

BLINK BLINK PROD, LES FILMS DE L'ŒIL SAUVAGE, BAD CROWD & DECKERT DISTRIBUTION PRESENT



# KRISTOS

THE LAST CHILD a film by GIULIA AMATI



BLINK BLINK PROD, LES FILMS DE L'ŒIL SAUVAGE & BAD CROWD PRESENT - A FILM BY GIULIA AMATI - DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY CARLOS MUÑOZ GÓMEZ-QUINTERO - ADDITIONAL CINEMATOGRAPHY BY BASTIAN ESSER & AURÉLIEN BY SOUND BY MANOLIS MAKRIDAKIS - ADDITIONAL SOUND BY PANAGIOTIS PAPAGIANNOPOULOS, NIKOLAS KONSTANTINOU & ALEXIS KOUKIAS - PRODUCED BY GIULIA AMATI & QUENTIN LAURENT - COPRODUCED BY NANCY KOKOLAKI & NIKOS MOUSTAKAS - EDITED BY EVGENIA PAPAGEORGIU - SOUND DESIGN & MIX BY MARZIA CORDO, GIANCARLO RUTIGLIANO & STEFANO GROSSO - COLOUR GRADING BY GRAZIELLA ZANONI - MUSIC BY ANGELO CAPOZZI IN COPRODUCTION WITH ARTE FRANCE, ERT S.A. & AL JAZEERA DOCUMENTARY CHANNEL - IN COLLABORATION WITH RAI CINEMA & LYFTA - WITH THE SUPPORT OF CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA CINÉMATOGRAPHIE ET DE L'IMAGE ANIMÉE, CREATIVE EUROPE, MEDIA PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, ITALIAN MINISTRY OF CULTURE, DG CINEMA, RÉGION SUD, HELLENIC MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND SPORTS, GREEK FILM CENTER, PROCIREP - SOCIÉTÉ DES PRODUCTEURS ET DE L'ANGO, SCAM "BROUILLON D'UN RÊVE" GRANT & "LA CULTURE AVEC LA COPIE PRIVÉE" - WORLD SALES BY DECKERT DISTRIBUTION



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**WORLD PREMIERE**

**VENICE GIORNATE DEGLI AUTORI 2022, ITALY**

# **KRISTOS**

## THE LAST CHILD

a film by **GIULIA AMATI**

Italy, France, Greece 2022 - 88 / 52 min

There are one-thousand goats and thirty-one people living on the island of Arki. No mayor. No police. No doctor nor hospital. There is a school though. A school with just one teacher and one child, Kristos.



### SHORT SYNOPSIS

In Greece, the island of Arki has a thousand goats, thirty inhabitants and a single child, Kristos. From a very long time, from father to son, the men were shepherds and no one ever left the island to go to secondary school. Kristos' teacher, Maria, is determined to help her unique pupil continuing his education. Will Kristos stay on the island to become a shepherd like his older brothers or will he leave Arki to continue his studies far away, on the other side of the sea?

### SYNOPSIS

Of the thirty inhabitants of Arki, a windswept island in Greece's Dodecanese, Kristos is the last remaining child. He is ten, and he is the only pupil of his teacher Maria, who devotes herself to him.

Kristos will start his final year of elementary school soon. To finish compulsory education, he needs to leave Arki and move to a larger island. His family, however, cannot afford this expense and his father wants him to become a shepherd, a profession passed down the family for generations.

Maria cannot accept this situation and is determined to find a solution to further his education. Will Kristos stay on the island to become a shepherd like his brothers or will he leave Arki to continue his education far away, on the other side of the sea?



## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

This film has its roots in my childhood. My father was a passionate sailor and when I was a child sailed across the Aegean Sea. Of the Dodecanese Islands, Arki soon became the island dearest to my heart. At my request, we went there every summer.

When my father died, I felt I had to go back to Arki. My emotional reaction to seeing the island after 20 years was very strong: even more so when I learnt that there was only one child left and that he was the same age I was when I landed on the island for the first time. What does it mean to grow up alone and not even have a friend to play with?

I followed Kristos for more than a year to tell the story of his coming-of-age. Kristos is a small hero with a big dilemma that may have come too early but is decisive for his future and that of his island. The final choice Kristos must make is difficult because it implies a step forward but also an inevitable loss that marks his transition from childhood to adolescence.

