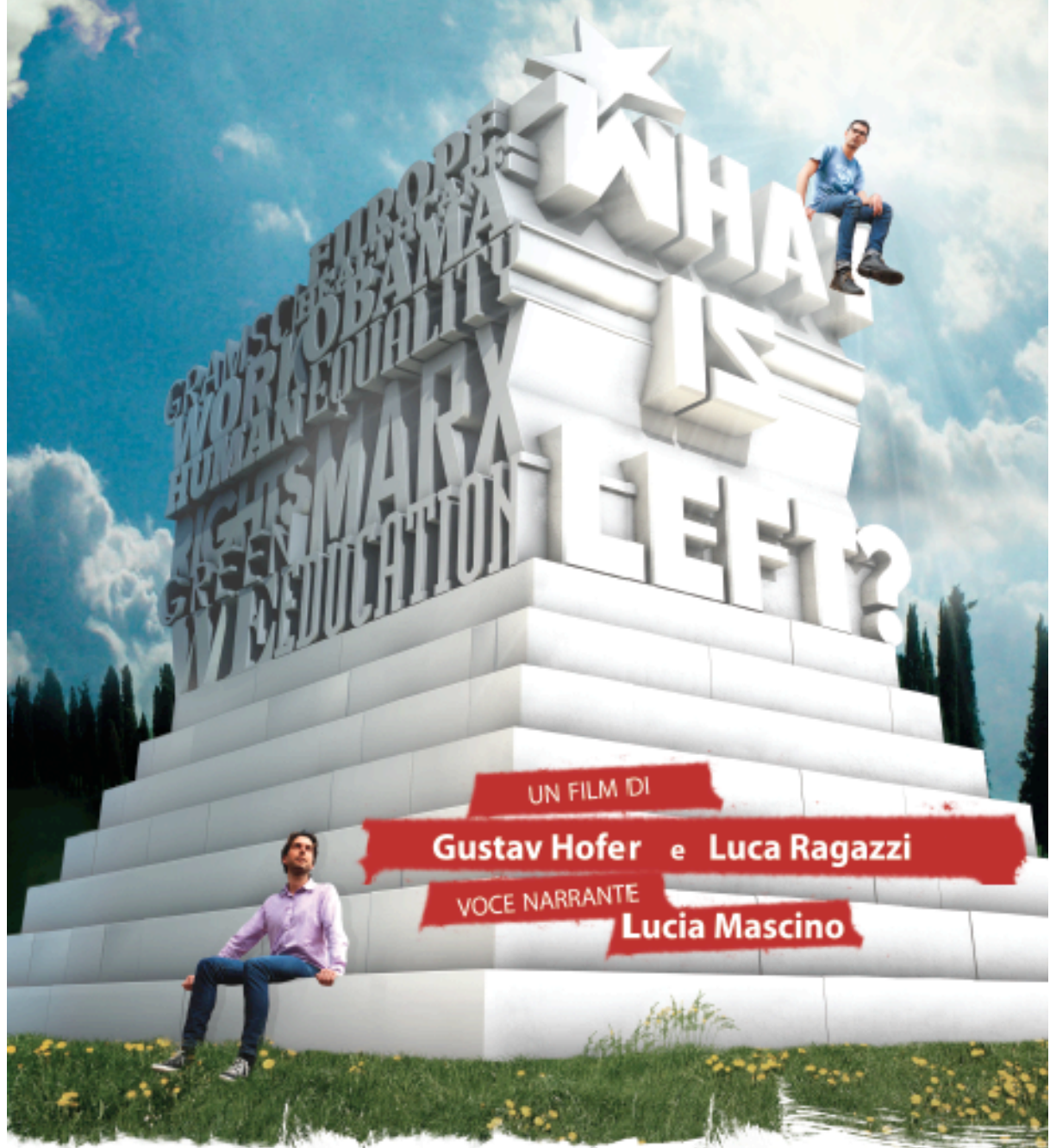


OFFICIAL SELECTION
hotdocs
2014



UN FILM DI

Gustav Hofer e Luca Ragazzi

VOCE NARRANTE

Lucia Mascino

HIQ PRODUCTIONS PRESENTA WHAT IS LEFT ? CON IL SOSTEGNO DI BLS SÜDTIROL ALTO ADIGE, RAI 3 E PROGRAMMA MEDIA UE
FOTOGRAFIA JAKOB STARK, MONTAGGIO DESIDERIA RAYNER, MUSICHE ORIGINALI SANTI PULVIRENTI,
MONTAGGIO SUONO MARTIN NIEDERMAIR, ANIMAZIONI E GRAFICA ZAELIA BISHOP, ANDREA CERINI,
FERNANDA VERON PRODUZIONE ESECUTIVA VANIA DEL BORGO, SCRITTO E DIRETTO DA GUSTAV HOFER & LUCA RAGAZZI

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Südtirol - Alto Adige

www.whatisleft.it

Rai 3

MEDIA
EUROPEAN UNION
CULTURE MEDIA PROGRAM

HIQ PRODUCTIONS
presents

WHAT IS LEFT ?

