

# CIZIO

"Nothing is Predictable"

A Film By Gerardo Silano



“If your motives are pure  
then I truly believe that to tell a  
story is to heal and you must  
always, always tell your story”

Sir Ben Kingsley



# Cizio



CIZIO is inspired by true events

Set in the rustic village of Alberobello, Italy; Cizio, a nine-year old boy, a natural at playing the accordion, has one passion; to be Batman. His best friends orphan Alfonso and Mariella with Down Syndrome and non verbal, relish their part they play in his dream.

The village becomes a daily captive audience for this mini "Caped Crusader". However his father Ferdinando, who should be his biggest fan, is consumed by jealousy. His mother is too weak so it's up to Cizio's grandmother to stand up to this vengeful man.

Cizio is a star when playing to his audience but when the curtain comes down all the residents become complicit to the rumours to what is happening at home. The story comes to a head when the festival comes to town. The locals encourage Cizio to take centre stage for their own enjoyment unaware of the chain of events that they have started.

The more attention Cizio gains, the more Ferdinando feels lack which leads to unthinkable consequences. It is through close friendships and a resilience that is beyond inspiring that this young soul manages to never let go of his dreams.

# Writer Gerardo Silano

When my mother told me this story, I was moved and horrified that a father could not only physically abuse his flesh and blood but was mentally able to rationalise his despicable actions.

Soon after I was compelled to write the story. I was suffering with chronic fatigue and spent almost a year in bed and while my body wasn't working my mind was in overdrive.

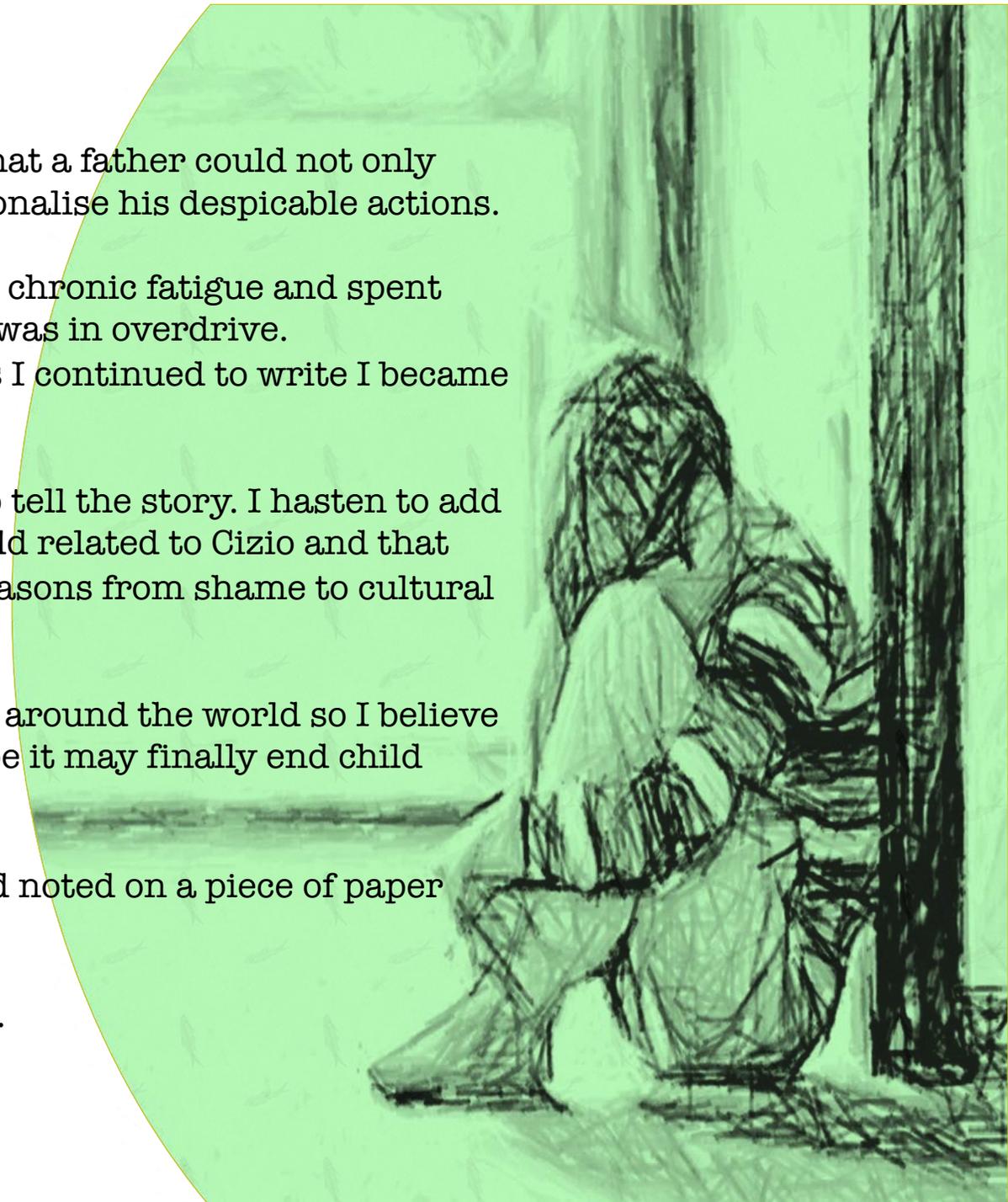
As I put pen to paper, I couldn't shake the feeling of familiarity. As I continued to write I became the memories of my own abuse which I had buried deep.

