



*'Lively, sincere and with transparency into the film making process,
Suddenly Last Winter is a novel treatment of a tale of extreme prejudice'*
Sheffield Doc/Fest

*"Even though subject and outcome are potentially very depressing, helmers'
engaging personalities and indomitable sense of humor lighten the mood"*
Variety

SUDDENLY, LAST WINTER

They live in Italy, they are in love and they fight for their rights...



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SUDDENLY, LAST WINTER

Improvvisamente l'inverno scorso

by Gustav Hofer and Luca Ragazzi

Awards

SPECIAL MENTION PANORAMA Jury- Manfred Salzgeber Award – 58 Berlinale
Nomination for the Teddy Award 2008
Nastro d'argento miglior documentario 2009
Best Documentary – IDEMFESTIVAL CORDOBA
Best Documentary – TLVFEST Tel Aviv
Best Documentary – Bozner Filmtage
Jury Award – EIDF2008, EBS International Documentary Film Festival, Seoul
Best Documentary -
Llamale, Uruguay International Film Festival
Special Mention – MixMilan Festival
audience award - Diversa Buenos Aires
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Quotes

“Suddenly Last Winter - An endearingly budget documentary about the fight for gay civil partnerships in Italy, directed by and starring Luca and Gustav, the most charming gay couple you could ever hope to meet.” Telegraph, UK

“Even though subject and outcome are potentially very depressing, helmers' engaging personalities and indomitable sense of humor lighten the mood” Variety

Synopsis (short)

Suddenly Last Winter is the story of Gustav and Luca. Their life changes when the Italian government presents a draft law that would give rights to unmarried and gay couples, prompting a wave of homophobia in Italy. The Vatican and conservatives fight against it, preaching that the end of morality and the family are nigh if the legalisation on civil unions is not blocked. Together for over eight years, Luca and Gustav want to understand the different positions and undertake a journey into a country they did not know before and did not expect to find: their own.

Synopsis

Luca and Gustav, two men in their 30s, have been a stable couple for eight years now. No significant news in a western European country, one would assume. One would, and wrong too.

As a matter of fact, they live in Italy and it turns out there are still places out there in Euroland where the acknowledgment of Luca and Gustav's basic civil rights as a couple are an issue, and big news in fact.

"Suddenly, Last Winter", their quiet private life has been turned upside down. The Italian centerleft coalition in power as of March 2006, tackled the legislation concerning the rights of civil unions, including same-sex partnerships. The announcement of such plan immediately triggered a national debate. In a matter of days a spat turned into the hottest political and cultural issue on the national agenda at every level, including all media, civil society and political parties of all colours.

In this context, the violence of unequivally intolerant homophobic attacks, launched daily from the pulpits and national TV talk shows, reached tones so dramatic even the less naïve among analysts and gay rights activists found worrisome.

Gustav convinced Luca to look more in depth into all this, camera in hand. It's here their common journey through a sizeable portion of contemporary Italy's sexual intolerance begins. The film is about what they have learned on the way, through interviews with passers-by, religious associations, conservative and liberal politicians alike, organized protests and rallies of all kinds.

The film's ironic approach reads through the verbose institutional impasse, the gratuitous criticism and the plain dumb arguments with increasing uneasiness. And eventually, frame after frame, the contradictory and unflattering picture of a country comes into focus. One where Luca and Gustav happen to live, somewhere in Europe.

Production notes

When the Italian government of Prime Minister Romano Prodi was defeated in February 2007 in the upper chamber on a vote officially concerned with the renewal of the budget for the Italian mission in Afghanistan, it became clear that the real reason for this debacle was a missing vote of honorary Senator Giulio Andreotti. That is one of the most influential and closest ally to the Vatican in Parliament. He would then confess on the following day that he could not sustain a government that tries to pass a law for gay and lesbian couples.

I (Gustav) was sitting on a ski lift when I heard about that news and that very moment I decided that something had to be done and that the best way about it would be to make a film. It was very clear from the beginning that the story had to be told from a private point of you. So I convinced my boyfriend Luca to start making a film about us and about how we are affected by what was going

on.

So we started to leave our protected private world, armed with our little hdv camera, following the debate in the Senate, week by week and hopping from one demonstration for or against a law for civil unions to the other.

The film does only exist because a few people believed in it from the beginning giving us their professional support. With our editor Desideria Rayner (editor of the successful documentary "L'Orchestra di Piazza Vittorio") we started to watch the 30 hours of footage and with her we started to build the story.

Silvia Moraes, sound editor of films like "Life is Beautiful", "Le Conseguenze dell'amore", "Romanzo Criminale" saw the film and she decided to help us in the sound editing. Maria Teresa Tringali helped us from a production point of view and actress Jacqueline Lustig helped us out financially. It's also thanks to these great girls that this film exists.

Biography

Gustav Hofer, born in 09.05.1976 in Sarnthein (South Tyrol, Italy). After his studies in Communication Science at the University of Vienna and Cinema at the Middlesex University in London, he moved to Rome. He works as a free-lance journalist and independent filmmaker. For the French-German television „Arte” he presents the daily culture program "Journal de la Culture – Arte Kultur" and for the same program he works as the culture correspondent from Italy.

Filmography

- Men for all Seasons, 2005 (50', for Doctors without Borders)
- Bush Back Home, 2004 (26')
- Il sangue dell'Impero, 2004 (52', for Rai TV, Co-directed with Giovanni Sparo)
- Korea Prioritaria, 2002, (45'), (special mention at the Genova Film Festival)

Luca Ragazzi, born in 20.02.1971 in Rome, graduated in Literature and Philosophy at the University La Sapienza of Rome. Journalist, film critic and photographer.

„Suddenly, Last Winter“ is his first Film as a Director.



Credits / Technical Info

Length: 80' (Italy, 2008)
Directed and written by: Gustav Hofer and Luca Ragazzi
photography: Gustav Hofer and Luca Ragazzi
editing: Desideria Rayner
sound editing: Silvia Moraes
produced by: hiq productions
executive producer: Maria Teresa Tringali and Tommaso Colognese
associate producer: Jacqueline Lustig
technical support: Scarfilm

narrator: Frank Dabell (International version)
Veronica Pivetti (Italian version)

Foreign titles

Original title: Improvisamente l'inverno scorso
English title: Suddenly, Last Winter
Deutscher Titel: Plötzlich letzten Winter
Titre français: Soudain l'hiver dernier