



GINGER AND CINNAMON
(DILLO CON PAROLE MIE)



a film by
DANIELE LUCHETTI

Italy, 1 hour 22 minutes

A comedy-of-errors filled with small talk, sun, sea and music, broken diets, antihistamines, camping stoves, tents, sleeping bags and nervous girls, multiple orgasms, condoms, beers, teenage love making, ex-girlfriends, homework, octopuses, secret ingredients ... all to the rhythm of an extraordinary soundtrack !

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Synopsis

Sun, broken diets, nervous girls... sleeping bags, condoms and orgasms... small talk, stolen kisses, secret ingredients...

When Stefania, in her thirties, breaks up with Andrea right before the summer, little does she realize she will soon find herself reluctantly on vacation with Meggy, her fourteen-year-old niece instead. Once on Ios, the dreamy teenager's Greek "isle of love" however, a mega mix-up is brewing.

Stefania's teenage niece, in fact, has a secret awesome plan in mind: this Mediterranean paradise is where she is going to finally lose her virginity. As fate would have it, however, the cute guy she has her eye on is no other than Andrea, her aunt's ex-boyfriend, also on vacation on that very island.

The magic of sun and sea, some crazy twists of fate, and a case of sun rash that keeps Stefania locked in her room, all get hearts beating fast to lots of music and the grooviest songs. Yet what awaits both aunt Stefania and Meggy at the end of this memorable summer is above all the tender discovery of what "being a woman" truly means at any age.

About the story

Stefania and Andrea break up just before summer vacation: for Meggy, Stefania's fourteen-year-old niece on the threshold of life, the only possibility of going on holiday is to get Stefania to go with her to Ios, the dream 'isle of love' in Greece. And something happens... in fact *everything* happens: "Since Meggy, incapable of self-criticism, driven only by her hormones, who never knows when to be ridiculous or awkward or attractive, has decided to lose her virginity," chuckles Luchetti, "whereas Stefania, on the other hand, is completely blocked and self-absorbed. All of this takes place on an island of love and sex, where going from sobriety to giddiness is a snap, where no dangers exist, where it is easy to kiss, to make love. Yet deep down inside the fears and insecurities of intimacy are the same as they were 50 years ago.... Today teenagers talk a lot about sex, their magazines use a freer bolder language but they still tremble when it comes down to it..."

About the production

It all began when my wife Stefania happened to meet a teenage and they struck up a special friendship. At home, Stefania told me about their long conversations which made her realize there was a gap between their two generations, though the age difference wasn't that great. My wife recognized in the girl the same vitality, enthusiasms, anxieties in the face of life that she had had at the same age, and this made her start to reflect on that young part of herself that she had lost, how it had happened and when. In the meantime she took notes and I encouraged her...

The film is a sentimental comedy in light tones... when Meggy falls in love with an "older man" she asks her aunt Stefania for advice on how to behave. Stefania doesn't realize that Meggy's sweetheart is actually her ex-boyfriend. When she discovers this through her niece's reports, she also discovers that there were many things she didn't know about him..."

"The most important theme is female sexuality... what it means to a woman of 30 and a teenage girl... in Stefania's screenplay I discovered how women talk to each other... how direct and how sensitive they can be. This relates to the theme of virginity which, though times have changed, is

still an essential event in the life of a woman. There is also the theme of the couple, two thirty-year-olds who have been together for a while but who don't really know each other at all..."

GINGER AND CINNAMON isn't a generational film – if generational films exist – I don't want to get into cliché. This is a story of characters I like... I recognize them, we resemble them, but they aren't representatives of a generation..

A VACATION ON IOS BETWEEN FLIRTS AND A SEARCH FOR SELF

Luchetti: "... the atmosphere of Ios is magical... so much so that Stefania and I conceived our child there, whose fourth name is Ios... living at opposite hours of the night-crowd it is also very peaceful, full of delicious golden beaches and fantastic sea. In short, apart from the sexual intentions of the teenage tourists, Ios is still a splendid opportunity to live a few days immersed in virtually unspoiled nature." I VIAGGI DI REPUBBLICA – 3 April 2003

COCKTAILS CALLED "ORGASM"

Luchetti describes in detail the frenetic nightlife and ironically evokes cocktails called Orgasm. I VIAGGI DI REPUBBLICA – 3 April 2003

A PICK-UP PLACE FOR BOYS AND GIRLS FROM OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE GLOBE WHO DISCOVER THEY HAVE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH THE BOY- (OR GIRL) NEXT-DOOR...

".. I tried to eliminate any sign of Greek classicism, to show Ios as a "non-place" where a multitude of languages, styles of music and words of love all mix and where the most absurd and unlikely encounters occur.

