marcel!, Supereroi, La dea fortuna*) in the role of Leonora, the mother superior of the convent in which Modesta is taken in as a child; **Guido Caprino** (*Il Miracolo, Sweet Dreams, 1992-1993-1994*) plays the role of Carmine, the man who manages the lands of the Brandiforti villa; **Alma Noce** (*Brado, La ragazza ha volato, Gli anni più belli*) as Beatrice, the youngest of the Brandiforti family headed by Princess Gaia, portrayed by **Valeria Bruni Tedeschi** (*Les Estivants, Les Amandiers, Été 85, Like Crazy*). Also starring **Giovanni Bagnasco** (*Finally Dawn*) as Ippolito, Gaia's son and the only true heir of the Brandiforti family, and **Giuseppe Spata** (*The Mafia Only Kills in Summer - Part II, La mossa del cavallo - C'era una volta Vigata, Tutta colpa di Freud*) as Rocco, the Brandiforti family's chauffeur.

The Art of Joy was made possible with the support of the Sicilian Region - Department of Tourism, Sport and Entertainment - Sicily Film Commission and the Ministry of Culture - General Directorate for Cinema and Audiovisual.

SYNOPSIS

Born in Sicily on January 1, 1900 to a poor family, in an even poorer land, Modesta is the protagonist of this dramatic and adventurous story. Since childhood, animated by an insatiable desire for knowledge, love and freedom, she is willing to do anything to pursue her happiness, without ever bowing to the rules of an oppressive and patriarchal society to which she seems predestined. After a tragic accident that took her away from her family, she was welcomed into a convent and, thanks to her intelligence and stubbornness, became the protégé of the Mother Superior. Her path then leads her to Princess Brandiforti's villa, where she will become indispensable by gaining more and more power in the palace. This incessant movement of emancipation is accompanied by a path of personal and sexual maturation, which leads her to cross the boundary between licit and illicit, conquering day after day her right to pleasure and joy.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

by Valeria Golino

When the producer Viola Prestieri, a long-time friend of mine, asked me to adapt the novel, I couldn't miss the chance to tell such a noticeably modern and courageous story. Our previous collaborations (Miele and Euphoria) had already allowed me to focus on the inner worlds of elaborate characters. This time, we both felt the urgency of telling about a female character so unedited due to the way she approaches life and sexuality, free and open-minded. Ultimately, I believe that in this historical moment, it is even more important to take up Goliarda Sapienza's legacy, an extraordinary precursor of her time. *The Art of Joy* takes us to a Sicily that we know, a hard, bitter, ruthless land but also divided by a thousand fences, which draw boundaries between men and women, ambitions and social expectations, servants and masters, elected and renegade. In the early 1900s, Modesta fights alone, guided by her instincts, a battle that all women continue to fight many years later. Her struggle is, first and foremost, a journey of awareness of her gender role, driven by an insatiable desire for freedom. Her character's strength, which readers know and is my ambition to tell viewers about, does not derive only from her drive to self-determination but precisely from her ability to explore her own desires at the expense and regardless of shared morality, prejudices and intimidations that constantly test her. And she does it by breaking down every fence and molding the society around her. *The Art of Joy* is an ode to freedom, self-awareness and self-determination. Personally, I don't think there is a stronger and more contemporary message for today's audience.

VALERIA GOLINO'S BIOGRAPHY

Daughter of an Italian father and a Greek mother, Valeria Golino grew up between Athens and Naples. She started working in Athens as a model and was later discovered by the director Lina Wertmüller. She got her first leading role in 1985 with the film **Little Flames** and the following year she won the Coppa Volpi award at the Venice Film Festival with the film **A Tale of Love** by Francesco Maselli.

She has been working on about twenty movies in the United States where she is best known for her performance in **Rain Man** (1988), **The Indian Runner** and the comedy series **Hot Shots!** (1991) and **Hot Shots! 2** (1993).

In 2006 she won the David di Donatello Award for Best Actress in a Leading Role for **Mario's War** (2005) by Antonio Capuano. She won the Nastro d'Argento at the Taormina Film Festival as best actress in a leading role for **Respiro** (2002) by Emanuele Crialese.

She has experimented with the world of music several times, lending her voice to four songs for as many films.

In 2013 she made her directorial debut with the film **Miele**, starring Jasmine Trinca and dealing with the theme of euthanasia. The film, in competition at the Cannes Film Festival in the *Un Certain Regard* section, earned a Special Mention from the Ecumenical Jury. This film also allowed her to win the Silver Ribbon for Best New Director and the Golden Globe for Best First Film.

In 2013 she also played Armida Miserere, one of the first women to direct penitentiaries in Italy, in the film **Come il vento** by Marco Simon Puccioni, presented out of competition at the Rome International Film Festival.