I understood through my own therapy the reason that I needed to tell the story. I hasten to add that this story is not about me but I understood why my inner child related to Cizio and that many stories have been swept under the carpet for a myriad of reasons from shame to cultural settings.

1 in 5 children are abused in the U.K. Imagine how many of them around the world so I believe a project of this nature should hit the cinema screens where I hope it may finally end child abuse and “Enlighten the known to the unknown”

On May the 8th of 2018 at 3am I woke up went into my lounge and noted on a piece of paper “I have finally shed my skin” A new me presented itself.

Cizio has become in a rather peculiar manner; My recovery Story.



## Director / Producer - Gerardo Silano

Gerardo of Italian parentage, studied and speaks the language too; originally trained as an actor at Mountview Theatre Conservatoire in London and starred in the feature movie Amy Foster with Rachel Wiesz and Vincent Perez directed by Beeban Kidron.

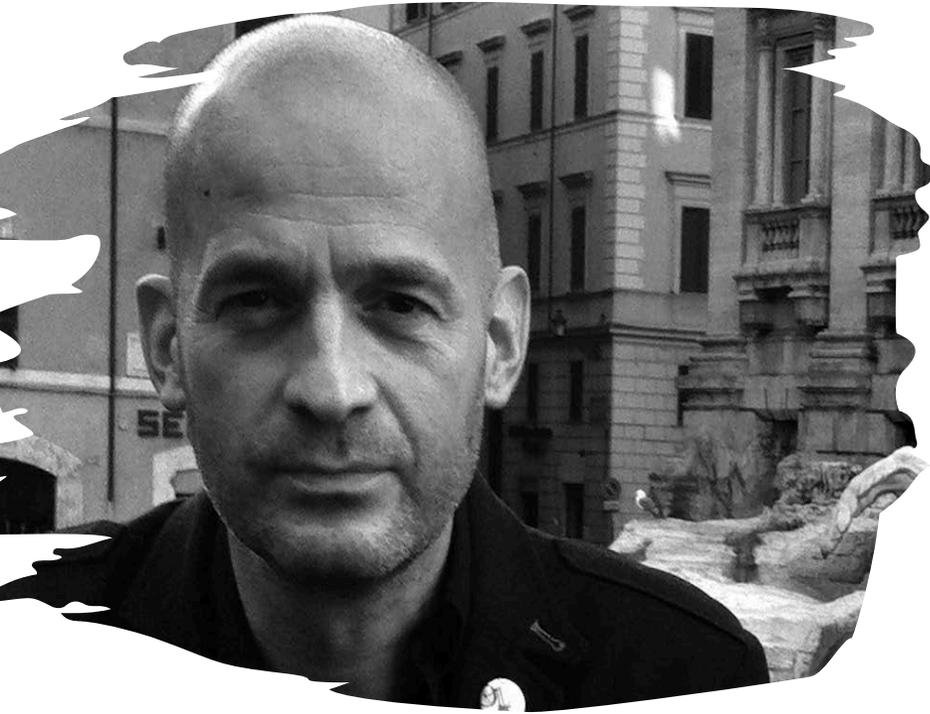
He also worked in the operatic theatres English National Opera and the Royal Opera House with Director Francesca Zambello and Sir Jonathan Miller and played the protagonist at the English theatre of Hamburg in the play Birthday Suit.

After being featured as a photographer for The Lonely Planet, Gerardo found his passion lay in directing so he studied directing at Raindance.

Gerardo's last project took him to Kenya where he directed and produced a documentary in collaboration with the charity Tarantula Rubra where the children of the Apulia region would learn the cultures and traditions of Kenyan orphans and vice versa. A story of solidarity and understanding.

Gerardo is excited to embarking on his scripted feature film.

Member of the British Academy of Film & Television Arts "BAFTA"



# D.O.P Kit Fraser

Kit Fraser began his career working with some of the world's most revered cinematographers, such as Oscar winning Slavomir Idziak, Andrew Dunn, BSC and Henry Braham, BSC.

