

Miyu Productions & Withstand Film
present

Il burattino e la balena




MOSTRA INTERNAZIONALE
D'ARTE CINEMATOGRAFICA
LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA 2024
Official Selection

A film by Roberto Catani



The story of a puppet who
doesn't become a child.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The film is composed of drawings on white paper made with the traditional animated drawing technique. Each drawing is made with Oilbar, chalk, pastel, and drypoint.

Fundamentally different from crayons or pencils, Oilbars are oil sticks made for painting and drawing directly on paper.



**WATCH
THE TRAILER**

Roberto Catani (March 12, 1965)

Roberto Catani graduated in 1986 with a specialization in Animated Drawing from the prestigious State Institute of Art «Scuola del Libro» in Urbino. Since the academic year 1988/89, he has been imparting his expertise as a laboratory instructor in «Art of Animated Drawing» at the same institution.

Catani has collaborated with the renowned magazine *The Stranger*, under the direction of Goffredo Fofi, and has created illustrations for esteemed publishers such as FATATRAC and ZOOLibri. His animated films, *La Sagra* (1998) and *La Funambola* (2002), have garnered significant acclaim, earning awards at major national and international animation festivals, including those in Espinho, New York, Zagreb, Annecy (2000), and Hiroshima (2002). His work was also recognized with the prestigious «Nastro d'Argento» in 2003 and a nomination for the Cartoon d'Or in 2002.

Throughout his career, Catani has actively participated in several significant events, such as «100 Years of Animation Cinema» in Pesaro, «Art and Animation» at the Museum of Modern Art in Turin, international meetings on animation in France, «Open Roads: New Italian Cinema» at Lincoln Center in New York, and «ARTECINEMA: Films on Contemporary Art» in Naples.

His later work, *The Head in the Clouds* (2013), continued his streak of success, being selected for major international festivals. It won the Grand Jury Prize at ANIMATEKA in Ljubljana and received a Special Jury Mention at Annecy.

His latest animation, *Per tutta la vita* (2018), a MIYU & Withstand production, was selected for over 100 international festivals following its premiere at DOK Leipzig.





Miyu Productions

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Founded in May 2009 by Emmanuel-Alain Raynal and joined in 2015 by Pierre Baussaron, Miyu Productions is an audiovisual and film production company specializing in animation, producing short films, audiovisual works, and feature films.

Over the years, Miyu Productions has built the image of a demanding animation studio through its artistic direction and commitment, particularly through its production of animated short films. Several films from its catalog have been recognized and awarded at the most prestigious festivals, including **27** by Flora Anna Buda, winner of the Palme d'Or and the Cristal for Best Short Film at the Cannes and Annecy festivals in 2023, and the feature film ***Chicken for Linda!*** by Chiara Malta and Sébastien Laudenbach, winner of the Cristal for Best Feature at Annecy in 2023 and the César for Best Animated Film in 2024.

The company is currently developing a portfolio of about ten feature films, twenty short films, and several series and standalone audiovisual works. It has three production studios in France, located in Paris, Valence, and Angoulême, and a recently opened studio in Brussels, Belgium.

The company was awarded the Trophée de l'animation du Film Français in 2019 and received the Procirep Prize for French Animation Producer in 2022.

In 2023, Emmanuel-Alain Raynal and Pierre Baussaron were named «Personalities of the Year» by Écran Total.

Withstand Film

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Withstand is an independent production company founded in Milan in 2012 by Davide Ferazza. Specializing in the production and distribution of traditional animation, documentaries, advertisements, music videos, and short films, Withstand has created campaigns for dozens of prestigious brands, including Kawasaki, Greenpeace, Ferrero, Invicta, IKEA, BMW, Valentino, Fendi, Diesel, Sony, and Ruffino. Over the last few years, thanks to the constant collaboration with the best talents in Italian animation, the company has participated in projects awarded all over the world such as *The Wait Of May* by Simone Massi, *Haircut* by Virginia Mori, *OSSA* by Dario Imbrogno, *Per tutta la vita* by Roberto Catani, *Sogni al Campo* (Orizzonti, Venezia 77) by Mara Cerri and Magda Guidi and *Creatura* by Giada Bossi.

In 2014 Withstand published *Vento*, a book by Virgilio Villoresi and Virginia Mori, which has received great critical and commercial success worldwide (the volume has been sold out since 2016) and is going to publish *Dismantel* by Elena Petitti di Roreto.

Numero Zero. The roots of the Italian rap (2015) by Enrico Bisi, produced and distributed by Withstand, was met with great success, with dozens of sold-out screenings. Released on DVD with Feltrinelli before being broadcast on Sky Italia, it became the first Italian documentary to be purchased by Netflix.

In 2021, Withstand won Best Film at the 17th edition of Biografilm Italia with the documentary *Game of the Year* by Alessandro Redaelli (Italy, 2021, 98').

Since 2013, Withstand's productions have been featured in over 420 international film festivals, garnering more than 47 awards and mentions.



Credits

Director, screenplay
Roberto Catani

Miyu Productions
Emmanuel-Alain Raynal
Pierre Baussaron

Withstand Film
Davide Ferraza
Alessandro Giorgio

With the participation of
ARTE France

With the participation of
CNC - Fonds de soutien audiovisuel

With the participation of
Regione Marche - Assessorato alla Cultura
Marche Film Commission - Fondazione
Marche Cultura

Miyu Distribution
Luce Grosjean

Music and sound
Enrico Ascoli

Background Colorist
Viola Mancini

Editing
Roberto Catani & Mariangela Malvaso

Sound Mix
Matteo Milani

Postproduction
Mariangela Malvaso