In 2013 she filmed **The Invisible Boy** directed by Gabriele Salvatores. In 2014 she received the David di Donatello Award for Best Supporting Actress for the film **Human Capital** by Paolo Virzì. The first months of 2014 saw her busy on the set of **An Italian Name** by Francesca Archibugi and the last months of the year on the set of **Per amor vostro** by Giuseppe Gaudino and in France on the set of **La vie très privée de Monsieur Sim** directed by Michel Leclerc. In 2015, thanks to her work in **Per amor vostro** by Giuseppe Gaudino, presented in competition at the 72nd Venice International Film Festival, she won the second Coppa Volpi of her career, as Best Actress.

In recent years she has been the protagonist of the films **La vita possibile** by Ivano De Matteo, alongside Margherita Buy and of **Il colore nascosto delle cose** di Silvio Soldini, which earned her a nomination for Best Actress in a Leading Role at the David di Donatello 2018.

In 2018 she starred in the sequel to **The Invisible Boy: Second Generation** by Gabriele Salvatores, in **Daughter of Mine** by Laura Bispuri (in competition at the Berlin Film Festival), in **Les Estivants** directed by her friend Valeria Bruni Tedeschi and in the French film **Casanova, Last Love** directed by Benoit Jacquot.

In the same year, he shot his second feature film as a director, **Euphoria**, which was acclaimed in the *Un Certain Regard* section at the 71st Cannes Film Festival (2018).

In 2019 she participated again in the Cannes Film Festival with **Portrait of a lady on fire** by Céline Sciamma, which won the Palme d'Or for Best Screenplay and was nominated for Best Foreign Language Film at the Golden Globes. In the same year, the following films were released and presented at the Venice International Film Festival: **Adults in the room** by Constantin Costa-Gavras, **All My Crazy Love** by Gabriele Salvatores and **5 is the perfect number** by Igort, which with she won the David di Donatello for Best Supporting Actress. Valeria returns to Venice in 2020 with Stefano Mordini's latest film, **You Came Back**, alongside Stefano Accorsi. In October of the same year, Nicolangelo Gelormini's first film **Fortuna – The Girl and the Giants**, has been presented at the Rome Film Festival.

In 2021 Valeria took part to **The Land of the Sons** by Claudio Cupellini, **The Catholic School** by Stefano Mordini and, as the protagonist, in Michela Cescon's first film, **Blue Eyes**. Also in 2021 she participated in the American series **The Morning Show**.

At the end of 2022 she is among the protagonists of the Netflix series **The Lying Life of Adults** directed by Edoardo De Angelis. In 2023 she is among the protagonists of the film **I told you so** by Ginevra Elkann.

Her latest directorial work, **The Art of Joy**, loosely based on the posthumous novel by Goliarda Sapienza, will have its world premiere at the 77th Cannes Film Festival.

CAST

Tecla Insolia	<i>Modesta</i>
Jasmine Trinca	<i>Madre Leonora</i>
Valeria Bruni Tedeschi	<i>Principessa Gaia Brandiforti</i>
Guido Caprino	<i>Carmine</i>
Alma Noce	<i>Beatrice / Cavallina</i>
Giuseppe Spata	<i>Rocco</i>
Eleonora De Luca	<i>Argentovivo</i>
Viviana Mocciaro	<i>Young Modesta</i>
Vincenzo De Michele	<i>Pietro</i>
Giovanni Calcagno	<i>Mimmo</i>
Lollo Franco	<i>Antonio</i>
Antonio De Matteo	<i>Modesta's father</i>
Alice Canzonieri	<i>Modesta's mother</i>
Erika Bonura	<i>Tina</i>
Mariella Lo Sardo	<i>Suor Costanza</i>
Alessia Debandi	<i>Ilaria</i>
Paola Pace	<i>Suor Teresa</i>

CREDITS

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<i>Produttore Delegato HT Film</i>	Davide Bertoni
<i>Managing Producer Sky Studios</i>	Emma Esposito
<i>Editorial Supervisor Sky Studios</i>	Emanuele Marchesi
<i>Script and Screenplay</i>	Valeria Golino Francesca Marciano Valia Santella Luca Infascelli Stefano Sardo
<i>Based on the novel by</i>	Goliarda Sapienza "The Art of Joy" published by Giulio Einaudi Editore
<i>Editing</i>	Giorgio Franchini
<i>Photography</i>	Fabio Cianchetti
<i>Director of the V Episode</i>	Nicolangelo Gelormini
<i>Musics</i>	Tóti Guðnason
<i>Costumes</i>	Maria Rita Barbera

Scenography

Luca Merlini

Production Director

Daniela Moramarco

Assistant Director

Edoardo Francesco Marini

Casting

Annamaria Sambucco

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