

QUINZAINÉ
DIRECTORS' FORTNIGHT
CANNES 2016

A FILM BY
MARCO BELLOCCHIO

SWEET DREAMS

Massimo's idyllic childhood

was shattered by the mysterious death of his mother. As he prepares to sell his parents' apartment, he is haunted by his traumatic past.

Compassionate doctor Elisa could help tormented Massimo open up and confront his childhood wounds...





Synopsis

In SWEET DREAMS (Fai bei sogni)

wordt de idyllische jeugd van de negenjarige Massimo verstoord door de plotselinge dood van zijn moeder. “Een hartstilstand” zegt zijn afstandelijke vader. Massimo gelooft het niet en weigert haar dood te aanvaarden. Jaren later is Massimo een succesvolle journalist bij de Italiaanse krant La Stampa en krijgt de kans om de oorlog in Sarajevo te verslaan. Daar krijgt hij last van paniekaanvallen. Terug in Turijn heeft hij de moeilijke taak het appartement van zijn ouders te ontruimen en te verkopen. Pijnlijke herinneringen komen bovendrijven. Met zijn begripvolle en sympathieke dokter Elisa (Bérénice Bejo) gaat Massimo op onderzoek uit naar de waarheid over dood van zijn moeder.

SWEET DREAMS is een film van de Italiaanse regisseur Marco Bellocchio (*Vincere*). Dit bitterzoete drama is gebaseerd op de autobiografische bestseller van journalist Massimo Gramellini, de adjunct-hoofdredacteur van La Stampa. In 2015 werd het boek in Nederland uitgegeven onder de titel *Ik wens je mooie dromen* (MEULENHOF BOEKERIJ).

VANAF 29 DECEMBER IN DE BIOSCOOP

Marco Bellocchio (writer-director)

From teenage rebellion to religious institutions to political subversion, the films of Italian director Marco Bellocchio have explored the social and political contradictions of his country. His prolific 50-year career has been closely intertwined with the complexities and discrepancies of Italian history.

Bellocchio's works are known for being politically-engaged and often attacking symbols of Italian conformism. His darkly funny debut feature, 1965's **FISTS IN THE**

POCKET, about an existentially-tormented teenager, is often credited with having anticipated the youth rebellion that would shake the foundations of Italian society.

Throughout the 70s, Bellocchio's cinema explored the political tumult of the time. He denounced religion with 1971's **IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER** and the military with 1976's **VICTORY MARCH**.



From the 80s on, Bellocchio's films have often focused on coming to terms with a personally and politically turbulent past. He has questioned ideologies and moral issues and fought to make sense of his characters' motives. He has confronted the conflict between the Church and the radical Left without aligning himself with either. His films compose a rich, fascinating and humane investigation of Italian life, whether modern or historical.

Bellocchio was born in Piacenza, Italy, in 1939. In 1959, he suspended his studies in philosophy at Milan's Catholic University to enroll at the Experimental Center for Cinematography in Rome. He made several short films in the early 60s and studied at London's Slade School of Fine Arts. Bellocchio was awarded the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement at the Venice International Film Festival in 2011.

Feature Filmography

- 2016 – FAI BEI SOGNI (**SWEET DREAMS**)
- 2015 – SANGUE DEL MIO SANGUE (**BLOOD OF MY BLOOD**)
- 2012 – BELLA ADDORMENTATA (**DORMANT BEAUTY**)
- 2010 – SORELLE MAI (**THE MAI SISTERS**)
- 2009 – VINCERE
- 2006 – IL REGISTA DI MATRIMONI (**THE WEDDING DIRECTOR**)
- 2003 – BUONGIORNO, NOTTE (**GOOD MORNING, NIGHT**)
- 2002 – L'ORA DI RELIGIONE (aka **IL SORRISO DI MIA MADRE - MY MOTHER'S SMILE**)
- 1999 – LA BALIA (**THE NANNY**)
- 1997 – IL PRINCIPE DI HOMBURG DI HEINRICH VON KLEIST (**THE PRINCE OF HAMBURG**)
- 1994 – IL SOGNO DELLA FARFALLA (**THE BUTTERFLY'S DREAM**)
- 1991 – LA CONDANNA (**THE CONVICTION**)
- 1998 – LA VISIONE DEL SABBA (aka **LA SORCIERE**)
- 1986 – DIAVOLO IN CORPO (**DEVIL IN THE FLESH**)
- 1984 – ENRICO IV (**HENRY IV**)
- 1982 – GLIO OCCHI, LA BOCCA (**THE EYES, THE MOUTH**)
- 1980 – SALTO NEL VUOTO (**A LEAP IN THE DARK**)
- 1977 – IL GABBIANO (**THE SEAGULL**)
- 1976 – MARCIA TRIONFALE (**VICTORY MARCH**)
- 1972 – SBATTI IL MOSTRO IN PRIMA PAGINA (aka **VIOL EN PREMIERE PAGE**)
- 1971 – NEL NOME DEL PADRE (**IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER**)
- 1967 – LA CINA E VICINA (**CHINA IS NEAR**)
- 1965 – I PUGNI IN TASCA (**FISTS IN THE POCKET**)



Director's Comments

The film SWEET DREAMS

was born from Massimo Gramellini's novel "Fai Bei Sogni",

which was one of Italy's biggest publishing successes of recent years (and much deserved because of the details and emotions that the book describes).

