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LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA 2022  
Orizzonti Extra

# Amanda

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY  
**CAROLINA CAVALLI**

A PRODUCTION BY  
**ELSINORE FILM WILDSIDE & TENDERSTORIES**

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WITH BENEDETTA PORCAROLI GALATEA BELLUGI MICHELE BRAVI MONICA NAPPO MARGHERITA MACCAPANI MISSONI  
AND WITH THE SPECIAL PARTICIPATION OF GIOVANNA MEZZOGIORNO

**INTERNATIONAL PRESS**

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A woman with her hair in a bun, wearing pink sunglasses and a black one-piece swimsuit with a vibrant floral pattern, is lying on her back on a blue inflatable pool. Her arms are raised behind her head. The pool's surface is textured with circular air chambers. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

## SYNOPSIS

Amanda, 24, lives mostly isolated and has never had any friends, despite this being the thing she desires the most. When she discovers that as toddlers her and Rebecca used to spend a lot of time together, Amanda chooses her new mission: to convince her that they are still best friends.



## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

When I wrote *Amanda* I didn't have any other definitive motive besides writing a nice story, which is what I usually try to do. I didn't really have a plan or a character in my head and I think if you treat characters with respect, the same respect you have for people in general, then you don't really have to worry about the story. Anyway, I don't think the way of telling and writing the story can be very different from the writer: in that sense it is a relief not to have a choice, because it may not be the best way, but in the end it is the only way to really express oneself. For example, I noticed that the film often yearns for the melancholy, ironic and understated; these three together, in fact, are characteristics that I greatly admire. It's clear that imagination has limits when it needs to be represented: reality, one's own abilities. However, I have never pandered to these problems, and I am happy about that.

Indeed, I don't have a great relationship with time or geography, even when not explicit, and in the same way, all the characters in *Amanda* are also always ahead of time and have no sense of direction.

Given the choice, I feel more comfortable working with light that doesn't really reveal what time it is, and with non-places.

As a reference, for me there are landscapes that resemble inner landscapes more than others, or at least that I recognize that way and prefer like the moors, the suburban places of the Mid-West, how I imagine the suburbs of Tokyo, from the photos I've seen because I've never actually been there, etc. I would regret not being able to put them together, side by side, just to respect a real geography, which doesn't belong in the world of film anyway.







## BIOGRAPHIES

### CAROLINA CAVALLI

Carolina Cavalli was born in Milan and works as a screenplay writer and director. In 2017 she won the San Francisco Film Society Rainin Filmmaking Grant as co-screenplay writer for the film Fremont (Babak Jalali, 2022).

In 2018, she won the Solinas Experimenta Serie award and shot the pilot “Mi hanno sputato nel milkshake” (Rai Fiction, Solinas Award, Tapeless Film) as screenplay writer and co-director. Since 2018, she has been working as a staff-writer and co-screenplay writer for TV series and independent feature films (supported by Mibact, MEDIA / Creative Europe Grant, Rai Cinema Development fund, ...).

In 2021, she made her first feature film, Amanda. In the fall of 2022 she will release her first novel, Metropolitania (Fandango).

## BENEDETTA PORCAROLI

Benedetta Porcaroli was born twenty-two years ago in Rome. In 2015 she had her first experience with acting with the role of Federica in the TV drama *Tutto può succedere*, an Italian remake of *Parenthood* broadcast on Rai 1, which she played for all three seasons.

In 2016, she made her debut on the silver screen: she is the rebellious daughter of Kasia Smutniak and Marco Giallini in the film *Perfetti sconosciuti* directed by Paolo Genovese. Later, director Francesco Falaschi entrusted her with the role of Giulietta in the film *Quanto basta* (2018) and Christian Marazziti offered her the role of Stella in the film *Sconnessi* (2018). Still for TV, she was episode star in the series *Non uccidere 2* (2017) aired on Rai 3 and starred in the Netflix series *Baby* directed by Andrea De Sica and Anna Negri. In the cinema in 2018 she was the protagonist, alongside Barbora Bobulova and Alessio Boni, in the film *Tutte le mie notti* presented at the Rome Film Fest.