Franco Montini – Jan/Feb 2003

Luchetti: "*Ginger and Cinnamon* is also about a couple's crisis and we had fun laughing at ourselves, imagining how we would have acted in such a situation... the film worked as sort of therapy for the couple".

Franco Montini – Jan/Feb 2003

Montorsi: "The story is set in Ios, the international paradise of teenagers looking for sex, a Greek island where people only live at night.

Franco Montini – Jan/Feb 2003

LUCHETTI: "... TO MAKE A COMEDY-OF-ERRORS AS LIGHT AS THE MUSIC OF MOZART... a fun film but not empty, one that also reflects reasons for bitterness and little problems, shot very quickly to seize the spirit of euphoria typical of holidays." Franco Montini – Jan/Feb 2003

MONTORSI: *GINGER AND CINNAMON* IS ABOVE ALL A FILM WITH A WOMAN'S TOUCH, THOUGH DANIELE DIRECTED IT, SINCE IT SHOWS LOVE AND SEX FROM WOMEN'S POINT OF VIEW and proposes two characters who do not fall into the female stereotypes that are typical of men's imaginations." Franco Montini – Jan/Feb 2003

DEFENCELESS VIRGINITY DEFENDED

Greece and love at fifteen... Luchetti presents his new comedy... lightness, a desire for fun, an exuberant screenplay... IL MANIFESTO – 28 March 2003

It's a comedy from a woman's point of view that sees *men* as the objects of desire... **“IN ITALIAN COMEDY IT'S THE MEN WHO ALWAYS TALK ABOUT SEX AND MAKE WOMEN INTO THEIR SEXUAL TOYS. HERE THE OPPOSITE HAPPENS: IT'S THE MEN WHO ARE THE VICTIMS OF WOMEN'S FURIOUS HORMONES”.**

CORRIERE DELLA SERA – Emilia Costantini – 25 March 2003

LUCHETTI: “STEFANIA AND HER EX-BOYFRIEND ANDREA... DISCOVER THINGS THEY NEVER KNEW ABOUT EACH OTHER. Stefania, for example, realizes how very differently others see her than she sees herself. She thinks of herself as very interesting and complex, but discovers that others find her just plain boring... Stefania realizes she is her worst enemy. **THE EXPERIENCE HELPS STEFANIA TO CHANGE AND TO MAKE HERSELF A BETTER PERSON, JUST AS MEGGHY IS HELPED TO GROW UP IN THE RIGHT WAY, WITHOUT BEING IN SUCH A HURRY.”**

MEGGHY, 15, GOES TO GREECE TO DISCOVER SEX

“Meggy's aunt Stefania is a pain in the neck who folds her clothes before making love and always has very set ideas about everything. Andrea is very vague, he never says no, but never gives a convincing yes either.”

LA REPUBBLICA – MARIA PIA FUSCO - 28 March 2003

“... I felt like falling in love with my screen characters again, in a light and joyous way... with a carefree film that still had things to say, that was fun and reflective too... Co-written with his wife, actress Stefania Montorsi, who also stars in the film, the story is a cross between a ‘comic opera, a film of gossip and confidences... all on a territory that has always been part of my imagination: Greece.”

“I felt like making a fun film, yet one that wasn't empty or ephemeral, woven with in lightness and simplicity. GINGER AND CINNAMON is set on Ios, the ‘Greek island of love’ since almost all the tourists there are young people, 85% are under 25...” explained director Daniele Luchetti.

what's the film about ?

“... Fourteen-year-old Meggy's vacation, accompanied by her young aunt Stefania who has just broken up with her boyfriend. Meggy's plan is that this summer she is going to lose her virginity, on that island, but the young man she decides is Mr Right happens to be her aunt's ex-boyfriend. This is the beginning of mix-ups, a comedy of errors and lots of confiding... The story is a catalyst for developing many themes...”

LUCHETTI : “I tried to film very quickly to capture the spirit of euphoria and melancholy of vacations. To avoid romantic clichés I set the love scenes in camping parks or on uncomfortable cliff rocks...”

Cast

Stefania Stefania Montoris

Andre Giampaolo Morelli

Meggy Martina Merlino

Pippo Alberto Cucca

Crew

Director	Daniele Luchette
Writers	Stefania Montorsi, Ivan Coltroneo, Daniele Luchetti
Producer	Conchita Airoidi
Executive Producer	Dino Di Dionisio
Director of Photography	Paolo Carnera (A.I.C.)
Art Director	Giancarlo Dasili
Editor	Angelo Nicolini (A.M.C.)
Costume Designer	Maria Rita Barbera
Sound	Remo Ugolinelli (A.I.T.S.)
1st Assistant Director	Umberto Riccioni
Production Manager	Olivia Sleiter
Original Soundtrack	Gianfranco Salvatore, Danilo Cherni

About the Cast

Stefania Montorsi (Stefania/Screenwriter)

Launching her career as an actress in theater, Stefania ventured into film with Leone Pompucci's *The Thousand Bubbles* (1993). In addition to penning the script for *Ginger and Cinnamon*, she also starred in Luchetti's *The Small Masters* (1998). Other films include *Nora* 1998, where she starred opposite Ewan Macgregor and Susan Lynch and *Other Men* (1997).

