

EVERY YEAR, AN ESTIMATED
15 MILLION "PREEMIES" ARE BORN.

this SMALL

Sometimes the most amazing stories
come from something so tiny

ROAD TELEVISION PRESENTS ANGILO MARITTA "THIS SMALL" ALISA ANTONIADOU ANTONIA ACCIARI LUIGI LUCA ANTONIOLI ANTONIA VITTORIA
DIRECTED BY ANGILO MARITTA PRODUCED BY ANGILO MARITTA AND VALERIA BOLLARDI WRITTEN BY ANGILO MARITTA AND VALERIA BOLLARDI
CASTING BY ANGILO MARITTA COSTUME DESIGNER VALERIA BOLLARDI HAIR AND MAKEUP ANGILO MARITTA AND VALERIA BOLLARDI
EDITED BY ANGILO MARITTA AND VALERIA BOLLARDI EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ANGILO MARITTA AND VALERIA BOLLARDI
PRODUCTION DESIGNER ANGILO MARITTA EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ANGILO MARITTA AND VALERIA BOLLARDI
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UNCORRECTED




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Length of gestation: 25 weeks. This is the threshold of viability for premature children. When a baby is born before due time, the joy of his or her parents is suspended. It is the beginning of a tormented path, made of long waits at the hospital, next to the incubator, as the desire to hold your child clashes with the actual interdiction to do anything more than caress his

or her delicate body, engaged in a constant fight to keep alive. This documentary tells the story of mothers and fathers who walked this path, of parents who are in the middle of it and of all those people who keep fighting with them for the lives of their children. It is an hymn to the endurance and hope that human beings are entitled to feel and express since the first day of their life.

SYNOPSIS





a documentary by Angelo

DIRECTOR'S n0te

What I keep asking myself - and what still today, more than ever, keeps me awake - is: how can I enter Rita's world? If it is her incompleteness that we must face, and it is in front of our eyes that her "minimum life requirement" is taking shape, where are we, the parents? What is the limit or the threshold I must cross to be able to reach her and then come back? I plunge headlong, but I must move carefully... Rita has taken us by our hand - or actually by our finger - and has literally created a space of possibility around us: Sabina's belly was gone, it would no longer grow and in its place an entire world would have to fit inside the incubator.

Rita's prematurity has not put into question our identity, instead it calls into question our position in the world and how we would be able to keep it.

In late May 2008, four months before her expected due date, my daughter was born. Her silent birth had the power to shake the foundations of my marriage and myself, which were built over many years and were seemingly sturdy. From then on there would be a 'before' and an 'after' and the after began and ended every day in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Before, we had no idea a place of its kind existed - should we? We knew that

childbirth involved waiting, transformation and delivery; the pain and joy that a new life presents to its parents, which finally settle them into the world. But a twenty-three week old baby that only weighs 500 grams was delivered from the uterus of her mother - Why? Why? Why? - only to end up in an incubator, with a mechanical ventilator, a feeding tube, a vital signs monitor in the hands of a team of dozens of doctors and nurses.

The unit was filled with so many other babies, it was bursting with lives that were torn, hindered and slipping away without any of those other parents having the slightest knowledge of the existence of such a place.

They are all there, close to each other, giving each other strength, clinging to news, suspended on a string between failure and a smile. One can be born that way and be sheltered in a big 'hypertechnology uterus', which is careful and affectionate in its own way. As months went by we learned that when things can no longer be taken for granted and each day is a small victory that adds up to be a triumph, it dramatically changes everything about life.

this SMALL

Director: **Angelo Marotta**
editing: **Emanuele Redondi**
Producer: **Valeria Adilardi**
Scientific consultant: **Mario Marconi**
Music: **Lamberto Macchi**
Sound editing and mix: **Ignazio Vellucci**
Color: **Mauro Vicentini**
Graphics: **Luciano Marino**

Produced by **Valeria Adilardi, Angelo Marotta**
in association with **Maurizio Carta**

Technical specifications:

Original version: Italian
Subtitles: english
Produced in: 2015
Length: 70'

CRe W

An aerial photograph of a forest floor, showing a dense carpet of brown and tan leaves and twigs. A large, dark shadow of a tree trunk is cast across the center of the image, extending from the top right towards the bottom left. The text 'CRe W' is overlaid in the top left corner in a white, sans-serif font.

a documentary by Angelo



AISHA FIORETTI, 25 weeks, 640 grams.

