



On the left, a moment during the filming of "Blind" in Alto Adige, on the right, Philipp Moravetz

ALTO ADIGE/ *The projects of Echo Film, a young production company from Alto Adige*

FROM SERVICE TO PRODUCTION

Echo Film has obtained production financing from the **BLS Film Fund & Commission** (€ 580,000) for "Unter Null", a black comedy directed by Rolf Lyssy, a co-production project with Cobra Film in Zurich. The movie has a budget of around € 2 million. "We will be the minority partner, but the financing is not yet completed, we are waiting to see if funds will arrive from Switzerland. We should know in around May or June. If all goes well production will begin by the end of the year", explains **Philipp Moravetz**, the young producer and founder of the production company from Alto Adige along with **Karl Baumgartner**, proprietor of Germany's "Pandora Film", **Andreas Pichler**, director of documentary movies, and **Georg Tschurtschenthaler**, a producer from Berlin.

Set up around one year ago, Echo Film will be at the Co-production Market in Berlin. "we were invited by the BLS along with some other producers from Alto Adige so that we could make contact with the other producers in Berlin". Germany is Echo's first interlocutor seeing as half the founding partners has worked in the German movie industry for many years and, amongst the projects being developed by the company, there are various possible co-productions with Germany: "Spiral" is a dramatic movie that is being written by German director Hana Geißendorfer (the project has obtained development financing from the BLS). "This story is particularly suitable for filming in Alto Adige", continues Moravetz. "It is about a friendship between two girls that unfolds in the world of ice skating and is set in a large village or a small provincial town. It was discovered by Andreas Pichler at **Torino Film Lab** in 2011. Hana will come to Alto Adige in February to look for locations, and we will receive some help from Baumgarten who knows the German world well".

Another movie project to come out of a script lab, and more precisely **Racconti #1**, the script lab set up by the BLS to encourage the writing of stories set in Alto Adige, is "Zweitland" (the winner of the lab), for which Michael Kofler is writing the screenplay. "In this case we received funds from the Alto Adige German culture office as it is based on the recent history of the Alto Adige region (terrorism in the 60s) which is suitable for being co-produced with Germany or Austria. We will now make an application to the BLS pre-production fund which runs out at the end of January. In any case, I think we will have to wait until next year to go into production because it is a very complex movie, the same goes for "Porcelain Girl" by Anna Wasch, a great story that received a development contribution from the BLS over a year ago through Pan-

dora Film, when Echo Film did not yet exist. This is also a complicated story which needs a few more drafts". The projects being developed by Echo also include "Tirollar" which, says Moravetz, "if all goes well, will be a co-production between Italy and Germany in which we will be the majority partner".

While it waits for these projects to take off, Echo Film is continuing with its service activities: "Between the end of February and the beginning of March we will film the second part of an Austrian project by KGD, "Blink", confirms Moravetz. (C.M.)

THE MARCHE/ *There is a lot of excitement in the region. We talk with Anna Olivucci, head of the Marche Film Commission*

THE UNSTOPPABLES!

There is a lot of excitement in the Marche. The Film Commission is currently working on several productions and concentrating on one, in particular: "The Marche Region", says **Anna Olivucci**, head of the **Marche Film Commission**, "is working on reaching an agreement to support the production of "Il Giovane Favoloso" by Mario Martone, a costume movie about Giacomo Leopardi produced by **Palomar**, a complex movie which we believe it is very important to shoot here, mainly for reasons of territorial identity". Olivucci continues: "We are following a couple of other productions through the **Fondazione Marche Cinema Multimedia**. We have already been involved in the development phase and some location scouting has already been done. We are working on promoting the relationship with the local Confindustria (Italian Employers' Federation) and individual entrepreneurs. We want these entities to understand that the product placement activities being proposed are a proper production investment and not a case of occasional patronage." Product placement and, above all, territorial placement. It is no coincidence that the Fondazione is preparing a meeting at the BIT (International Tourism Exchange, in Milan) which will be held on February 14th: "We would like to provide information about our activities, the recent past and the future. For this reason we want to invite producers of new projects and those who have recently completed filming with us". In December and October, in fact, the Marche hosted two important Rai Cinema productions, to which they gave a small amount of financial support: "Niente può fermarci" (Nothing can stop us) is an "on the road" comedy directed by Luigi Cecinelli, starring, amongst others, Gerard Depardieu, Vincenzo Salemme, Serena Autieri and Gianmarco Tognazzi. Produced by **Claudio Zamarion** of **Angelika Vision**, it was filmed in the Villa-Castle of Semivicoli (Chieti), in the center of Ancona and in Conero. The main location for "Come il Vento" (Like the wind) by Marco Simon Puccioni was the prison of Montacuto in Ancona: in fact, the movie was inspired by the story of Armida Misereere, for twenty years the governor of several Italian prisons during the period of the Mafia, terrorism and the P2. Produced by **Rai Cinema**, **Intelfilm**, **Red Carpet**, **Revolver** and **Les Films du Present**, starring Valeria Golino and Filippo Timi, the movie sets an important record for the Film Commission because, explains Olivucci: "for the first time it involves the collaboration of six social cooperatives which are active in the Marche region and supported the movie by combining forces with a tax credit operation in order to highlight their commitment to