I spent a lot of time in Arki before shooting. During the first location scouting, my priority was to test Kristos' level of concentration to gauge his interest in the film project I was proposing. I started studying Modern Greek and spent a lot of time with him, his family, his teacher Maria and the rest of the Arki community. I wondered for a long time how I should tell this story. Then one day, I realized that I had to learn to look at the world through Kristos's eyes.

I learned to move around the island with his gait, to observe things from his height, to follow the movement of his gestures and to be glued to the expression on his face. I decided to shoot almost the entire film with a hand-held camera and a single lens to identify as much as possible with his point of view.

**Giulia Amati**



## BIOGRAPHY GIULIA AMATI

Giulia Amati is an Italo-French author, director and producer. She graduated in Philosophy in Rome and studied Digital Video Production at the New York University. Her films are often set in remote communities and they touch topics such as the quest for land, roots and identity. She has filmed in difficult contexts like in the Occupied Palestine Territories, in Africa, in Jamaica and during humanitarian crisis, filming the Syrian refugees seeking shelter in Jordan and the refugee camps in the Greek island of Lesbos.

In 2010, she has directed her first feature documentary *THIS IS MY LAND... HEBRON*, that shows the everyday life of 160.000 Palestinians, 600 settlers and 2000 Israeli soldiers in the city of Hebron in the West Bank. The film won more than 20 international awards, including in Italy the Golden Globe, the Silver Ribbons' honorable mention and was finalist at David di Donatello Award. In 2016, she directed and co-produced with Rai Cinema her second feature

film *SHASHAMANE* that chronicles a chapter of the African diaspora through the voices of those who have returned to Africa, 400 years after the dawn of the African slave trade, to seek their African identity. In 2022 she directed her third feature documentary and her first international co-production *KRISTOS, THE LAST CHILD* that was selected to premiere in the Giornate degli Autori at the Venice Film Festival 2022 and is presented in the Venetian Nights section created by the Giornate degli Autori in agreement with Isola Edipo.

Since 2019 Giulia Amati is a EURODOC graduate producer and since 2008 she has been teaching filmmaking in workshops and universities in Italy and abroad. As a volunteer, she led labs with Palestinian children, with children affected by cancer and with young teens facing psychological traumas. She has been a member of the jury of several film festivals, e.g. the Al Jazeera Film Festival and the David di Donatello Awards.

## FILMOGRAPHY

- 2022** ..... *KRISTOS – THE LAST CHILD*, doc, 88 min
- 2016** ..... *SHASHAMANE*, doc, 80 min
- 2010** ..... *THIS IS MY LAND... HEBRON*, doc, 71 min



## CREDITS

**BLINK BLINK PROD, LES FILMS DE L'ŒIL SAUVAGE & BAD CROWD** present - A film by **GIULIA AMATI** - Director of Photography **CARLOS MUÑOZ GÓMEZ-QUINTERO** - Additional Cinematography by **BASTIAN ESSER & AURÉLIEN PY** - Sound by **MANOLIS MAKRIDAKIS** - Additional Sound by **PANAGIOTIS PAPAGIANNPOULOS, NIKOLAS KONSTANTINOU & ALEXIS KOUKIAS** - Produced by **GIULIA AMATI & QUENTIN LAURENT** - Coproduced by **NANCY KOKOLAKI & NIKOS MOUSTAKAS** - Edited by **EVGENIA PAPAGEORGIU** - Sound Design & Mix by **MARZIA CORDÒ, GIANCARLO RUTIGLIANO & STEFANO GROSSO** - Colour grading by **GRAZIELLA ZANONI** - Music by **ANGELO CAPOZZI** - In coproduction with **ARTE FRANCE, ERT S.A & AL JAZEERA DOCUMENTARY CHANNEL** - In collaboration with **RAI CINEMA & LYFTA** - With the support of **CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA CINÉMATOGRAPHIE ET DE L'IMAGE ANIMÉE, CREATIVE EUROPE - MEDIA PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, ITALIAN MINISTRY OF CULTURE, DG CINEMA, RÉGION SUD, HELLENIC MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND SPORTS, GREEK FILM CENTER, PROCIREP - SOCIÉTÉ DES PRODUCTEURS ET DE L'ANGO, SCAM "BROUILLON D'UN RÊVE" GRANT & "LA CULTURE AVEC LA COPIE PRIVÉE"** - World Sales by **DECKERT DISTRIBUTION**

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