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TORINO FILM FESTIVAL

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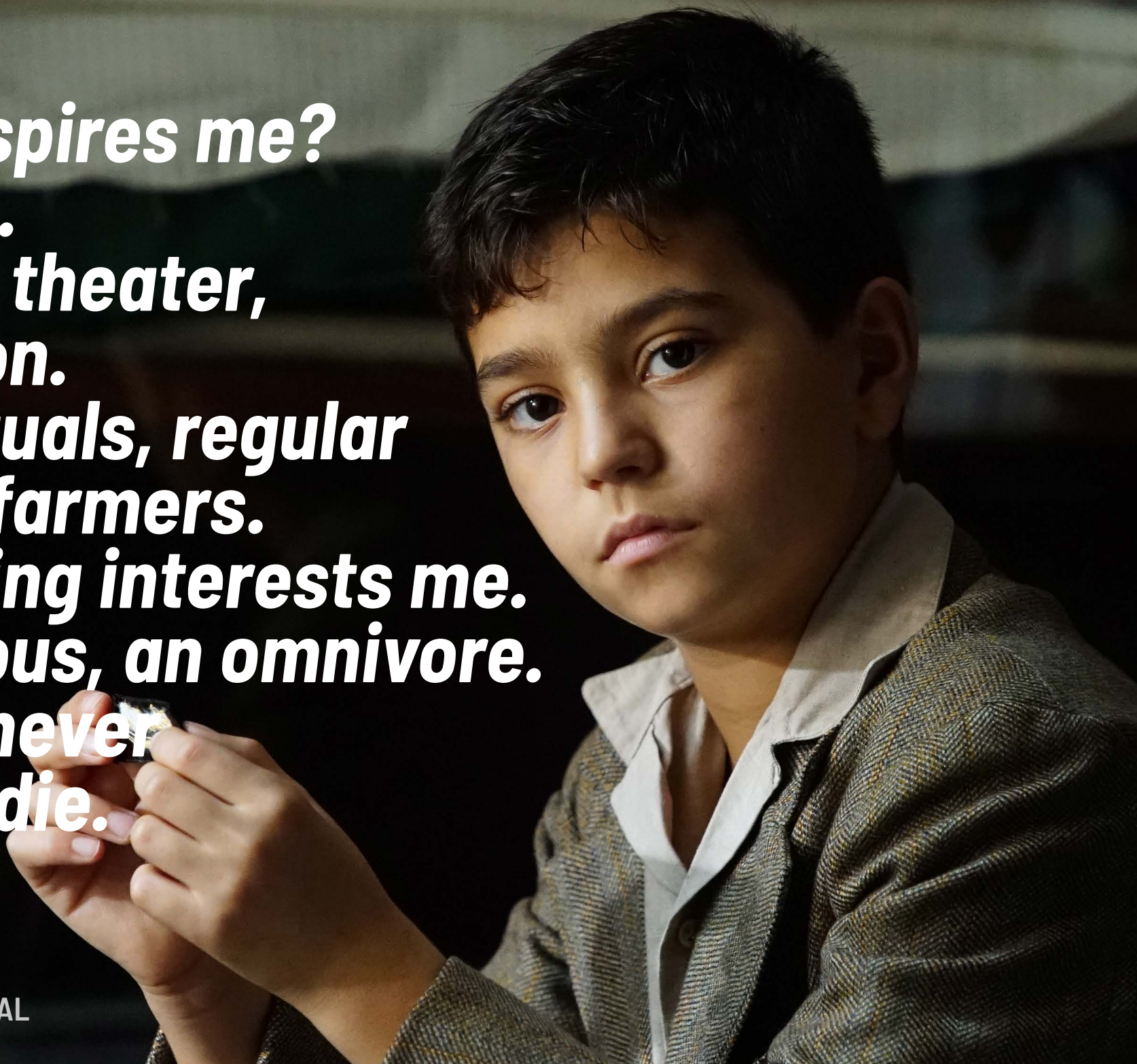
GIANNI VERSACE

THE EMPEROR OF DREAMS

A film by MIMMO CALOPRESTI

***What inspires me?
Life. Art.
Cinema, theater,
television.
Intellectuals, regular
people, farmers.
Everything interests me.
I'm curious, an omnivore.
I would never
want to die.***

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***I love
men who have
the courage to be
HEROES***