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Monica Bellucci, the star of the new movie by Mimmo Calopresti, "Uno per tutti", produced by Gianluca Curti's **Minerva Pictures** (location manager Davide Manca) will also be filming in Piedmont.

In April, Eugène Green will shoot "La Sapienza" in Turin and Stresa, with Bruno Todeschini and Jacopo Olmo, a co-production between Italy (Alessandro Borrelli's **La Sarraz**), Belgium (**Les Films du Fleuve**) and France (**Mact Productions**). The director of production is Diego Cavallo. Filming is scheduled to take between two and three weeks. Also in April, Villaggio Leumann, the Manifattura Tabacchi, Villa Malfatti and Villa Passatempo will be the locations for "I segreti di Borgo Larici", a seven part Mediaset TV series directed by Alessandro Capone and produced by Raffaello Monteverde and Maurizio Tedesco for **Leader Film Company** (Paolo Sciarretta is the organizer, Emanuele Perotti the location manager)

At the side, Valeria Golino, star of "Come il Vento", filmed in the Marche. Below, the Val d'Aosta set of the documentary "Chroniques d'en Haut"



diffusion of themes regarding rights and social justice".

In addition to the prison, the movie was also filmed in the provinces of Pesaro-Urbino (the "Riserva della Gola del Furlo"), Ancona and the "Riserva del Conero".

In her role as vice president of the **Italian Film Commissions**, Anna Olivucci wishes to bring attention to the way investment in culture generates wealth, confirming the need to be equipped to fight the heavy cuts to cultural initiatives made by the latest national and EC policies: "ANICA figures show that the audiovisual sector has 6120 businesses, 200,000 employees, a turnover of 6 billion Euros, with an impact on the territory equal to six times the public investment. For this reason, our association has put forward a request to the new political forces: we need to keep the film commissions united in their objectives, and continue to strive for recognition of the sector's rights and production capacities". (C.M.)

TRENTINO/KUSTURICA, A PROTAGONIST ON ICE

"La Foresta di Ghiaccio", the second movie by Claudio Noce, starring Emir Kusturica (who features in an Italian picture for the first time), Ksenia Rappaport and Adriano Giannini, was filmed in Trentino in January. The Bissina dam is the main location used for this story about an incredible mystery that unfolds behind the apparent serenity of a small Alpine village.

"La Foresta di Ghiaccio" marks the theatrical production debut of **Ascent Film**, a company that has been active in documentary production and TV distribution since 2004. Ascent is producing the movie along with Rai Cinema, with the support of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage (MIBAC) and the **Trentino Film Commission**.

PIEDMONT/BELLUCCI FILMS WITH CALOPRESTI

The Piedmont region will be awash with movie sets in February: Alessandro Lunardelli is making "Il Mondo fino in fondo" (**Pupkin Production**), an adventure comedy which is also set in Chile and Spain. The Italian locations consist of two private villas in Rivoli, a shopping mall and a factory near La Loggia in Carmagnola (the general organizer is Attilio Moro and the location manager is Emanuele Perotti).

Three cities in three different countries will provide the settings for "Des Etoiles" by Dyana Gaye, starring Maya Sansa, Mata Gabin, Andrei Zayats: New York, Dakar and Turin, where filming began on February 4 at the Cavallerizza Reale and a house in the San Salvario quarter. The movie is produced by Enrica Capra for **Andolfi Production** (director of production Federico Mazzola, location manager Federico Fusco).

