

# ***RACCONTI #9***

*SCRIPT LAB PITCH*

***CLEAR THE STAGE FOR NEW VOICES***

# COWBOY

## Logline and Short Synopsis

*A lonely boy who prefers adventures on paper to those in real life is kidnapped by a Cowboy named Billy and brought into a fantastic world of misfits called the Free World. To his surprise and distress, he finds that the inhabitants of this secret world expect him to step into his late father's cowboy boots... and save the Free World from the threat of the evil Shadow Rider.*

Valentin (12) is terrorized by the very idea of dodgeball – and everything else that “normal” kids in his Alpine village enjoy. So he buries his head in adventure books, always ready to escape if anything resembling a real adventure should arise. But one fateful night, he gets kidnapped and feels himself being transported by a very strange means. Could it be... *a horse*? Valentin then finds himself in the Free World, a secret and magical land filled with turquoise waterfalls, lush meadows and towering peaks. His surly abductor COWBOY BILLY explains that an immortal and benevolent witch, ADELE, created the Free World centuries ago as a safe haven for misfits and the oppressed. Twelve Portals, each guarded by a Cowboy like himself, connect to our Real World. Valentin loves that he can be himself here, and befriends a high-spirited, wild-haired girl: BABSI. But storm clouds gather when Valentin finds out that he was brought here for a reason: His late father was one of the Twelve Cowboys – and only Valentin can take his place. Well, you can imagine that's a whole lot of adventure for our shy bookworm. And to make matters worse, he'll have to face down an evil loner who wants to destroy the Free World. But he'll rise to the challenge, crossing turbulent rivers on horseback and surviving a blizzard at high altitude. And in the end, Valentin will defeat the Shadow Rider in his very own special way... and learn that everything he thought was wrong with him is actually his secret strength.

## Team members

### **LISA MARIA KERSCHBAUMER**

WRITER / DIRECTOR

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Lisa Maria got his Bachelor's degree in science in communications and film. She studies for two years in Bologna and one year in Berlin, while already working on her first short films.

In 2015, she wrote and directed her first short film THE STORY COLLECTOR. Two years later she directed the award-winning web series CRIMETUBE SOUTH TYROL. In 2019 Lisa Maria Kerschbaumer wrote and directed the short film THE LITTLE COWBOY which won Best Short at the *Dolomitale Film Festival* in 2020.

In 2020 she co-wrote and directed the short INAPPROPRIATE.

Lisa's production work includes Assistant to the Director for Terrence Malick on A HIDDEN LIFE (2019), Assistant to Claire Foy on THE GIRL IN THE SPIDER'S WEB (2018), and Assistant to Paul Ruddon MUTE (2018).

In 2020 she was accepted in to the Advanced Summer Screenwriting program at the University of Southern California.

### **CASSANDRA HAN**

PRODUCER

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Cassandra Han's career in film, television and theatre has spanned more than 30 years.

As a casting director, she has worked on projects for Netflix, Sky, Twentieth Century Fox, ARD / Degeto, Gaumont, Barefoot Films, Wildside, Letterbox, Lieblingsfilm and Cattleya as well as with award-winning directors such as Terrence Malick, James Mangold and Stefan Ruzowitsky.

In 2020, she founded Enrosadira Pictures with Lorenzo Viti. The company is currently producing the documentary feature ENDGAME: THE SOUTH TYROL, 1945, written and presented by the acclaimed WWII historian and novelist James Holland. Enrosadira also has an Italian feature film in development: ITALY FIRST, written by Luca Vendruscolo and Simona Nobile, in co-production with Marco Alessi.

She is a member of the Casting Society of America and holds an MFA in acting. In 2020, she was an International Emmy voter and member of the Shooting Stars jury at the Berlinale.

# NO BAGGAGE

## Short Synopsis

After a decade of living in seclusion, the nun Jeanne (early 40s) arrives in her old hometown in provincial France. Her longing for her family has made her leave the Catholic convent. Her sister, Caroline (late 30s), who has taken over their parents' hotel, can't believe her eyes when Jeanne suddenly appears at the reception desk.

Jeanne can't stop trying to convert Caroline and her family. Laura, her five-year-old niece shows some interest in religion – much to her parents' chagrin. But then Jeanne takes it too far and she baptizes Laura against her parents' will. Caroline's partner (Christoph) can't bear to watch the chaos Jeanne is creating any longer and decides to kick her out. Caroline intervenes to shield her sister. The fight escalates to the point where Caroline kicks Christoph out.