Her name is the arab word for life, because she showed right from the start how strongly she wanted to live. She's strong, tenacious and always happy.

ANTOINE, 27 weeks + 4 days, 830 grams.

I am 15. I am blind because I was born premature. I can't see things with my eyes but I can feel them with my hands and with my sensitiveness. My life is very beautiful and there is plenty of music and love in it. Taking part into this documentary film was extremely important and emotionally engaging to me.

ARIANNA REMIA, 31 weeks, 1380 grams.

A sweet surprise that brings wonder in our life every day. She's beautiful, amusing, vivacious and willing. With a simple move or a smile she feeds our everlasting joy to be parents.

ASCANIO PIERANTOZZI, 27 weeks, 1270 grams.

Mum, I was born before... but before everyone?

LAURA CASTELLI GATTINARA, 24 weeks, 560 grams.

I simply chose to share my story hoping this would help those parents who may happen to have premature children. The chance to see a grown up girl could let them imagine how their child will be, by shifting their perspective from the uncertainties of their present to a more regular and pleasant future.

LUCA DE FRANCESCO, 23 weeks + 5 days, 760 grams.

760 grams of weight all in his cheeks. The strength of a lion he clung to life with, to become our little big hero.

MANUEL CONIDI, 25 weeks + 3 days, 790 grams.

I was born on January 22 2013, 102 days in advance, which I spent at the NICU of S. Camillo Hospital in Rome. I left the hospital on May 4, which was the delivery due date. My life is happy now and I keep growing fast!

RITA MAROTTA, 23 weeks + 4 days, 510 grams.

Since the moment she was born she's kind of aiming ahead, exception made for the time when she has to brush her teeth, when she seems to be lost in deep meditation.

VITTORIA GARGINI, 24 weeks + 3 days, 700 grams.

She's the rainbow to mum and dad.



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Mario Marconi, our scientific consultant

Pediatrician, neonatologist, psychotherapist for the family

He works in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of the A.O. San Camillo Forlanini in Rome

Here we go. It's about to be born. It could not be avoided. Indeed it was necessary.

We are ready: doctors are ready, together with nurses, equipment, monitors, pumps and mechanical ventilator. The whole Unit knows what to do. Science is ready! Yet, when you see him or her, weighting a few hundred grams... A little me in a minuscule human shaped body, breathing or at least trying to breathe his or her first breaths, and the heart-beat begins... or maybe not. And you try not to think about the fact that this is someone's child. You'd better not think about it, you'd better act instead.

And this is how it starts, the story that involves us doctors, a little unknown creature and its parents.

Valeria Adilardi

Biofilmography

Born in Rome in 1971. Graduated in Modern Literature in 1997 at the University of Rome "La Sapienza".

In 1997 she joined Paneikon, a production company specialized in documentaries co-produced with national and international broadcasters, where she worked as a producer, executive producer and author.

In 2008/2009 she attended the course in 'documentary production' at the "Film and TV department", UCLA, University of California Los Angeles.

In 2005 she became member of Doc it (Italian Documentary Association), the official association representing producers and filmmakers in the Italian Documentary Film Industry. She co-organized with Doc it the second edition of "The Month of the Documentary" (January-February 2014).