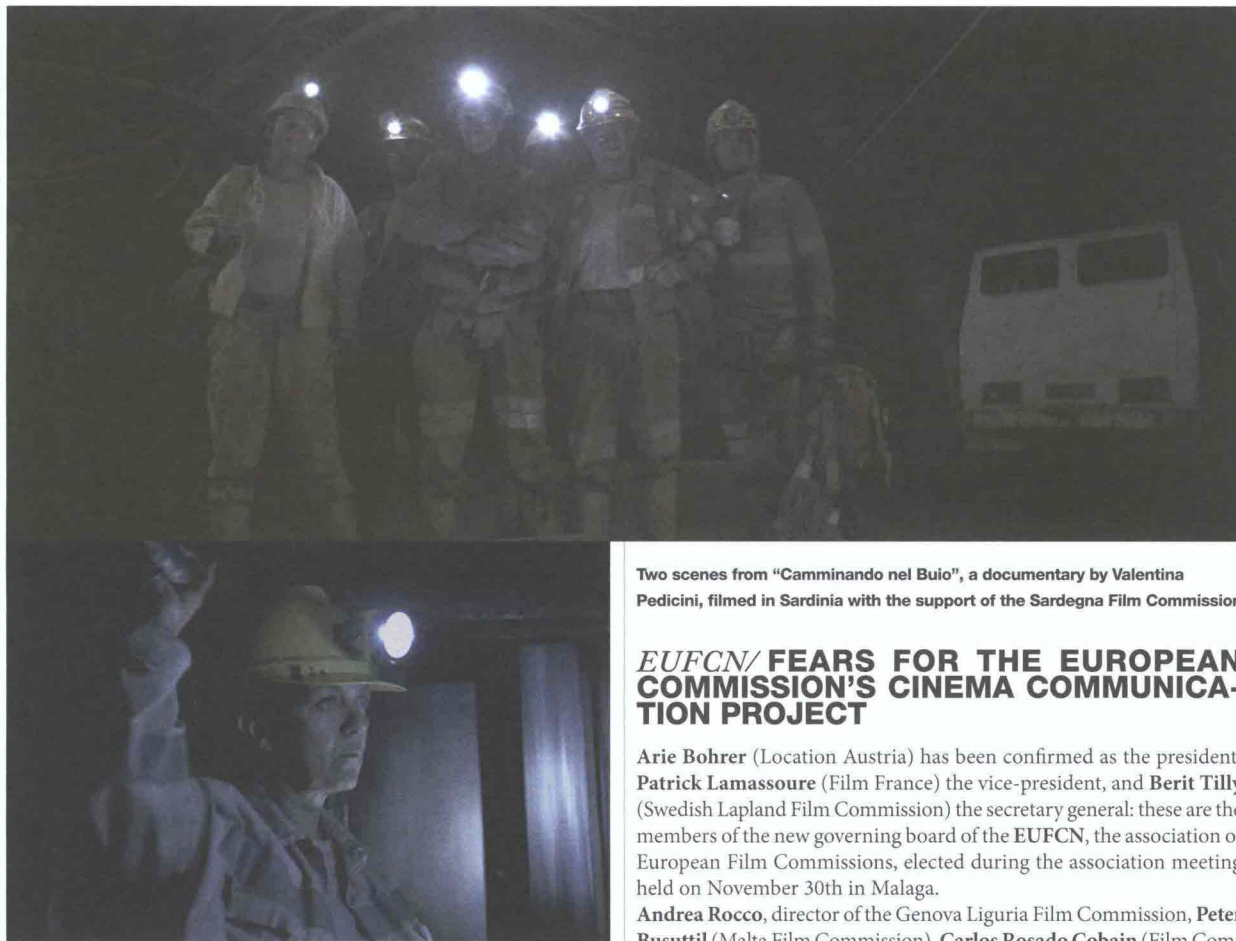
VALLE D'AOSTA/BRAZIL LIKES IT COLD

"Snow Camp", the Brazilian TV program (TeleGlobo) which is filmed in various prestigious European ski resorts, will also be traveling to La Thuile in the Val D'Aosta. This is one of the region's first productions for 2013, and the Film Commission has already begun to select the projects which will receive an allocation from the Fondo di Sostegno [Support Fund], that is divided into various sections.

The first call of the **Valle D'Aosta DOC-FF FILM FUND**, the fund dedicated to documentaries and debut works set in the Val D'Aosta region, expires on April 30th. The fund has a budget of € 40,000 which will be allocated in the form of a reimbursement of expenses (for projects that sustain at least 120% of their expenditure in the region). The regional Film Fund (a total of € 135,000 for 2013) includes a chapter dedicated to projects with a wider circulation, for which € 85,000 has been made available (once again in the form of reimbursement of expenses, although in this case the minimum amount to be spent in the territory is 150% with respect the total amount), and one reserved for post-production (€ 15,000).

