

# INTO MY NAME

 72<sup>nd</sup> Internationale  
Filmfestspiele  
Berlin  
Panorama

A FILM BY  
NICOLÒ BASSETTI

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER  
ELLIOT PAGE

a production

 Nuovi  
Paesaggi  
Urbani

ART  
OF PANIC

With the support of  
Regione Emilia Romagna

  
EMILIA  
ROMAGNA  
FILM  
COMMISSION

All rights reserved ©

*Cinephil*



# INTO MY NAME

**A film by NICOLÒ BASSETTI**

---

2022 – Italy – Original Title NEL MIO NOME – 93 mins – Italian

**INTERNATIONAL SALES**



Olivier Tournaud: [olivier@cinophil.com](mailto:olivier@cinophil.com)

Shoshi Korman: [shoshi@cinophil.com](mailto:shoshi@cinophil.com)

**INTERNATIONAL PRESS**

Claudia Tomassini + associates

Claudia Tomassini: [claudia@claudiatomassini.com](mailto:claudia@claudiatomassini.com)

Pierpaolo Festa: [pierpaolo@claudiatomassini.com](mailto:pierpaolo@claudiatomassini.com)

## Logline

---

**The coming-of-age story  
of four friends  
who share important turning  
points in their lives and in their  
gender transitions.**

**“What stands out to me about NEL MIO NOME is the way it so artfully and intentionally presents all the different pieces that make up a person’s identity. It’s a meditation on trans humanity, and I’ve never seen another film like it. Knowing that Bassetti consulted closely with his trans son throughout production is so beautiful to me, and I think that lived experience and input is clear in the film’s perspective. I’m honored to be onboard and can’t wait for everyone to see it.”**

**Elliot Page – Executive Producer**

## Synopsis

---

Nico is 33 years-old, Leo is 30, Andrea 25 and Raff 23: they come from different parts of Italy. They start their gender transition at different times in their lives. Day by day, they boldly face all the obstacles of a strictly binary world.

To achieve a fulfilling and dignified life is a matter of survival.

They need to be resolute, infinitely patient and can't hope to get by without seeing the funny side of the whole matter.



*Nico, Raff, Andrea and Leo*

## Main Characters



*Leo*

## Leo

---

**Leo** is a refined contemporary rhapsode.

A Philology graduate, he works at a local MacDonald's. His passions are oral storytelling and rock music. He collects memories, listens to them, studies them, then edits them in a podcast that focuses on the relationship between teen and adult identity. In the film, Leo is like Dante's Ulysses, leading us into the deep, beyond the shallow waters of social conventions.

Through his voice and his thoughts, interwoven with those of the other characters, he accompanies us throughout the whole film. With the members of his band, he has written a poignant melodic rock track «Astronauta» (Astronaut), based on his experience, which we hear throughout the film.

He's deeply in love with Luisa, his beautiful and fun girlfriend, also a Philologist, a researcher in a foundation and short-term teacher of Latin and Greek languages at a high school. Leo and Luisa live together in a flat in Bologna. They dream of moving abroad.