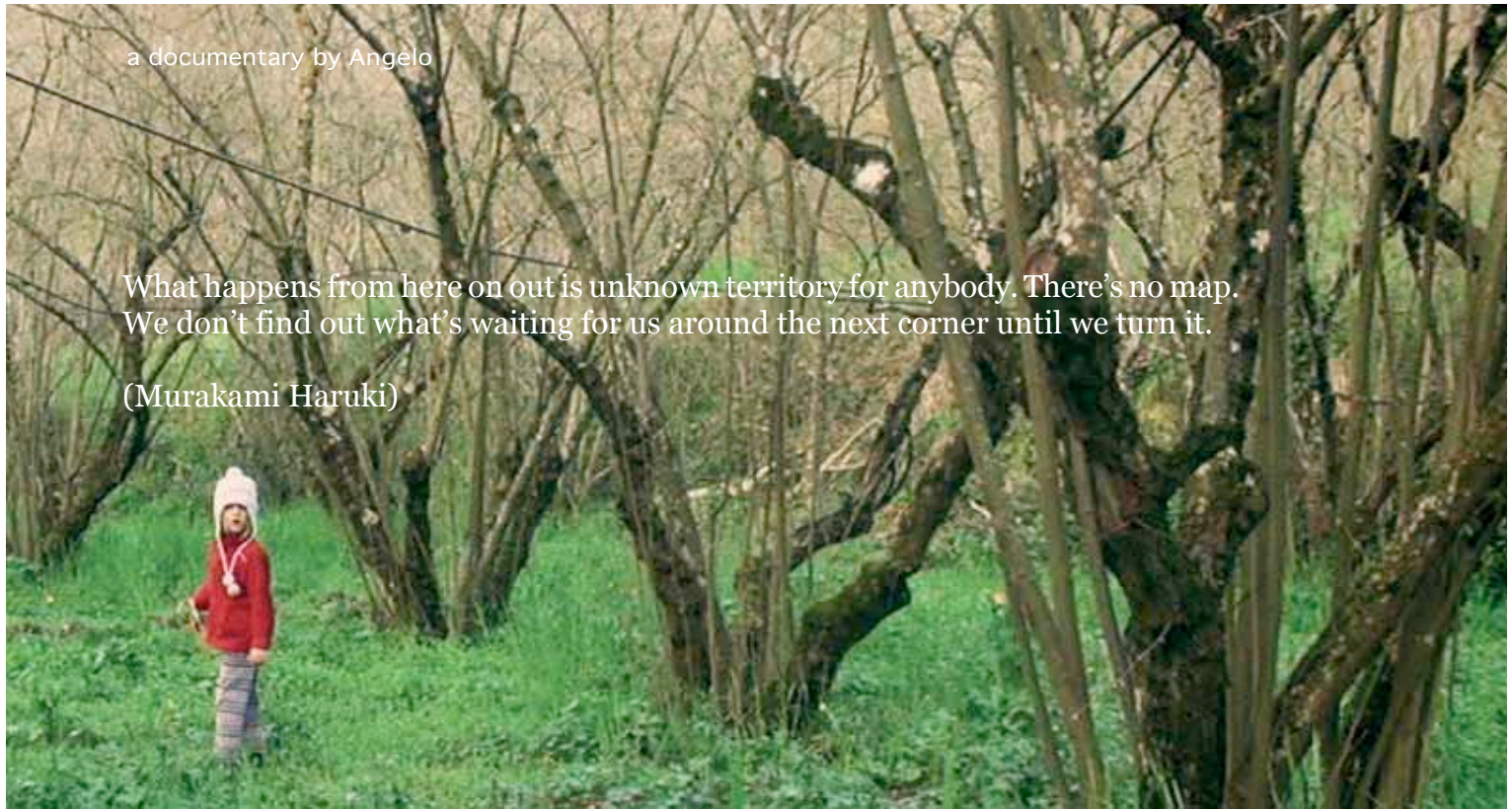
In 2014 she began co-organizing the Documentary Film Festival "Visioni Fuori Raccordo" in Rome.

She currently works as free-lance with several documentary production companies, mainly as a fundraiser and a producer.

a documentary by Angelo

What happens from here on out is unknown territory for anybody. There's no map. We don't find out what's waiting for us around the next corner until we turn it.

(Murakami Haruki)



Angelo Marotta

Biofilmography

He was born in Reggio Calabria in 1967. In 1989 he began working with MedMedia Produzioni Televisive as an assistant cameraman first and then as a cameraman. He was also involved in the research and documentation work of ArchiMed, Med-Media visual anthropology Archive, until 1995.

In 1995 he moved to Rome where he began working for Natural History documentaries with Paneikon, a leading production company in Italy. He traveled to many countries and was involved in the filming of many wild life documentaries for international distribution.

In 2002 his interest together with his professional profile widened up to include social and anthropological issues and he began working at his own projects as a film maker and a director.

Road Television

A short description

Since its creation in 1995, Road Television engaged in the production of documentaries, docu-fictions and news reports in any kind of context, its focus and strength being in the domains of history and society, both directly and for third parties. Over 15 years of work in television Road Television managed to establish a long-lasting cooperation with its clients, among which are Rai 1, Rai 2, Rai 3, Rai Educational, La 7, Sky and Mediaset.

AISHA ANTOINE ARIANNA ASCANIO LAURA LUCA MANUEL RITA VITTORIA

this **SMALL**



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