In 2020, she starred alongside Vittoria Puccini in the highly worldwide public and critical success of *18 regali* directed by Francesco Amato and produced by Lucky Red, while the third and final season of *Baby* again directed by Andrea De Sica and Letizia Lamartire had just been aired. We recently saw her in the cinema as the protagonist in *La scuola cattolica* directed by Stefano Mordini, presented at the recent Venice Film Festival, and in *7 donne e un mistero* by Alessandro Genovesi alongside an important all-female cast including Margherita Buy, Ornella Vanoni and Micaela Ramazzotti. She recently finished shooting the film *Il Colibrì* directed by Francesca Archibugi, in which she plays the daughter of Pierfrancesco Favino and the film *Amanda*, an Italian-French co-production, where she plays the main character.





## GALATEA BELLUGI

Galatea Bellugi was born in 1997 in Paris to an Italian father, a set designer and theater actor, and a Danish mother, a theater and cinema designer. They introduced her to the world of dramatic art leading her to perform at the Théâtre du Soleil, directed by the great Ariane Mnouchkine, first in *Le Dernier Caravansérail (Odyssees)* in 2003 and then in *Les Éphémères* in 2008. Her film debut came in 2005, when she was chosen for a small role in *Les yeux clairs*. This was followed, in 2006, by a part in the French TV series *Sable Noir* and, in 2010, a role in the short film *Opale plage*. In 2011 she returned to cinema with *Elle ne pleure pas, elle chante*. After three years, she participated in the film revival of the play *Les Naufragés du Fol Espoir*. Her big starring debut came in 2015, when she was chosen by Guillaume Senez in *Keeper* and it was the character of Mélanie that won her the Prix d'interprétation féminine at the Festival International du film de Marrakech. The following year, she starred for Katell Quillévéré in *Réparer les vivants* while in 2017, Oscar winner Gabriele Salvatores chose her for *Il ragazzo invisibile - Seconda generazione* where she plays Natasha. In the same year she also worked in *L'apparition* by X. Giannoli and the following year in *Une jeunesse dorée* by Eva Ionesco.

In 2017 she was nominated for the category "Révélation" at the Césars for the film *Keeper* and nominated at the Césars in 2019 for «*L'apparition*» as «*Espoir - Most Promising Actress*».

In 2020 she is among the leads in the highly entertaining film *Tralala* by Arnaud Larrieu and Jean-Marie Larrieu, also presented at Cannes 2021 in the official selection. For Italy and in early 2022 she was out in movie theaters with *Diario di spezie* by Massimo Donati and *Amanda* by Carolina Cavalli.

She alternated her film career with university studies, graduating in 2021 in International Relations at the University of Copenhagen.

## MICHELE BRAVI

Michele Bravi, Umbrian singer-songwriter born in 1994 in Città di Castello, began to be known to the general public in 2013. Four years later he appeared on stage for the first time at the Ariston Theater, competing at the 67th edition of the Sanremo Festival with the song «Il diario degli errori» certified double platinum, which anticipated the album «Anime di carta» a gold disc, among the top 10 best-sellers of 2017. Michele was among the protagonists of the music scene in 2021 with the release of «La geografia del buio». The album, which was no.1 on the Fimi/Gfk album and vinyl charts, was published in an extended version on November 12, containing in addition to the original tracks «Cronaca di un tempo incerto» and «Falene» created in collaboration with multi-platinum international artist Sophie and The Giants. The release of the extended version was anticipated by the official video clip of the single «Cronaca di un tempo incerto» which premiered at the Festa del Cinema in Rome.

Songs from «La geografia del buio» and some of its previous hits have been featured in the summer and fall tour, their success led Michele to play on the stages of major Italian festivals, theaters and clubs. This year he participated in the 72nd edition of the Sanremo Festival with the song «Inverno dei fiori» which was certified a gold record.

As an actor, he participated in 2021 in the film Amanda directed by Carolina Cavalli and in the TV series for Amazon Prime Monterossi directed by Roan Johnson; in 2019 he played a role in the second series of La Compagnia del Cigno directed by Ivan Cotroneo.

## GIOVANNA MEZZOGIORNO

Daughter of actor Vittorio Mezzogiorno and actress Cecilia Sacchi, she has been working in Paris for two years in the theater workshop by British director Peter Brook. In 1995 she made her debut on the Parisian stage of the historic Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord with the show "Qui est là", a theater research project created and directed by Peter Brook taken from Hamlet by Shakespeare and texts by Artaud, Brecht, Craig, Mayerhold, Stanislavski and Zeami. For this performance she received the Premio Coppola-Prati award in 1996. Her film debut came with the film *Il viaggio della sposa* by Sergio Rubini. From that moment on, the cinema called her consistently and she starred in films such as Michele Placido's *Del perduto amore*, which earned her a Nastro d'argento award, a Ciak d'Oro award and a Premio Pasinetti award as best leading actress. She also starred in *Asini* by Antonello Grimaldi, *Un uomo perbene* by Maurizio Zaccaro and *Tutta la conoscenza del mondo* by Eros Puglielli.