After graduating Westminster Film School in 2005 he became the youngest DOP to be signed on Arri Crew's roster and was featured as a "Rising Star" by Kodak and noted as "Ones to Watch" by the British Society of Cinematographers.

Kit began his career by shooting *Dubplate Drama*, a 12 episode drama for Channel 4, He was 2nd Unit on the feature film *Love Me Still* (starring Andrew Howard, Geoff Bell and Alex Reid) and Additional Photography for *The Heavy* starring Christopher Reeves. He was also on the 2nd Unit for award-winning drama *Spooks* (series 9) along with many music videos and commercials.

Kit has also been lighting for 15 years, working predominantly in advertising for the first 10 years, shooting for *Gucci*, *Christian Dior* and *Lancome*, to name a few.

During this time he continued to shoot drama and short films which have picked up many awards and nominations including a BAFTA Nomination for Best Short, *Two & Two* and his work on the short film *Boxer on the Wilderness* was nominated for "Best Cinematography" at the British Independent Film Festival.

In 2015 he shot the critically acclaimed feature film, *Under the Shadow*, which premiered at Sundance in 2016 and went on to win numerous festivals around the world as well as a BAFTA for Outstanding British Debut.

In 2017 he was announced as one of BAFTA's "Breakthrough Brits".

Most recently Kit has shot the feature film *Possum* (35mm) which won Best Cinematography at Brooklyn Film Festival, *Farming* which won Best Film at Edinburgh Festival, *Wounds* for Netflix, *Eternal Beauty* (35mm), *Shadow in the Cloud* (to be released in 2021)

Kit has just completed filming on *The Fantastic Flitcrofts* (35mm) starring Mark Rylance and Sally Hawkins.

He is represented by Independent Talent in the EU and ICM in the USA.



## Co-Producer - Henry Hereford

Henry trained an actor and has starred in features such as "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" and television shows Crossbones starring John Malkovich and Claire Foy and HBO's True Blood.

He began his producing career while working as an actor for Nadia Jordan and her production company, Fluffy Cat productions. He was inspired by her strong motivation to create your own work and he was part of the award-winning team as both an actor and producer on the feature film "FOR THE LOVE OF GEORGE" starring Rosanna Arquette, Tate Donovan, Rex Lee and Kristen Johnston. The film won several awards including Best Female Filmmaker and Audience Choice Award at the Chicago Comedy Film Festival.

Shortly after Henry became a co-producer on TO LESLIE, a feature inspired by true events.

*"A West Texas single mother wins the lottery and squanders it just as fast, leaving behind a world of heartbreak. Years later, with her charm running out and nowhere to go, she fights to rebuild her life and find redemption"*

They wrapped filming in Los Angeles on 23.12.20. The film stars Andrea Riseborough in the title role and co-starring Academy award winner Alison Janney, Stephen Root and Marc Maron with Michael Morris directing.

Henry is currently in pre-production with Fluffy Cat on their next feature film; WELL BEHAVED WOMEN.

*"A working class mother of four is turned into a local sensation when she lands her own hit radio talk show after a traffic stop altercation"*

Henry will be working alongside Jordan and producer Cathleen Sutherland

Fluffy Cat are also in development with the exciting SHE'S STILL GOT GAME.

*"Based on a true story, a broke 55-year-old suburban wife and mom becomes an unlikely hustler when she dusts off her old cue stick and joins a team of tattooed young guys to compete in a high stakes pool tournament in Las Vegas"*

Henry is also in development for genre feature "A Rush of Blood" working alongside producers Daniel Fazio and award winning development producer Sheryl Crown.



## Executive Producer/Script Supervisor - Emma Thomas

One of Emma's first jobs was at Elstree Studios on Jim Henson's The Muppet Show, where she would meet Hollywood stars including James Coburn and Gene Kelly. "I thought I'd died and gone to heaven... although I was essentially working for a bunch of puppets!".

Since then, she has worked on a wide variety of television dramas, comedies and feature movies too; more than 50 across her extensive career, covering everything from Goodnight Sweetheart, Birds of a Feather and Man Down to The Bill, Luther and The Canterbury Tales. Most recently, she was script supervisor for Soon Gone: A Windrush Chronicle: Four Weddings and Farming; a feature written and directed by Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje.

Emma also actively mentors other women in the industry.

In 2019 Emma was awarded the Bafta Special Award at the British Academy Television Craft Awards for her contribution to the industry.



## Our mission...

Having an excellent crew and in particular attaching Cinematographer/D.O.P Kit Fraser **Farming** and most recently **Eternal Beauty and The Fantastic Flitcrofts** starring Mark Rylance and Sally Hawkins; would add to the quality of the film.

