

MITUMBA

THE SECOND-HAND ROAD

a film by Raffaele Brunetti

This is the story of a T-shirt...
about how it travelled from the north to
the south of the world. It's the inside-out
story of a piece of used clothing's 1st
and 2nd life...
and everything that happens in between.



PRODUCTION DETAILS

Duration	52min
Format	16:9 Digibeta
Authors	Raffaele Brunetti, Ilaria de Laurentiis
Filming locations	Germany - Italy - Tanzania
Producers	B&BFILM in co-prod. with filmtank hamburg
Co-producers	NDR - Arte - YLE
Pre-sales	Planet Italia - LTV
With the contribution of	EU Media+ programme
Delivery	March 2005
Original languages:	German - Italian - English - Swahili
Language versions:	English - Italian - German



Awards

Globo d'oro 2005 for best documentary

Cinema del Reale - Award Cinema del Reale (Italy, 2006)

Torino Cinema Ambiente - Award Legambiente (Italy, Turin 2006)

Castelli Film Festival (Italy, Rome, November 2006)

Winner of the Napoli Film festival (Italy, Naples, June 2007)

Best Documentary at Miti Riflessi (Italy, Catania, June 2007)

Festivals

Selected by Arte for Prix d'Europe 2005

Nanook Film Festival (Palermo, Nov. 2005)

Circuito Off - Venice International Short Film Festival (Venice, Nov. 2005);

Human Rights Film Festival (Paris, March 2006)

16th African, Asian and Latin American Film Festival (Milan, March 2005)

Flahertiana festival (Perm, Russia May 2006)

David di Donatello (Italy, April 2006)

Arcipelago (Italy, June 2006)

EcoVision Festival (Italy, June 2007)

Tricontinental Film Festival (India 2007)

Planet in Focus International Film Festival (Canada 2007)

Jules Verne Aventures Film Festival (USA 2007)

Traveling World Community Film Festival (Canada 2007)

41° Parallelo New York (USA 2007)

Ambientfestival (Italy, April 2008)



SYNOPSIS

The story of a T-shirt...

about how it travelled from the north to the south of the world.

It's the inside-out story of a piece of clothing's first and second life and everything that happens in between. The tale is told by the people involved in the second-hand clothes trade and by the thoughts of a traveller. He starts out from Hamburg, shadowing a T-shirt that belonged to Felix, a 10 year-old football fan. Four months later he arrives in Tanzania, at the village of Ilambilole. Along the way he encounters an incredible number of people who had something to do with the T-shirt and whose livelihoods revolve around the buying and selling of second-hand clothes and shoes: wholesalers, retailers, transporters, sorters...until it reached 9 year-old Lucky, another football fan with a passion for T-shirts that have a number on the back. Gradually personal stories and unusual places create the patchwork of "the second-hand road", a charitable-commercial journey with a strong impact on the people involved.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Introduction

My wife had just returned from a trip to Burundi. She was showing me the photographs she'd taken when one of them in particular caught my eye.

It showed an African child standing in front of the remains of houses destroyed during the ethnic violence. He was wearing a T-shirt with the words "Olgiata Riding Club" written on it. Olgiata is a wealthy and exclusive suburb of Rome. I was intrigued by the contrast of the child and his surroundings, and the T-shirt he was wearing. How on earth did it get from here to there?

My curiosity grew when I decided to investigate further. The T-shirt hadn't been donated to the child by any charity organization: he had bought it at the local market. Second-hand clothing has become the main import in some African countries where it's responsible for dressing 90% of the population. Around the world, most of us tend to wear the same kinds of clothes. We buy ours new while in Africa they buy them second-hand: what they call "dead men's clothing" - because no one would think of throwing away something you can still use. Unless the person it belonged to was dead.



The story

The more I looked into the issue, the more complicated it became. I discovered that the second-hand clothing we deposit in collection bins belonging to Caritas, the Red Cross, or other charity organizations, is picked up by private businessmen with no charitable connections at all. That's when I decided to choose a T-shirt and to follow it, step by step, between its two lives: in Europe and in Africa. I started out from Maschen, just outside Hamburg, shadowing a T-shirt that belonged to Felix, a 10 year-old football fan. Four months later I arrived in Tanzania, at the village of Ilambilole. Along the way I encountered an incredible number of people who had something to do with the T-shirt and whose livelihoods revolve around the buying and selling of second-hand clothes and shoes: wholesalers, retailers, transporters, sorters...until it reached 9 year-old Lucky, another football fan with a passion for T-shirts that have a number on the back.