Great success came with Gabriele Muccino's *L'ultimo bacio* in which she plays the betrayed partner of Stefano Accorsi with great intensity. In 2002 she accepted a difficult role playing Ilaria Alpi directed by Ferdinando Vicentini Orgnani, and won a Nastro d'Argento as best leading actress. With Ferzan Özpetek's subsequent *La finestra di fronte*, she garnered acclaim from critics, audiences and the voters of the major artistic awards, which allowed her to receive a David di Donatello, a Nastro d'Argento, a Globo d'Oro and the Best Actress Award at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival.

In 2003 she won another Nastro D'Argento thanks to the film *L'amore ritorna* by Sergio Rubini. 2004 marked a return to theater with the play *4.48 Psychosis* by Sarah Kane directed by Piero Maccarinelli. After the French comedy *Au secours j'ai 30 ans*, Giovanna Mezzogiorno starred in the drama by Cristina Comencini that ended up in the five-number list of

Oscar nominees for best foreign film. In addition to the film's international success, her performance for *La bestia nel cuore* earned the actress the Coppa Volpi for Best Female Actress at the 62nd edition of the Venice Film Festival. She starred in *Lezioni di volo* by Francesca Archibugi and Davide Marengo's *Notturmo Bus*, while in 2007 she plays in English opposite Javier Bardem in *Love in the Time of Cholera* by Mike Newell, based on the celebrated novel of the same name by Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

This was followed by Stefano Chiantini's *L'Amore non basta*, *Palermo Shooting* by Wim Wenders and Marco Bellocchio's *Vincere*. The latter won the actress a new Nastro d'argento and a new Globo d'Oro as best leading actress, as well as a Silver Hugo for Best Actress at the 45th Chicago International Film Festival and the National Society of Film Critics Award for Best Actress. She was producer and narrator of *Negli occhi*, a documentary about her father Vittorio directed by Daniele Anzellotti and Francesco Del Grosso. She later participated in the films *La prima linea* by Renato De Maria (2009), *Basilicata coast to coast* by Rocco Papaleo (2010), *Vinodentro* by Ferdinando Vicentini Orgnani (2012), *I nostri ragazzi* by Ivano De Matteo. In 2016 she was the voice of Kaa the snake of *The Jungle Book*, Disney's signature live action version, and is in the cast of Luca Lucini's *Come diventare grandi nonostante i genitori*.

She was recently awarded the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Ministry of Culture. In 2017 she played in *La tenerezza* by Gianni Amelio, in *Napoli velata* by Ferzan Özpetek and on stage for the theatrical tour with the play *Sogno d'autunno* by Jon Fosse directed by Valerio Binasco. In 2019 she stars in *Tornare* by Cristina Comencini. She recently completed shooting, *Educazione fisica* by Stefano Cipani and *Amanda* by Carolina Cavalli, respectively.





## CAST

Amanda **Benedetta PORCAROLI**  
Rebecca **Galatea BELLUGI**  
Dude **Michele BRAVI**  
Sofia **Monica NAPPO**  
Marina **Margherita MACCAPANI MISSONI**  
Viola with the special participation of  
**Giovanna MEZZOGIORNO**

## CREW

Directed by **Carolina CAVALLI**  
Script by **Carolina CAVALLI**  
Director of Photography **Lorenzo LEVRINI**  
Edited by **Babak JALALI**  
Original Music **Niccolò CONTESSA**  
Scenography **Martino BONANOMI**  
Costumes **Francesca CIBISCHINO**  
Sound **Roberto GAMBOTTO REMORINO (A.I.T.S.)**  
**Alessandro BONFANTI**  
**Alessandro FUSAROLI**  
General Manager **Danilo GOGLIO**  
Casting **Maurilio MANGANO (u.i.c.d.)**  
**Luana VELLISCIG**  
a Production by **Elsinore Film**  
**Wildside e Tenderstories**  
in Collaboration with **Charades & I Wonder Pictures**  
Produced by **Annamaria MORELLI and Antonio CELSI**  
**Mario GIANANI and Lorenzo GANGAROSSA**  
**Moreno ZANI and Malcolm PAGANI**  
with the Support of **Direzione Generale Cinema e Audiovisivo**  
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