



SANTA GUERRA - HOLY WAR

a film by SAMANTHA CASELLA

SANTA GUERRA - HOLY WAR

produced by THE SHADOWS FACTORY

directed by SAMANTHA CASELLA

written by SAMANTHA CASELLA - ANTONIO MICCIULLI

cinematographer SAMANTHA CASELLA

music by ENRICO MARIA PAOLILLO

production designer CLAUDIA DREI

edited by PAOLA MERISI

Cast

EUGENIA COSTANTINI	woman
EMMA QUARTULLO	woman remains stuck in house
EKATERINA BUSCEMI	woman who wanders in Ade
SAMANTHA CASELLA	Ananke / woman conscience / ghost daughter
ISABELLA TEDESCO	fortune-teller
MARIA GRAZIA CUCINOTTA	moira Cloto
SIMONA LISI	moira Lachesi
CHIOMA UKWU	moira Atropo
DIEGO PAGOTTO	Ade



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synopsis

A woman falls down into a timeless place where her subconscious tries to process the trauma the crushes her.

While a part of herself is stucked in a ghostly mansion and her double wanders in an ancestral place, the woman will reach painful awareness.

Emma Quartullo



Ekaterina Buscemi



Ekaterina Buscemi



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director's notes

- ❖ The production of the film took place mainly in Emilia Romagna, but some shots were also made in California and in a studio in Los Angeles. The places where most of the work took place can be traced back to the director's hometown: Faenza. About a week of shooting took place in a mansion on the outskirts of Faenza: Villa Emaldi. Another week was dedicated to the "subconscious room", that is, the room that has a fish-bone flooring was rebuilt in a garage. In Borgo Rivola, about 14 kilometers from Faenza, there are the woods.
- ❖ Since the story needed some reinforcing images to highlight the emotional state of the characters, some filming was bought such as the pulsing of an embryo, a volcanic eruption, scenes in which there are lava flows and the stormy sea.
- ❖ It took about 50 days of shooting between November 2020 and June 2021.
- ❖ The works of art featured in the film were created by some internationally renowned artists: Giovanni Scardovi, Federico Severino, Pier Giovanni Bubani, Sergio Monari, Bacco Artolini, and Filippo Zoli. Claudia Drei (the director's mother) made the copy of Arnold Böcklin's "Isle of the Dead" and the masterpiece of Jean-Baptiste Camille Corot "Orpheus Leading Eurydice from the Underworld".
- ❖ The fishbone floor is an obvious homage to David Lynch's "Twin Peaks". There are three quotes from three Ingmar Bergman films. The awakening of the woman (Eugenia Costantini) is a tribute to "Persona"; the hand of the ghost on a woman's forehead (Ekaterina Buscemi) is a tribute to "Fanny and Alexander"; while a large clock without hands is a tribute to "Wild Strawberries".
- ❖ Ingmar Bergman, David Lynch and Terrence Malick are the director's favorite of Samantha Casella.
- ❖ The Orphic doctrines are crossed by various symbolic references to the myth of Orpheus and his journey to Hades and to the figure of Ananke, goddess of destiny and "necessity", linked to the mystery cults.
- ❖ Great importance is the symbolism of the snake, mainly of the ouroboros. The ouroboros is often interpreted as a symbol for eternal cyclic renewal or a cycle of life, death, and rebirth; the snake's skin-sloughing symbolizes the transmigration of souls.

SANTA GUERRA - HOLY SAINT

Samantha Casella Biography

Samantha Casella is defined a visionary director, projected to investigate the dark side who resides in the hearts and minds of her characters. Her style leads to a journey through the unconscious, where the atmospheres recall a pictorial universe full of mystery and darkness.

Samantha Casella studied screenwriting and narrative techniques at the Holden School in Turin and cinema directing at the Scuola Immagina in Florence.

Her director essay, the short film "Juliette" has participated in various festivals, winning 19 awards, including two awards at the "Massimo Troisi European Award".