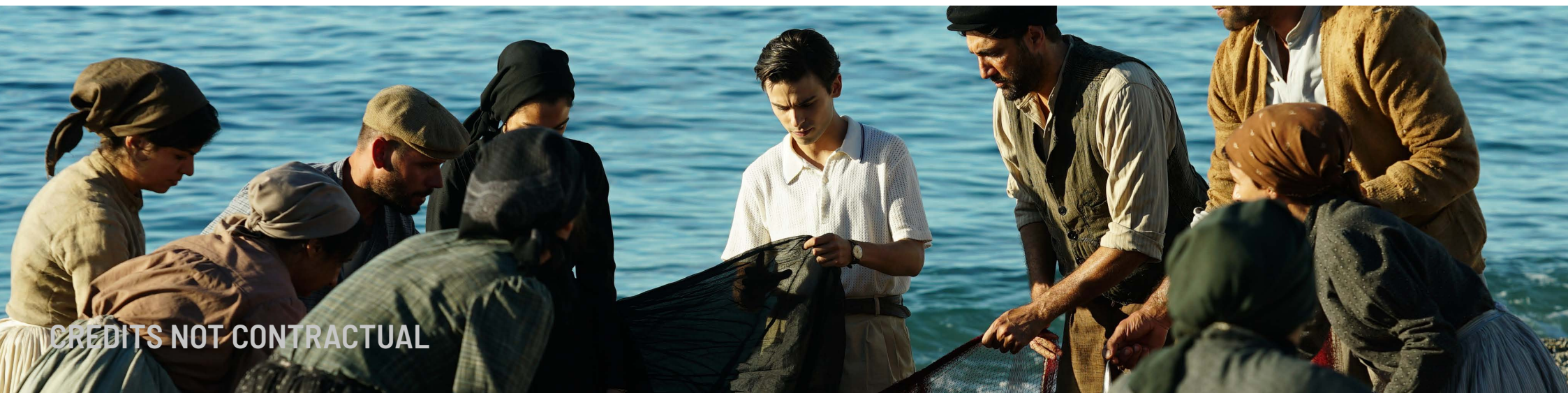
Gianni Versace loves men who navigate knowledge and the unexpected like Ulysses; the heroes of antiquity. Men who set out from afar to go even farther, beyond the known, beyond limits.

**HE WAS THE HERO OF MODERNITY AND THE
FASHION DESIGNER OF THE FUTURE**

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FROM THE PROVINCE TO MILAN ALWAYS AHEAD OF EVERYONE

His journey began in 1971 when he left for Milan, bringing his brother Santo and sister Donatella with him, both of whom would become his most important collaborators and leaving behind the legendary tailor shop of his mother, the place of his upbringing, studies, and family affections. He moved north not with the cardboard suitcase of an immigrant, but carrying within him images of Magna Graecia and his childhood, to start sketching the new world that had formed within him. Milan was the perfect place to begin the revolution he had only dreamt of until then. He designs for Genny, Complice, and Callaghan, envisioning a new man and a new woman, the new heroes of the metropolises that were marking the rhythms of life. All of this is encapsulated in a black and white photograph of young Gianni Versace, breathlessly running along the seaside of Reggio Calabria. On Sundays, along with his older brother Santo and sister Donatella, they would accompany their parents for the customary stroll on the platform above the railway, stopping for ice cream. Gianni - his mother would tell her customers in the tailor shop near the



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Duomo as she fitted the clothes she had sewed - always ran ahead of everyone to be alone. He would lean over the balustrade and lose himself in gazing at the sea of the Strait. I watched him from afar and thought that Gianni would always be as free as the wind. Because Gianni Versace was the most brilliant Italian designer and one of the greatest in the world. That beautiful and elegant kilometer - Italy's most splendid, as D'Annunzio had defined it - was always the boundary Gianni had had to overcome, to distance himself from, in order to reach the dream of a new life. This dream was sensed in moments of solitude as he gazed into the sea, even as he grew older. That stretch of sea that separates Calabria from Sicily, that divides the past from the present, influenced his life and work. It's there that all the Greek heroes had passed, foremost among whom, Ulysses. And right there is where the dream of a man who had conquered the world with his boundless - almost excessive genius and creativity - was born.

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THE WHOLE WORLD WEARS VERSACE

As soon as he could, he set off. In America, he met **Mapplethorpe**, the great American photographer and friend of **Patty Smith**. Mapplethorpe's powerful photographs staged nude bodies in provocative poses that rivaled Michelangelo's sculptures, breaking the barrier between pornography and art, classic and modern. All of this would serve Gianni to create his fashion and new tableaux vivants during his fashion shows. After the initial success of their Milan fashion shows under their own brand, the Versace family started opening stores worldwide. Their designs touched the hearts of famous women and men; **Princess Diana, Madonna, Charlize Theron, Elton John, Sting**, and **Prince** were their clients.





**I DESIGN RAGS FOR WORK,
BUT THE THEATER IS
MY TRUE LOVE**

GIANNI VERSACE

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MIAMI AND THE END OF THE DREAM

And when everything was achieved - fame, success, money, international recognition, when everything was too much and excessive - as he liked it - when he had shone in the starry sky, a star among the stars - he decided to slow down his pace and reclaim his life of contemplation. Together with his partner, he buys and takes possession of a villa on the Miami waterfront that reminded him of the seaside of his youth. He furnishes it with grand works of art and luxury furniture, a bit over the top as a Southern man must do to stand out in American society and get noticed, with his unmistakable **Neo-baroque** style.