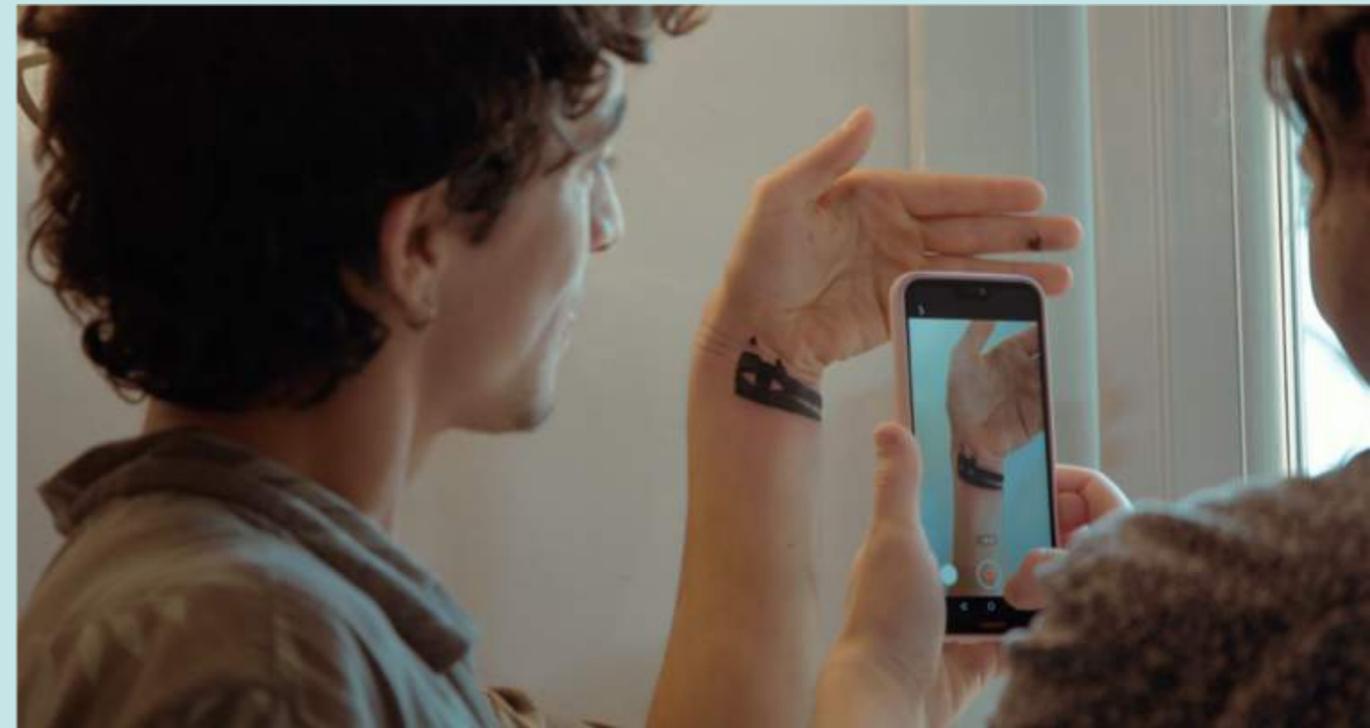
## Nico

---

Among the four friends, **Nico**, despite being the oldest and the one with a more mature and fulfilled life project, is the newcomer. For this reason, he's the most pampered by the other three.

Of the four friends, he's also the one threading more gingerly along possible gender lines. Nico lives with Chiara, his wife, and their dog India, in a suburb on the hills just outside the city. Chiara manages a small natural farm and B&B that produces wine, honey, jams, lavender, flour, pasta, bread and biscuits. Nico disappears early in the morning, goes to work in the city and comes back at night. Meanwhile, at home, Chiara prepares the dough, cooks and takes care of her guests and bees.

Whenever he has any free time, Nico goes on expeditions on foot, all alone, like an argonaut, or a wolf. He crosses places 'in waiting', in transition: run-down industrial areas, abandoned railway yards. It's his way of exploring his own nature and creating an inner space, in search of the intimate reasons for his need to transition.