During my journey I visited huge industrial structures for the sorting and packaging of used clothes, I interviewed Red Cross officials and went to Naples to see the world's oldest second-hand clothing market. Here I met the traders whose business is buying used clothes in northern Europe and selling them in the third world. I travelled to Africa by ship alongside a container filled with clothing parcels. I watched the wealthy classes of Dar es Salaam buying their much sought-after used clothes and I attended lessons in micro-economics teaching poor women how to sell them.

I kept asking myself if all this was right or wrong. Shouldn't we just let Africans develop their own textile industries and produce their own clothes? What would happen if we had to get rid of our used clothes by ourselves? Then I saw how quickly Africa is changing, how Chinese merchants are trying to infiltrate local African markets with low-cost new clothes. If and when they succeed, we'll have no choice: living white will have to dispose of dead white men's clothes on their own. Meanwhile, I've decided to keep putting my used clothes in the collection bin, more curious than ever about where they'll end up and about who will end up wearing them.

PRODUCTION STRATEGY

MITUMBA was selected for the 2002 Filmstiftung NRW and for the Eurodoc programme.

The documentary is co-produced by B&B Film and Filmtank hamburg with NDR Arte and YLE Teema.

Pre-sales agreements have been signed with Planet and LTV.

The project received the EU Media+ funding for TV Broadcasting and it has been produced in the following languages: Italian, English, German, French, Finnish, Swedish, Latvian.



THE FILMAKERS

Raffaele Brunetti (author and director)

Raffaele Brunetti is a documentary director and producer. He has been producing and directing documentaries since 1987. His most recent work has involved producing and directing creative and historical documentaries in co-production with European and US broadcasters. He received the Award for Creative Excellence at the 2002 U.S. International Film and Video Festival. His film *Mitumba* produced with NDR Arte and YLE received several awards. His last film "Che Guevara the Body and the Legend" was co-produced with 11 broadcasters and has had very good ratings in all the countries it has so far been broadcast.

He is a member of the Foreign Press Association in Italy, EDN (European Documentary Network), and Doc/it (Organization of Italian Documentary Makers) where he has been a member of the board of directors since 2005. Furthermore he is the director of the Italian Doc Screenings.

Ilaria de Laurentiis (author and editor)

Ilaria De Laurentiis graduated from the Italian National School of Cinema (CSC) with a degree in editing in 1987. She has worked with internationally acclaimed Italian directors like Roberto Benigni, Marco Bellocchio, Marco Risi, Pupi Avati, Carlo Verdone, Mario Martone and G.Montaldo. Her editing credits include documentaries broadcast by RAI, TF1, National Geographic, NHK, Tele+, and Planet. She has been creative director for movie trailers and back-stage productions since 1990.

THE PRODUCTION COMPANY

B&B Film

B&B Film is a dynamic and fast-growing Italian production company based in Rome, Italy. It develops and produces documentaries and documentary series for international television through co-production and broadcast agreements. The company is committed to identifying top quality projects (nature, adventure, creativity) and to working with prestigious European partners (Arte, Yle, NDR, ZDF) and international broadcasters (National Geographic).

Since 1988 B&B has produced documentaries and entertainment programs for major foreign broadcasters such as the BBC, NHK, The History Channel, Canal+, Arte, Planete and National Geographic Channels International. B&B Film's documentaries have been aired in more than 140 countries and have received such prizes as the 2005 "Globo d'Oro" award, given by the Foreign Press Association in Italy to the best Italian documentary and the Award for Creative Excellence at the 2002 US Film & Video Festival. Recent productions include *War Secrets*, *Italy's Forgotten Invasion* for National Geographic Channels International, the *Mare Nostrum* series for Planete, *MITUMBA*, *The Second Hand Road* and "Che Guevara, the Body and the Legend".



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