



**GIULIA PICCIONE**  
presents

# **FUOCO AMICO**

La storia di Davide Cervia

**FRIENDLY FIRE**  
**THE STORY OF DAVIDE CERVIA**

a film by  
**FRANCESCO DEL GROSSO**

## **Contatti**

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# Credits

*Director/ Screenplay* Francesco Del Grosso

*Producer* Giulia Piccione

*Photography* Daniele Anzellotti

*Editing* Francesca Sofia Allegra

*Original music* Raffaele Inno

*Sound* Daniele Guarnera

*Cameraman/ Steadycam* Eugenio Barzaghi

*Motion Graphic* Lena Di Gennaro

*Sound editing/ Mixing* Marco Saitta

*Color correction* Ercole Cosmi

*Director assistant/ extra footage* Giulia Piccione

*Editing assistant* Giulio Tiberti

*Subtitling and adapting* Gianfranco Liotta

*Interviewed (appearing order)* Marisa Gentile, Gianluca Cicinelli, Roberto Fratarcangeli, Alberto Gentile, Adele Gentile, Valentino Maimone, Licia D'Amico, Daniele Cervia, Erika Cervia, Stefano Piccheri, Luigi Sambucini, Sandro Silbi, Nino Marazzita, Giovanni Russo Spina, Ferdinando Imposimato, Falco Accame.

## Technical Sheet

*Genre:* Documentary

*Duration:* 85'

*Nation:* Italy

*Year:* 2014

*Format:* 1.78:1, 16:9 HD, Colour

*Audio:* Dolby Digital

## Short synopsis

On September, 12, 1990 Davide Cervia disappears. A black hole seems to have eaten him up. But behind that mysterious disappearance an appalling truth hides. The past comes back knocking at the door of this 31 years old man, changing his life and that of his family. *Fuoco Amico* (Friendly Fire) is the intimate tale of a public odyssey, a trip among words, testimonies and memories tied to one of the many state secrets kept hidden and never disclosed.

## Long synopsis

Telling the story of Davide Cervia is telling the story of a man of secrets that he tried to hide for his entire life. Davide was a man, a husband, a father and a citizen who vanished in the void in a normal day. Since twenty years his existence is suspended between life and death.

On September 12 1990 the 31 years old man from Sanremo didn't come back to his house near Velletri, Rome. As usual, his wife and his two children were in the house waiting for him. A black hole seems to have swallowed him and from that moment on no more clues of Davide Cervia.

Little by little, among a thousand hurdles, half-truths have appeared. Then gradually, these admissions have taken the shape of a big international plot. The existence of these half-truths has come afloat thanks to the effort of the Cervia family and of a group of people, who have focused their interest on the case. In many occasions these people have faced threats, trials, lies, perjuries and attempts to bury under the sand all the Cervia's case.

*Fuoco Amico* is the intimate tale of a public odyssey, a trip among words, testimonies and memories of one of the many State secrets kept hidden and not yet disclosed.

## Director's Notes

With *Fuoco Amico* a personal trilogy on the missed father comes to an end. It started with *Negli occhi* in 2009, which was followed two years after by *11 metri*. The former was dedicated to the life of Vittorio Mezzogiorno, while the latter to that of Agostino Bartolomei. The missed father is a theme I like a lot, which is central in the stories I want to narrate, and which is very present in this third act which swirls around Davide Cervia and his mysterious disappearance. Three existences tied together with a common denominator: the absence.

Davide Cervia suddenly disappears in a day which will sign forever the life of a group of normal people to whom the love of a father, a relative and a friend is denied. As it is denied even the right to a normal life, and above all, to the truth.

It is on this absence that I wanted to build the architecture of my new documentary. I based my work on the emotions which came off from twenty years of battles, with questions without answer, doubts and fears. Even the pride and the strenuous battle against an invisible "rubber wall" has its place, a wall made by unknowns to bury under the sand a truth too dangerous and shameful to be revealed. My work as a writer and as a director becomes a flux in time and space which shows from a private perspective a public tragedy covered by lies. The circumstances of the Cervia's case are the centre of a story yet to be written, which after a long pause has taken again its path towards a truth, for too long covered under a deep silence.

*Fuoco Amico* is mainly a movie on denied affection which passes through the words, the memories and the emotions of people who have never gave up looking for their beloved. This documentary takes the shape of a disturbing spy-story. The result is a tale made with pictures and sounds from the past reflected in an anguished present, which shows the involution of one of the many State secrets, born and raised in the sick belly of this country.