*Nico*



Andrea

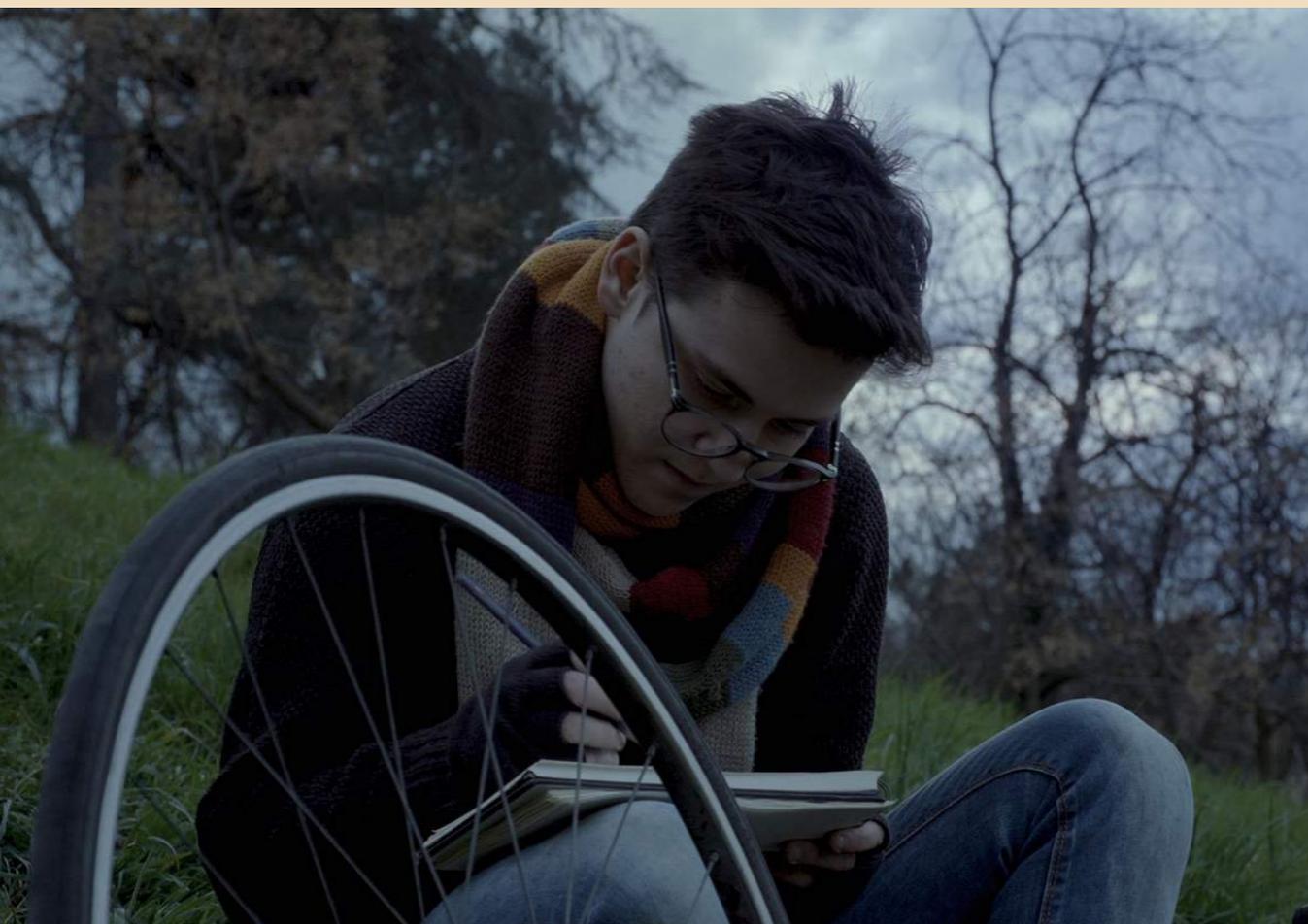
## Andrea

---

**Andrea** is a Philosophy graduate. He's writing a collection of short trans-stories.

An avid reader, open to all different genres, he nevertheless feeds off the classics for the most part. He's introspective, taciturn, solitary. He writes with his *Valentine*, one of the last typewriters (portable and red) that tried to fight off the arrival of computers. *Valentine* is his fetish object, his Linus' security blanket that keeps him strongly bonded to his childhood.

A passionate fan of Kafka and David Bowie, he often changes looks, endlessly searching for his real self. The portrait of Andrea is engraved in his childhood and teenage memories, which flow like the pages of a coming-of-age novel.

*Raff*

## Raff

---

**Raff's** passions are bikes, swing music and graphic novels.

Raff works as a mechanic in a bike repair shop that he co-owns. In his free time, with a care that borders on obsession, he looks for the pieces he needs to build his dream bike. Frame, chain, gears and pedals, lights and seat, rims and handlebars. A vintage road bike from the '60s, pale pink with shining chrome plating.

