

INDELEBILI PRODUZIONI presents

A project by **LA MELAGRANA**

WITHOUT THEM

A documentary by **DANIELE FERRERO** and **MARCO RIGHI**



Director
DANIELE FERRERO

Executive producer
ENTON THACI

Camera operator
ENRICO GENNARI

Editing e Montaggio: **Marco Righi** e **Daniele Ferrero** | Original music: **Luca Giovanardi** | Color correction: **Marco Righi** | Audio Mixing and Sound Design: **Francesco Rabaglia**



At the Città degli Asini, Raffaele and a community in transformation rediscover themselves through their relationship with animals: an intimate and choral story about care, resilience, and the possibility of a second life.

Synopsis

The film follows Raffaele and the people who bring life to the Città degli Asini - a place where Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI) open pathways of individual and shared reconstruction. Here, the encounter with donkeys, together with the communal dimension of daily work, generates experiences of openness, trust, and change.

Raffaele is the narrative thread of a choral story: the fragilities of his past resurface as he engages with the present. The training programme, his commitment in the kitchen, and his active participation in the life of the project are all milestones in a process of transformation in which the encounter with the animal becomes the key element.

With an intimate and discreet gaze, the documentary observes the everyday life of the place and its educational and social practices, highlighting the strength of relationships and the value of doing things together.

What emerges is a story that questions the meaning of care, inner resistance, and the possibility of starting over.

DURATION - 61'34"

GENRE - Documentary





Director's Notes

The documentary was born from a desire to observe a journey of rebirth that takes shape in the daily relationship between people and animals. Raffaele serves as the point of entry - the narrative thread through which a choral story unfolds, involving staff, educators, and participants.

The direction adopts an observational approach, foregoing explanatory interviews and externally guided narration. The story is built through gestures, silences, and relationships, respecting the natural rhythm of reality. The footage, characterised by simple framing and unhurried pacing, conveys the continuity of actions and the physical presence of people within their surroundings.

The cinematography maintains an essential and realistic register, making the most of natural light and the atmospheres of the locations. The film invites the viewer into a community experience in which Raffaele's individual journey intertwines with that of the collective, reflecting the value of shared time, mutual care, and possible transformation.





DANIELE FERRERO

DIRECTOR

Daniele Ferrero is an Italian director, cinematographer, and editor based in Modena. His work ranges from observational cinema to contemporary art installations, from socially committed audiovisual storytelling to commercial projects. He collaborates regularly with cultural and academic institutions in Northern Italy, including the University of Bologna and the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, where he also teaches.

His authorial research explores themes such as memory, migration, marginality, and the relationship between people and their territory.

His film *Senza di Loro* (2026) tells the story of a prisoner who finds a chance at redemption through his bond with animals. *L'Amatore* (2021) is an intimate portrait of a man on the threshold of fifty, searching for meaning through preparation for a martial arts tournament. The video installations *Untitled* and *Looking Forward to Seeing You* (2016) immerse the viewer in the migration crisis on the Greek islands.

He recently co-founded *Indelebili Produzioni*, a platform dedicated to telling the stories of marginalised people and communities through documentary cinema and authorial audiovisual work.

FILMOGRAPHY

SENZA DI LORO - WITHOUT THEM (2026) - 61'34"

SWEETER THAN DESSERT (2026) - 74'39"

ATTRAVERSO I MURI - THOUGH THE WALLS, (2022) - 1H 55'30"

L'AMATORE - THE LOVER, (2021) - 42'00"

MAGNITUDO - ON THE EARTHQUAKE IN CENTRAL ITALY, (2017) - 9'31"

UNTITLED 12'29" AND LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU 7'27" -
ON THE MIGRANT CRISIS ON THE GREEK ISLANDS, (2016)









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NextGenerationEU



MINISTERO
DELLA
CULTURA

Presented by
INDELEBILI
produzioni

A documentary by
Daniele Ferrero and Marco Righi

Directed by
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Produced by

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 **La Melagrana**
FORMAZIONE, SERVIZI & CONSULENZA

 **La Città
degli Asini**
PROGETTO EDUCATIVO PER IL TERRITORIO

 **WeAnimal**

 **LIFE BEYOND TOURISM**

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