Now Caroline has a problem, because, without him, she has no hope of coping on her own with the hotel business. Jeanne offers her desperate sister some help. For this purpose she is even willing to exchange her nun's habit for a pantsuit. Caroline is overwhelmed: for the first time she feels that Jeanne is willing to put her ideals aside in order to help her.

To start with, everything seems to be going to plan, and it looks as though the sisters are finally sticking together. But then a drunken guest harasses Jeanne. She is disgusted and runs away. Caroline begs her not to let her down, but Jeanne has made up her mind. Caroline is devastated. She feels abandoned by her sister and regrets having quarrelled with Christoph. She calls him and apologizes. He comes home and some sort of normality returns. But Caroline is now very hard on her sister. She excludes her from family life and stops her having any further contact with Laura.

Jeanne decides to go back to the convent. Before leaving, she apologises for all the trouble she has caused. A thunderstorm is approaching. Caroline is scared for her sister, who is walking through the storm somewhere out there. She goes out to search for her. When she finally finds her, the two sisters meet in a long embrace. They finally understand that the key to a loving relationship is acceptance.

## Team members

### **TOM SOMMERLATTE**

WRITER / DIRECTOR

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Tom Sommerlatte, born in 1985, studied acting at the public drama school in Leipzig. Tom started his career as a director and author in 2011. His debut film *Im Sommer wohnt er unten (Summers Downstairs)* (2015) opened the section *Perspektive Deutsches Kino* at the *65th International Film Festival of Berlin*. It was also nominated for the *European Film Awards 2015* in the category *European Discovery - Prix Fipresci*. In summer 2018 he shot his second feature film *Bruder Schwester Herz (My Darling Sister)* (2019) which premiered at the *Filmfest München* in 2019.

### **IRIS SOMMERLATTE**

PRODUCER

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Iris Sommerlatte founded the production company *Osiris Media GmbH*. She has produced feature films, advertising and social spots, corporate videos and product films.

She works as an external expert for the *MEDIA-Creative Europe* program and is a member of the *European Film Academy*. Her feature films have been shown at various international festivals such as Rotterdam, Locarno and Berlin and received internationally renowned awards and nominations such as the *Bavarian Film Prize (Young Producer's Prize)* and a nomination for the *European Film Awards (European Discoveries)*.

# LET'S DO AS IF

## Logline and Short Synopsis

*A 10-year-old girl desperate to be loved, is ready to be what her parents want in order to save her family.  
Who have you become for love?*

Linda is a shy child who stutters and talks with her dolls, desperately looking for a solution to keep her parents from splitting up. She is afraid that if they separate things will never be the same again and that they will forget about her, as they are already very distracted by their own problems and their continual fighting. She constantly wonders why their love ended and believes that the solution is to take them back to Rome, the city where their story began and she was conceived. Linda can win the trip to Rome with her parents by taking an audition and a course at school to learn acting and dancing. This seems an impossible task for someone like her, who is not popular, but the little girl acquires a magic power: to “do as if”.

Linda transforms herself and becomes Diego Armando Maradona, the hero of her father, who always wanted a boy instead of a girl to play football with. Becoming a champion changes Linda, who now really does look like a boy. She learns to be respected and finds a connection with her father. But this is not the only transformation she faces. For her mother, who stopped dancing when Linda was born, she becomes a dancer. In the end, her efforts are rewarded and Linda takes her parents to Rome, facing her journey as a true heroine and fighting to get what she wants. But she discovers that in life everyone has to fight their own battle and will not always win. However, each of us can make a difference, by being able to be ourselves without fear and not forgetting that we can always “do as if”.

## Team members

### **CRISTINA PUCCINELLI**

WRITER / DIRECTOR

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Cristina Puccinelli took a degree in Communication Sciences at La Sapienza University while studying acting and cinema. She immediately started work as an actress. Subsequently she devoted herself to writing and directing and produced a number of award-winning shorts which sold in Italy and other countries, as well as documentaries, commercials, and video clips. She works as a journalist, and as artistic director for festivals as well as a casting director. She is involved in the organization and coaching for courses about cinema.

### **VALERIA CORREALE**

PRODUCER

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Valeria Correale is an Italian independent producer based in Rome and she is also an alumna of Rotterdam Lab 2020, Biennale College Cinema/VR and East Doc Forum.

After graduating in Cinema Studies at the University of Bologna, she worked at Roma Lazio Film Commission, as a consultant for Lazio Region and on several Italian and international movies. She produced a number of documentaries, one of which won a *Nastro D'Argento* in 2016. She is the associate producer of the last Abel Ferrara movie *Zeroes and Ones*, starring Ethan Hawke.