And success, once again, is immediate. The world's press and media compete to photograph and tell the story of this jewel, a true fairy-tale place, they said. But then one day the dream vanished. A ruthless criminal with no plausible motives, driven solely by the desire to exercise hatred and death upon a successful man, perhaps just to have his moment of glory, that, as **Andy Warhol** had said, contemporary society granted to all human beings, shot and killed Gianni Versace, who was fifty years old and had begun to savor the sea breeze and the rejuvenation he so thoroughly enjoyed.

MIMMO CALOPRESTI'S CONCEPT MY VERSACE

PAST AND PRESENT, FICTION AND DOCUMENTARY: TELLING THE STORY OF THIS GREAT MAN FROM SOUTHERN ITALY IS THE FILM'S OBJECTIVE

The story begins with his youth in Reggio Calabria, spent observing his seamstress mother and studying the classics, evading the judgment of his fellow townspeople about his never-hidden and proudly lived sexuality. He immersed himself in the remnants of ancient Greece in search of an ancient identity and eventually fled to Milan to unleash his genius. It will be friends and relatives who will reconstruct that world and the life of that family. The story continues in Milan with the rise of the Versace brand from the 1970s, with forays into theater, music, cinema, and television - fields in which Versace worked. We will also portray the America of the great photographers with whom Gianni - ahead of his time - had collaborated, forever changing the relationship between photography and fashion. And finally, Gianni Versace's models will be interviewed, including Carla Bruni, who will even sing a requiem for her friend Gianni, a composition she had composed in her mind on the day of his funeral.

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VERSACE *THE EMPEROR OF DREAMS*

DATA SHEET

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MIMMO CALOPRESTI

**SCREENWRITER
SCREENWRITER**

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MONICA ZAPPELLI

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

GAIA SIRIA MELONI
FRANCESCA PASQUALINO

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS

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ALESSANDRO LAZZI
VINCENZO RUSSO

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

MARIELLA LI SACCHI

PRODUCTION DESIGNER

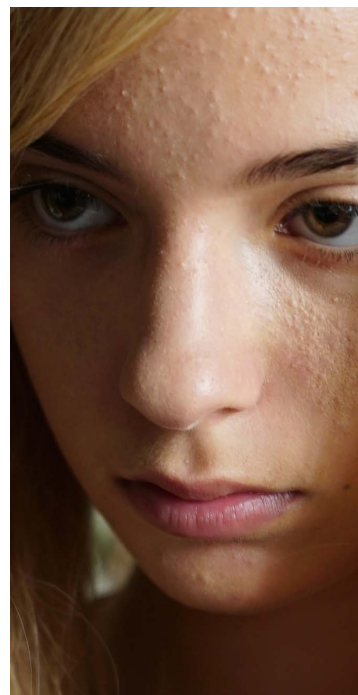
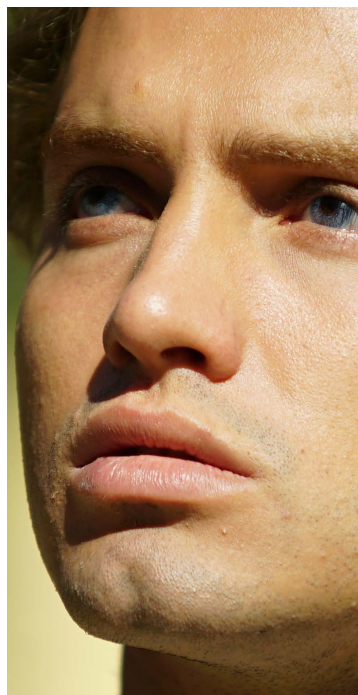
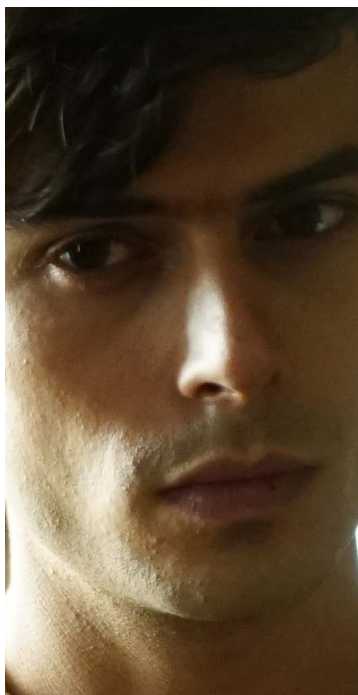
MASSIMO SPANO

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

FEDERICO TORRES

MUSICIAN

ANDREA FORNACIARI



MAIN CAST

LEONARDO MALTESE

VERA DRAGONE

PIETRO CLEMENSI

ANTONIO OPPEDISANO

CLIO CALOPRESTI

EUGENIO CARACCILO

as Gianni Versace

as Franca Versace

as Antonio Versace

as Santo Versace

as Donatella Versace ragazza

as Gianni Versace bambino

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Produced by
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with the contribution of



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