Everything starts from the disappearance of a normal citizen from a small village close to Rome, and goes through an unmentionable secret which diffuses beyond the State boundaries: who is Davide Cervia? And what is hidden behind his disappearance? And what secret was he compelled to hide to his own family? Many have questioned themselves this way when shadows have gathered upon his disappearance. Many others have preferred not to look for answers to these questions. Others, again, have worked to keep the truth well hidden. I do not belong to none of the above, because prior to a couple of years ago, I didn't have any clue on Davide's story. My ignorance is already a sign of the work of concealment made to hide the incident. Another is the huge effort the family and friends made to uncover important details about Cervia's fate. Details that the State didn't try to unearth. The documentary shows the duel between those who looked for the truth, and those who worked to deny it.

**Francesco Del Grosso**

## Producer's Notes

I met Francesco when attending cinema classes at University. With *Gli invisibili* we were already in touch. During these last years we had the curiosity and desire to make a film together.

While following his journey through life, I understood that Francesco has several tools and aptitudes on his hands. His visual language gets along with rough archive materials, and gives him the freedom to put together the different phases of research and realisation.

His work tries to give a shape to the tales, making a new narration from the memories of the characters of his movies. He uses his questions to collect a critical analysis from his protagonists, from the personal and historic point of view. He tries to organize the contents, to highlight its historic and social value.

Working with Francesco has been an opportunity to realize a unit which wants to remain independent, in a common effort to match creativity and professional commitment in a group of young people.

The production of this movie is a privileged point of view for a better understanding of the Cervia's event, now more than ever, since the Cervia's case is going to reopen in Rome Tribunal, after more than twenty years from Cervia's disappearance. This was possible thanks to our effort and the stubbornness of the Cervia's family, his wife, his children and the friends of the Committee for the truth upon Davide Cervia.

**Giulia Piccione**

# Biographies

## Davide Cervia

Davide was born in Sanremo in 1959. He enrolled in the navy in 1978, attending the ETE/GE classes (electronic technician/electronic war) in Taranto where he was the sole to obtain every license for an electronic technician: ECM (electronic countermeasures, interferences in enemy radio emissions); ESM (radar communication signal research) and ECCM (enemy interferences deactivation). In 1980 he was transferred to La Spezia, where he follows the assembling of top secret devices of the "Albatros" system on the advanced navy ship *Maestrale*. He attended two important classes with two companies producing electronic war devices, the SMA based in Florence and the SELENIA based in Rome. Then he became instructor and one of the best specialists in electronic weapons in Europe and for sure the best in Italy. Davide took leave in 1983 and worked as a technician in ENERTECNEL SUD based in Ariccia. In the evening of September, 12, 1990, while he was coming home in his white Volkswagen Golf he was stopped by a commando who put him in a green car. From that moment on his traces are lost.

## Francesco Del Grosso (director)

He was born in Rome in 1982. Graduated at Dams in Università degli Studi Roma Tre with a paperwork on David Fincher. He has written essays about cinema and articles on cinematographic critique Magazines, and he is correspondent from Festivals and meetings. He has written and directed short films and documentaries, and has won prizes in international Festivals. *Gli invisibili*, *Stretti al vento* and *Negli occhi* are among the titles winners of the "Biografilm Lancia Award", during the 66th Venice International Film Festival, the "Nastro d'Argento" for the best cinema documentary and the "Globo d'Oro Speciale". In 2011 he made *11 metri*, special event in the Rome International Film Festival, and he won the Italian Sport Awards for the best sport film.

**Filmography** *Il viaggio* (cm, 2001); *Tra terra, cielo e mare* (doc, 2002); *L'illusione* (cm, 2002); *La trappola* (cm, 2003); *Corpi...* (cm, 2003); *Equilibrio precario* (cm, 2004); *Gianpistone: Il viaggio di un artista da Testaccio al Mondo* (doc, 2005); *Step on K* (doc, 2005); *Tudo è Capoeira* (doc, 2006); *Gli invisibili: esordi nel cinema italiano 2000 – 2006* (doc, 2007); *Stretti al vento – Storie di navigazioni in solitario* (doc, 2008); *Negli occhi* (doc, 2009); *Giulietta e Federico* (doc, 2010); *11 metri* (doc, 2011); *Fuoco Amico – La storia di Davide Cervia* (doc, 2014)

## Giulia Piccione (producer)

Author and producer, it's several years that she fluctuates between different creative environments: theater, radio, cinema, making of cultural events. Recently she's worked in film productions, among which *Fuoco Amico – La storia di Davide Cervia* by Francesco Del Grosso and *Pulce non c'è* of the rookie Giuseppe Bonito. The movie will be in cinemas in April 2014.