Adventures in Italian politics

a film directed by
GUSTAV HOFER & LUCA RAGAZZI

narration by
LUCIA MASCINO

with
FABRIZIO BARCA
CELESTE COSTANTINO
ALESSANDRO DI BATTISTA
DARIO FRANCESCHINI
ENZO LATTUCA
TOMASO MONTANARI
STEFANO RODOTÀ

produced by
HIQ Productions

with the support of
BLS – BUSINESS LOCATION SÜDTIROL ALTO ADIGE
RAI3
MEDIA PROGRAMME OF THE EU

ITALY 2014, col., DCP, 74 min

International première
Hotdocs 2014

worldsales

Films Transit International Inc

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SYNOPSIS

What happens when a country loses its political identity? Is the concept of “left” and “right” a thing of the past?

Filmmakers Luca Ragazzi and Gustav Hofer, frustrated in their hope for a shift to a more equal and progressive Italy, decide to find out why theirs is such a persistently right-wing country – and what it still means to be on the Left today.

As they set off on their quest they also look back to what Italy used to be, through their own family history. Luca grew up in a communist family when Italy had the strongest communist party in Europe, while Gustav grew up in the conservative mountain area of South Tyrol, far away from any leftish ideals, until the Green Party was born.

They lead the audience through the most significant moments of recent Italian politics, following the election campaign of two young MPs, participating in a surreal TV quiz show, talking to intellectuals and visiting local party branches.

In their own personal style, the two directors, makers of two previous successful films (Suddenly, Last Winter & Italy Love it or Leave it) try to make sense of Italian politics and society in an ironic and entertaining way, and, beyond Italy, to find out, “What *is* Left?” in the 21st century.

THE DIRECTORS

Gustav Hofer was born in Sarnthein (South Tyrol, Italy). After his studies in Communication Science at the University of Vienna and Cinema at Middlesex University in London, he moved to Rome. He works as a freelance journalist and independent filmmaker. He works for the French-German broadcaster Arte as correspondent from Italy.

Luca Ragazzi was born in Rome and graduated in Literature and Philosophy at Rome’s University La Sapienza. He works as a journalist, film critic, photographer and independent filmmaker.

THE PRODUCTION COMPANY

hiq productions is a independent production company based in Rome, established in 2000 by its owner Gustav Hofer. Initially it specialized in producing factual programmes but in 2007 it produced its first feature documentary, ***Suddenly Last Winter***, which chronicles the reaction against a civil partnership law proposed by Romano Prodi's short-lived centre-left government. Directed by Gustav Hofer and Luca Ragazzi, it was presented in the Panorama section of the **58° Berlin International Film Festival** winning a *Special Jury Mention*.

Suddenly Last Winter has travelled to over 200 international festivals, including Hot Docs, Rio IFF, Zürich IFF, Warsaw IFF, Palm Springs IFF, Sydney IFF, DOCNZ New Zealand, Santiago de Chile IFF, Mar de Plata IFF, Movies That Matter, Montréal RIDM, Sheffield DocFest, Guangzhou Documentary Film Festival, winning over 20 international prizes and Italy's ***Nastro d'Argento*** for best documentary in 2009.

It was broadcast by ARTE in Germany and France, Yle in Finland, SVT in Sweden, YES in Israel, EBS in South Korea and the Sundance Channel in the US and was shown in theatres in Italy and Thailand while the DVD was released in the UK, Spain, Portugal, Poland and Italy.

The company's second feature documentary, ***Italy Love It or Leave It***, directed by Luca Ragazzi and Gustav Hofer, was co-produced by NDR-ARTE, WDR in association with RAI 3 and YesDocu with the support of the MEDIA Programme of the European Union.

It premiered at the Milan Film Festival in 2011, sweeping the Audience and Best Feature Film awards and has travelled to nearly 100 international festivals so far, including Seattle IFF, SXSW, Hot Docs, Melbourne IFF, Singapore IFF, Sheffield Docfest, Munich Dok, Leipzig Dok, Tromsø IFF, Göteborg IFF, winning over 10 awards, including the Audience prize in Thessaloniki and Mexico City.

The film was distributed theatrically in Germany, the Netherlands, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Italy and on TV in Italy, Germany, France, Greece, Denmark, Israel, Poland, Finland....

CONTACTS

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WHAT IS LEFT?

Final song

composed by: Santi Pulvirenti

lyrics by: Gustav Hofer, Luca Ragazzi, Jay Weissberg and Frank Dabell

When the Left is right,
And the Right is wrong,
Join us as we sing this song...

Wanna be in sync?
Then your color's **PINK**
our pride is something you can't fake.

Help us take a stand,
Join our merry band,
Give the cause a helping hand

LGBTQ
We're a joyful crew,
Don't forget the wedding cake

Raise our banner,
Help us plan a
future we can see!

Liberté,
Égalité,
Fraternité... DIVERSITÉ!

Rainbow stripes
Each have their meaning:
simple, bold and free.

Imams, Rabbis,
Nuns and Popes:
Stand for everybody's hopes!

Ecology is clean,
So let's start with **GREEN**
Our planet's in a sorry state.

RED's for good solutions,
Peaceful revolutions,
Sing it with a single voice.

Fossil fuels destroy
What you and I enjoy,
The Earth is crying "Save our fate!"

Racists go to hell !
Dictators go as well !
It's the time for them to fall.

Global warming,
GMOs,
Carbon levels, Arctic flows,

Social justice,
Education,
Workers' rights and compensation !

Water's lacking!
No more fracking!
Data tracking woes.

Integration,
Immigration,
Borders overcome.

YELLOW stands for.... WHAT?