At night, Raff dances swing together with his best friend Dario: Dario leads, Raff follows. Raff is involved in a long distance «platonic relationship» with Felix, a young Spanish gay man.

Whenever he has any spare time, Raff takes paper, pencils and watercolours and dives headfirst into the stories of his characters.

He's the creator and designer of the planets which appear in the film's end titles.

## Author and director's note

---

«Into My Name» sprang from an idea I had with Matteo, one of my three children, a 26-year-old F to M transgender. The particular nature of this work lies in the duplicity of my gaze, both as a parent and as a director. In combining the intensity of the experience I am living as a parent with the appropriate distance of a director's point of view. My personal experience and sensitivity as a parent has allowed me, as a director, to find the necessary self-assurance to approach the protagonists of this story, to delve into their emotions, and establish an intimate relationship built on trust and complicity. The structure of the story rests on two cornerstones: on the one hand, I wanted to let these young adults express freely themselves through a maieutic process, with one of them being the main narrator, who tells his own story while helping the others tell their own; on the other hand, I wanted to intermingle their childhood and teenage memories, when their gender identity began to take shape, with their current relationships, passions and obsessions.

The extended study phase, the core of the so-called "cinema of reality", was perhaps the most important. From observation to identification and finally selection of the situations to be told, always totally immersed in real life. The study phase was followed by the preparation phase, which helped to establish a consistent viewpoint and the structure of the visual language, generating the film's identity.

The goal was to immerse myself in the real context to such an extent that the characters could literally blank me out. This is an essential condition in order to establish a deep relationship of trust, a true complicity between those behind and those in front of the camera. The aim is "to finally be able to see", to grasp, to understand expressions and gestures that would otherwise be invisible. To be able to transform them into a cinematic point of view, in total communion.

The work of composing the frame was long and complex and essential in order to find the right distance between the sensitivity of each of the young adults portrayed in the

film and the camera. Completed, enriched, and even "messed up" by moments of absolute improvisation.

I wanted to make the differences visible, to define in a non-didactic (and even less voyeuristic) way the context in which each of them lived these past two and a half years.

The shots are for the most part static and on a tripod, in a fixed frame or with linear camera movements. It is not the camera that chases the scene but it is the scene that takes place within the frame of the shot. The aim is to generate symbolic power, as universal as possible, within a natural context. This approach is contradicted and at the same time confirmed by the sudden appearance of short, hectic scenes shot with a hand-held camera.

The static scenes follow the formal dynamics of the theatrical action, where the movement takes place within a fixed frame. Scenes with linear camera movement are the narrative equivalents of landscape and panoramic photography.

The scenes shot with hand-held camera reveal moments in which the dynamic and disruptive force of what happens takes center stage and prevails over the contemplative aspect.

The audio is all recorded live. The Cinematography is also the result of a long process of observation in order to grasp reality in an instant with the best possible light.

I also used archive footage in the editing to make visible some moments of introspection of the characters, and to generate a "cultural comparison", a clash between different eras, the time of memory and the present, between what the cultural and family background demanded of them in terms of performance, and what they now feel, and are.

*Nicolò Bassetti*



*Nicolò Bassetti – author and director of «Into My Name»*

## Nicolò Bassetti – Author and Director

---

Creator of **SacroGra**, a urban narrative project. Author of the book **Sacro romano Gra**, published by Quodlibet in Italy (2013) and La Fosse aux Ours in France (2015).

From his original idea and two years' work with renown filmmaker Gianfranco Rosi, came the documentary film **Sacro GRA** that won the Golden Lion at the 70th Venice International Film Festival. Bassetti made his directorial debut with the independent documentary film **Magnifiche Sorti – Quadri da una Esposizione Universale** (*Magnificent Fortunes – Portraits from a World's Fair*). The film tells the stories of people who are forced to deal, against their will, with a mysterious, new place: the last World's Fair, Expo 2015, a colossal spaceship that landed in the middle of a suburb. Landscape expert and urban explorer, Bassetti has always been involved in topics such as the identity and memory of places.