Giampolo Morelli (Andrea)

Giampolo has worked on two previous films, *South Kensington* (2001) and *Paz* (2002) in addition to a popular Italian television mini-series *Anni 60* (1999).

About the filmmakers

Daniele Luchetti (director)

Starting as a commercial director in Italy, Daniele made his film directorial debut in 1988 with *Domani Accadrà*, for which he won a David di Donatello Award (Italy's Oscars) for Best First Film. Over the next decade and a half, Daniele has directed award winning films such as *Il*

Portaborose (1991), *12 Pomeriggi* (2000), *I Piccioli Maestri* (1998) and *La Sculo* (1995), which won a Donatello for Best Film.

What critics are saying...

“A masterpiece of grace and irony”
IL MESSAGGERO – Francesco Alò

“Minimalist Luchetti in comic strip format gives us a beautiful surprise... a true breath of fresh air”
MAX – Marco Bacci

“...Luchetti’s smooth directing... the film’s light lively tone... teenage Martina’s spontaneity and stubborn determination truly recall Rohmer’s heroines”
LA STAMPA – Alessandra Levantesi

“One of the best Italian films of the moment”
GQ – Angelo Ponta

“Lines that are spot on, a teenager’s desecration of all the commonplaces... balanced between a solid script and free improvisation” IL MANIFESTO – Roberto Silvestri

“*GINGER AND CINNAMON* performs a marvelous miracle: it makes us dream”
CINEMACONARTE – Calogero Messina

“... fresh and fun, Rohmerian without pretext, Vanzinian without excess. A sunny tone that gives a new polish to a timeless basic idea...”
GRAZIA – Alessio Guzzano

“Full of grace and lightness” DUEL – Gianni Canova

“... fresh entertaining pure comedy... Quick paced and absolutely hilarious dialogues”
KW CINEMA . Massimo Galimberti

“A light, funny, intelligent comedy...”

Stefania Montorsi, story and screenwriter, brilliant actress... the musical finale with Mina’s *Taratata* is ingenious, the division into little chapters as if Truffaut is elegant, the cast is enjoyable with lusted after Giampolo Morelli and newcomer Martina Merlino...
CORRIERE DELLA SERA – M.Po – 3 April 2003

“An hour and a half of pure fun” LA REPUBBLICA - P. D’Agostini

“Musically too, between songs by Baba Yoga and the 80s Culture Club and Village People, the two ages do not fall into the trap of generalizations...”
IL MESSAGGERO – Leonardo Jattarelli

“... a story that turns even the roles of the sexes upside down...” IL MESSAGGERO – Leonardo Jattarelli

ABOUT FILM MOVEMENT

Film Movement is an innovative new film distribution company, created as a solution for millions of consumers across the nation whose access to outstanding film is limited by geography, lifestyle or lack of information. Film Movement has members in over 50 states and 1200 cities. Film Movement acquires award winning independent films from the world's top festivals, which they then release each month of the year to members on DVD through a subscription service, and theatrically through The Film Movement Series. Participating filmmakers are able to reach under-served film fans everywhere through Film Movement.

The Film Movement Series is a new theatrical film series featuring some of the best in original world cinema. Created by the team that invented the groundbreaking Shooting Gallery Film Series, Film Movement will release 6 of its 12 films per year in leading independent cinemas in major US cities to help outstanding filmmakers find the audience they deserve. All films are available to members exclusively on DVD upon theatrical release so that they may participate regardless of where they live.

Film Movement has partnered with some of the leading independent theaters in the country to exhibit the Film Movement Series including the Quad Cinema in New York, ArcLight & Laemmle in Los Angeles, The Gene Siskel Film Center in Chicago, and the Roxie in San Francisco. The schedule includes the following films:

- April 11- Wiebke von Carolsfeld's *Marion Bridge*
- June 13- Eric Eason's *Manito*
- August 15- Scott Hamilton Kennedy's *OT: our town*
- October 24- Donovan Leitch & Rebecca Chaiklin's *The Party's Over*
- December- Tjebbo Penning's *Morlang*
- February- Mina Shum's *Long Life, Happiness and Prosperity*
- April- Rolf de Heer's *Alexandra's Project*