She continued her path by directing some short films including "Silenzi Interrotti", "Iris" with Elisabetta Rocchetti and "Ágape" with Marina Rocco and Paolo Stella; which have won important international Festival. Later she directs "Giro di giostra", a medium-length film presented during the Mostra Internazionale d'arte Cinematografica in Venice, the Venice Film Meeting section.

In the documentary sector the most important work are "Mediterraneo", centered on the sculptor Giuseppe Spagnulo and presented at the Venice Biennale; "The West according to Civitelli", on the cartoonist of Tex Willer; "Via Crucis al Pantheon" which proposes the manufacturing processes of the Via Crucis installed at the Pantheon in Rome and "Self-portrait with Pope", testimony of a painting by Gianni Bubani and a poem by Davide Rondoni donated to Pope Benedict XVI.

In 2019 she directed "I Am Banksy" with Marco Iannitello. On the debut in the charismatic TCL Chinese Theater in Los Angeles at the Golden State Film Festival won Best International Short. It also won Best Foreign Short at the Los Angeles Independent Film Festival Award and Best International Short at the Los Angeles Theatrical Release Competition & Award. In total, the short film collected 15 awards, including Best Director at the Accolade Global Film Competition.

In 2020 she directed the short film "To A God Unknown", distributed in the USA by FourWalled and winner of 228 awards at international Festivals organized in 35 different countries, including the Independent Short Award, the Metropolitan Film Festival NYC, the Toronto Short Film Channel Festival, the International Motion Picture Critics Awards, the Royal Society of Motion Picture Award, the Hollywood Gold Awards and the Star Hollywood Awards.

"Santa Guerra" is her debut in the feature film. Distinctly surreal film, starring Eugenia Costantini, Ekaterina Buscemi, Emma Quartullo and Maria Grazia Cucinotta.



SANTA GUERRA

info cast

- ❖ **Eugenia Costantini.** She is the daughter of actress Laura Morante and the director Daniele Costantini. She has participated in various films such as "Ferie d'agosto" by Paolo Virzì, "Manuale d'amore" by Giovanni Veronesi, "Tickets" by Abbas Kiarostami, Ken Loach and Ermanno Olmi, "Diciotto anni dopo" by Edoardo Ghezzo, "Una famiglia perfetta" by Paolo Genovese, "The silent mountain" by Ernst Gossner and "Assolo" where she is directed by her mother. Famous is her role in the TV series "Boris".
- ❖ **Maria Grazia Cucinotta.** She is internationally known for her participation, alongside Massimo Troisi for the film "Il postino" and for having appeared in the 007 saga film "The world is not enough". She has worked in many films including "I laureati" by Leonardo Pieraccioni, "La seconda moglie" by Ugo Chiti, "Maria Maddalena" by Raffaele Mertes, "Last Minute Morocco" by Francesco Falaschi and "The rite" by Mikael Håfström. In addition, she was the protagonist of an episode of the famous series "The Sopranos".
- ❖ **Ekaterina Buscemi.** Born in Russia. She is mainly known for Donato Carrisi's "The girl in the fog", alongside Toni Servillo, Jean Reno and Alessio Boni.
- ❖ **Emma Quartullo.** Daughter of Elena Sofia Ricci and Pino Quartullo. "Holy Saint" is her actress feature film debut.
- ❖ **Simona Lisi.** Actress, dancer, choreographer and songwriter, she studied in Italy, Belgium and England. She is among the protagonists of the Oscar-nominated film "La bestia nel cuore" by Cristina Comencini and dancer in the Oscar-winning film "La grande bellezza" by Paolo Sorrentino.
- ❖ **Chioma Ukwu.** She is an international model at her actress feature film debut.
- ❖ **Diego Pagotto.** Characteristic of Italian cinema, he is one of the interpreters of "L'uomo che verrà" by Giorgio Righi, "Bella Addormentata" by Marco Bellocchio and "Pasolini" by Abel Ferrara.
- ❖ **Isabella Tedesco.** She boasts several work experiences at the theatrical level and is one of the protagonists of the web series "Innumerevoli Ombre".

Ekaterina Buscemi



Eugenia Costantini



Samantha Casella





Maria Grazia Cucinotta



Chioma Ukwu



Simona Lisi