Among other projects, he worked in the Ruhr valley shortly after the reunification of the two Germanies and at Italsider in Bañoli (Naples) where, in the abandoned area between the chimneys and the sea, he created and curated the Neapolis Rock Festival.

## Producers

---

**Nuovi Paesaǵǵi Urbani** is a partnership between Nicolò Bassetti and Gaia Morrione.

Bassetti has to his credit the participation in the conception and production of the Sacro GRA project (2010–2015), that comprises a book (Quodlibet Publishing, 2013), a film (winner of the Golden Lion at the Venice Film festival, 2013), a theatrical play (Biennale Theatre, 2014) a photographic exhibition, and a series of conferences; the documentary film Magnifiche Sorti (2016) and productions of independent theatre.

Morrione, curator and executive producer, boasts a longtime career within the international arts community in London, Rome and Milan. For the film Into My Name, she has secured the co-production of Art of Panic, the participation of H.H.H.LLC Productions and Executive Producer Elliot Page.

Nuovi Paesaǵǵi Urbani srl produces films documentaries, exhibitions and performances. Their focus is on new human landscapes that anticipate the evolution of our contemporary customs, and consequently new urban landscapes are their natural representation.

**Art of Panic** is an Italian production company and creative consultancy agency specialised in evaluating, developing and producing cross-market projects originating from international filmmaking talent, boasting over 20 years experience in the TV and film industry across the UK, USA, Southern Europe, Middle East and Africa, working for corporate media, major studios, film distributors, international film festivals (Kimmel International, Viacom International Media Networks, Nexo Digital, RAI, Mikado, Eagle Pictures, Locarno Film Festival etc...).

Among the titles produced:

- **THE MAN WHO STOLE BANKSY (2018)**: feature length documentary which premiered in competition at the Tribeca Film Festival 2018. Sold worldwide by Elle Driver, in Italy it was released by Nexo Digital and broadcasted by Rai and Sky, while in North America by Amazon Prime. Helmed by Italian filmmaker Marco Proserpio and featuring the narrating voice of iconic rockstar Iggy Pop, it's the epic journey of a graffiti that famed street artist Banksy made on the West Bank Wall in Palestine.
- **BARADAR (2019)**: co-produced together with Tapelessfilm. Short film directed by Beppe Tufarulo and inspired by the dramatic true story of 10-yr-old Ali Ehsani, narrated in two books edited by Feltrinelli. Shot in Dari language (a Farsi dialect), the film obtained the endorsement of important humanitarian organisations such as UNHCR and Save The Children, has won so far 20+ International awards and was a finalist at the David di Donatello 2020 as Best Short.
- **TIGERS (2020)**: a Swedish-Italian-Danish co-production written and directed by Ronnie Sandahl (author of the acclaimed "Borg Vs. McEnroe"), the feature film TIGERS is based upon the dramatic true story of soccer player Martin Bengtsson and his autobiography "In the Shadow of San Siro". The film had its world premiere at the Rome International Film Festival in October 2020, followed by Busan Film Festival, South Korea, Nordic Film Days in Lubeck, Germany and Goteborg Film Festival, Sweden, winning to date 6 prestigious awards at 4 International festivals.

NEL  
MIO  
NOME

## NUOVI PAESAGGI URBANI presents

a NUOVI PAESAGGI URBANI and ART OF PANIC  
production

In association with HHH PRODUCTIONS LLC

With the support of MiC, REGIONE EMILIA ROMAGNA

A film by NICOLÒ BASSETTI

With LEONARDO ARPINO, RAFFAELE BALDO,  
ANDREA RAGNO, NICOLÒ SPROCCATI

Cinematography & Sound NICOLÒ BASSETTI

Editors DESIDERIA RAYNER, MARCO RIZZO

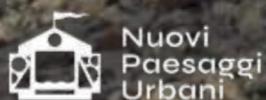
Sound Editor STEFANO GROSSO

Content Advisor MATTEO BASSETTI

Executive Producer ELLIOT PAGE

Executive Producer GAIA MORRIONE

Produced by NICOLÒ BASSETTI, LUCIA NICOLAI,  
MARCELLO PAOLILLO



All rights reserved ©