

L'immensita

Italy | 2023 | 99m | 12A

Director: Emanuele Crialese

Starring: Penelope Cruz, Vincenzo Amato, Luana Giuliani

Plus: **Disappointment** | Paavni Wadhawan | India | 10m

Italian transgender writer and director Emanuele Crialese (Respiro, Terraferma) has never hidden his identity as an adult, however, it was only after the premiere of *L'immensita* that it came to the attention of the international community. With this title, he offers us an intimate look into his childhood experiences in a remarkably well-observed portrait of Mediterranean family life, where children grow much too quickly, and the traditional roles of male and female are as stale as yesterday's focaccia

Set in Rome in the 1970s, we are offered a glimpse of how things might have been for Crialese through the eyes of Andrea (Luana Giuliani) – born Adriana – and their pivotal relationships: their Roma friend Sara (Penélope Nieto), and their mother Clara (Penélope Cruz).

The chemistry between Giuliani and Cruz on screen is electrifying. The film opens with a scene of Andrea reaching to the skies, and asking for a signal. Andrea hides their body, and examines others with such puzzlement, as if they truly were from another galaxy. In an interview with *Wired Italy*, the director stated his film is about 'soul migrations,' and not mere 'transitions.'

A series of musical montages represent the youth's escapism at its best throughout the film, where original voice recordings by the likes of Raffaella Carra or Patty Pravo are superimposed onto footage of the characters impersonating these grand figures of the Italian musical scene of the age.

The film has garnered substantial critical acclaim winner of the Silver Ribbon Best Original Story award by the Italian Syndicate of Film Journalists, the film also made it back to the Lido ten years after the success of *Terraferma*, as part of the Venice Film Festival Official Selection, where Crialese became eligible for the Queer Lion, narrowly missing out to *Housekeeping for Beginners*.

'A painful, heart-rending coming of age drama,' *The Observer*.



Excellent

Fair

Poor

What did you think of the film? Please mark or tear the number.

Please add any further comments here

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Did You Know?

- In an interview with *Hollywood Reporter*, Criallese explained the drive behind the film was to confront the denial of rights to trans communities.
- Criallese was intentional about not casting a young transgender actor for the role of Andrea; he explained to *Variety*, 'It became clear after a few meetings that for any young girl whose life would be disrupted by being represented on screen on top of what she was going through, that this was too much.'

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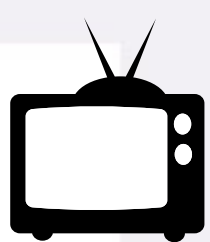
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