Gerardo has personally done all the location scouting and has been given permission to film in Alberobello. Ideally we would shoot between September to October as it would co-inside with grape harvest and the Saints day Cosma & Damiano festival both of which are heavily depicted in the film. To film at this time would greatly assist the authenticity of the story. It will also help with the budget to film around naturally occurring events.

Apulia has a solid infrastructure and is the perfect environment to shoot a Green Film production.

With regards to the Batman character and theme, I've been in touch with Warner Brothers and to my understanding they stated; so long as we do not jeopardise the character as being vile or unpleasant, then they do not see it as a problem.



# Casting



The most important character in the film to cast. This is why the casting director would be instrumental to find our star.

The story has suggested that it is important for the diversity of the character and reflects that as his Grandfather was Ghanaian.



CIZIO

# Mamma



DENNY MENDEZ



THANDIE NEWTON



TEZETA ABRAHAM

**Papa**



ALESSANDRO BORGHI



GABRIELE PLANAMENTE



LUCA MARINELLI

# Nonna



ALESSANDRA COSTANZO

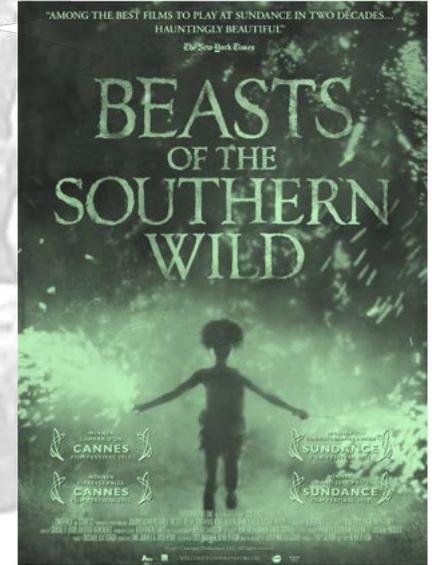
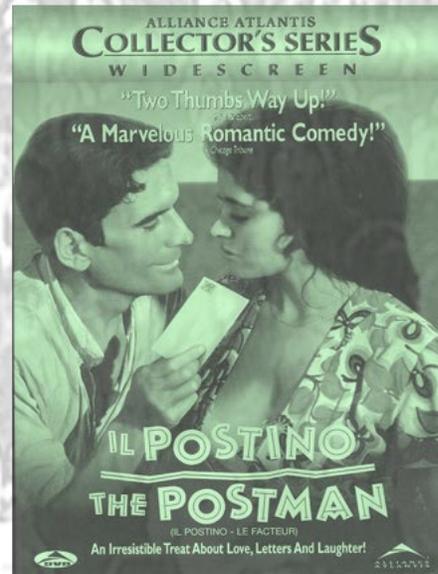
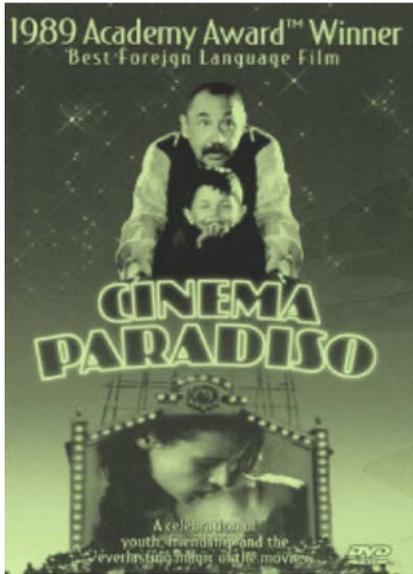


SOFIA LOREN



ISABELLE ADJANI

# Audience - International



CIZIO will be for the International Market what with its Officially Selected' laurels script form and the Zoetrope team, there is no need to make this project into an English language type movie. Following the success of the above Oscar winning stunning beauties, (Beasts of the Southern Wild the then 9 year old Quvenzhané Wallis was OSCAR nominated for best actress.) there is definitely a market out there for this kind of movie.

Plus the narrative is very easy to follow as it is an extremely visual cinematic piece.





Location - Alberobello - Apulia - Italy



# Festival of the Twin Saints Cosma and Damiano



An aerial photograph of the Festival of St. Oronzo in Lecce, Italy. The image shows a large, ornate float decorated with colorful lights and patterns, moving through a street. In the background, the equestrian statue of St. Oronzo is visible, holding a spear. The scene is set against a clear blue sky. Two horizontal white lines are overlaid on the image, one above and one below the text.

# Festival Of St. Oronzo



# THANK YOU!

We look forward to hear from you.

Gerardo Silano

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