The projects that have received support so far include the features "Il peggior Natale della mia Vita" by Alessandro Genovesi (**Colorado Film Production**), filmed in the Gressoney Valley and Castel Savoia, which generated related income in the region of € 405,000, and "Aspirante Vedovo" by Massimo Venier (**Pupkin Production**). In the latter, the main location was the road leading from Champdepraz to the Natural Park of Mont Avic, and the seven days of filming generated an income of € 50,000. Support was also provided to the documentaries "Non così

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Two scenes from "Camminando nel Buio", a documentary by Valentina Pedicini, filmed in Sardinia with the support of the Sardegna Film Commission

EUFCN/ FEARS FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S CINEMA COMMUNICATION PROJECT

Arie Bohrer (Location Austria) has been confirmed as the president, Patrick Lamassoure (Film France) the vice-president, and Berit Tilly (Swedish Lapland Film Commission) the secretary general: these are the members of the new governing board of the EUFCN, the association of European Film Commissions, elected during the association meeting held on November 30th in Malaga.

Andrea Rocco, director of the Genova Liguria Film Commission, Peter Busuttill (Malta Film Commission), Carlos Rosado Cobain (Film Commission Spain), Jacques Paul Georges Mer (Algrave Film Commission) and Truls Kontny (Norwegian Film Commission) also joined the board. Andrea Rocco, the only Italian elected, was given the task of coordinating training and educational activities on a European level.

During the meeting in Malaga, the participants expressed their concerns about the European Commission's Cinema Communication project regarding public support, in particular with regard to the suggestion of adopting a parameter of 1:1 between the entity receiving assistance and the expenditure commitment in the territory providing the support.

According to Bohrer, the new rules put forward by the Communication project, "represent a direct threat to the majority of incentive schemes that Member States and regions have patiently set up over the years, and which provide support to European cinema and television productions". The EUFCN was set up in 2007. It currently has 82 members from 26 countries in the "old continent".

APULIA/ 2012 COMES TO AN END WITH EPPIDEIS

Filming on "Eppideis", directed by Matteo Andreolli and produced by Habana Film run by Luciano Gaudino who also wrote the screenplay with Giovanna Guidoni, was completed in December in Oria, in the province of Brindisi. The movie, which stars Gianmarco Tognazzi, amongst others, has received support from the MIBAC and was financed by the Apulia Film Commission. The executive producer is Alessandro Contessa.

This was how 2012 ended for the Apulia Film Commission which, in the past year, also lent its support to two important international productions through the new International Film Fund inaugurated in May: "Marina", co-produced by the Dardenne brothers and filmed in Bovino in the province of Foggia by Oscar nominated director Stijn Conino, and "Third Person" by Oscar winner Paul Haggis, also set in Taranto.

lontano" by Hervé Barmasse, "Il migliore dei mondi possibili" by Marco Andreini and Paolo Fioratti, "Mirage à l'Italienne" by Alessandra Celesta, and the TV productions "Wild-Oltrenatura" (Italia 1), "Geo&Geo" (Rai 3) and "Chroniques d'en Haut" (France 3).

SARDINIA/ THE ONLY WOMAN DOWN THE MINE

Patrizia is the last female miner: every day she travels 500 meters underground to the Nuraxi Figus mine, in Gonnesa, Sulcis Inglesiente, in the province of Cagliari, along with her 150 companions, all men. Patrizia is the star of "Camminando nel Buio" (Walking in the dark), a documentary for which Valentina Pedicini has won the Premio Solinas and which will soon be turned into a movie produced by Alessandro Borrelli's La Sarraz.

"We filmed in Sardinia between October and November and again at the end of January", explains Borrelli. "A total of 25 days, which was not always easy because the miners were protesting at the time and there was a lot of tension, so often even the TV companies were sent away. At times ours were the only cameras allowed inside the mine and this was because of the relationship of trust the director had managed to build with Patrizia and her companions. It should also be noted that our movie was not about the mine closure and the workers' protest, although this subject provided the backdrop for the protagonist's story and our exploration of this dark underground world."

The documentary will receive support from the Sardegna Film Commission, as well as the BLS fund (€ 50,000) for the post-production, which will take place in Bolzano. Valentina Pedicini is actually resident in Alto Adige and studied at the Zelig school, like the other members of the crew.