But I was not won over to make this film simply because it was a best-seller.

It was because of the book's themes, the dramatic situations...

A mother's death.

Losing a mother while still a child.

Nine-year-old Massimo's pain over losing his beloved mother - love felt twice as strong because the boy feels it is reciprocated, absolute and exclusive.



Young Massimo rebels against this unjust tragedy, then, over time, his adjustment to survive this incomprehensible loss.

Adapting to life that has a heavy cost for Massimo because he has become more sombre, beaten, due to a need to defend himself to survive.

The toll is taken on his ability to love, left cold and empty over the years of his adolescence and into his adult life. Complex circumstances and random casual relationships do not allow Massimo's armor of indifference to break down.

Massimo, a grown man
and already an established journalist, "wakes up"
one day and must confront the roots of his pain.
We could speak of "healing" but I rather more
prudently speak of the concrete principle of change.



This story struck me hard, deeply, because I saw many themes that I have often faced in my films. Family, mothers, fathers, the home in various time periods over at least 30 years, over a time of radical change in Italy. The changes in Italy are literally seen from the windows of his home...



Rome, Sarajevo,

Turin – seen and experienced by an accomplished journalist.

Working for a major national daily newspaper, Massimo is a chronicler of reality, a detached witness. Maybe he longs to become a somewhat more compassionate participant in the world's events...



Main Cast & Crew

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Massimo | Valerio Mastandrea | Director | Marco Bellocchio |
| Elisa | Bérénice Bejo | Screenplay | Valia Santella |
| Massimo's father | Guido Caprino | | Edoardo Albinati |
| Massimo as a child | Nicolò Cabras | | Marco Bellocchio |
| Massimo as a teenager | Dario Dal Pero | Based on | Massimo Gramellini "Fai bei sogni" |
| Massimo's mother | Barbara Ronchi | | edited by Longanesi & C. |
| Enrico's mother | Emanuelle Devos | Director of photography | Daniele Cipri |
| Simone | Fausto Russo Alesi | Sound | Gaetano Carito |
| Simone's mother | Piera Degli Esposti | Production design | Marco Dentici |
| Father Abisso | Roberto Herlitzka | Editor | Francesca Calvelli |
| Athos | Fabrizio Gifuni | Original music | Carlo Crivelli |
| Agnese | Miriam Leone | Costumes | Daria Calvelli |
| Madrina | Arianna Scommegna | Production managers | Massimo Di Rocco |
| Madrina's husband | Bruno Torrasi | | Attilio Moro |
| Elisa's aunt | Manuela Mandracchia | Project developer | Anastasia Michelagnoli |
| Cavalieri | Giulio Brogi | Executive producer | Simone Gattoni |
| Father Baloo | Roberto Di Francesco | Produced by | Beppe Caschetto |
| Entico | Dylan Ferrario | | |
| Desperado | Pier Giorgio Bellocchio | | |

BEPPE CASCHETTO and RAI CINEMA present

Sweet Dreams (Fai Bei Sogni)

a film by MARCO BELLOCCHIO

2016 - Italy/France - 134 min - in Italian

a production of IBC MOVIE and KAVAC FILM with RAI CINEMA
in co-production with AD VITAM (France) with the participation of RAI CINEMA and ARTE FRANCE
with the support of Ministero beni e attività culturali Regione Lazio – Fomdo regionale per il cinema e l'audiovisivo
in association with Impresa Pizzarotti e C.s.p.a Banca Sella Patrimoni
with support from Canal + and Cineplus
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with the support of Film Commission Torino Piemont

World Sales by The Match Factory

Sweet Dreams
wordt gedistribueerd door
CINEMIEN
Amsteldijk 10-1
1074 HP Amsterdam
Nederland
info@cinemien.nl
020-5776010
www.cinemien.nl

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Sweet Dreams
is gelijktijdig thuis te
bekijken in de online zaal van
een filmtheater. Gewoon op
tv, laptop, tablet of
smartphone via Filmthuis:
www.filmthuis.nl





Sweet Dreams is the story of a long search for the truth and the fear of discovering it. Based on Massimo Gramellini's novel FAI BEI SOGNI... Starring Valerio Mastandrea and Berenice Bejo... From the acclaimed director of BLOOD OF MY BLOOD, DORMANT BEAUTY, VINCERE, GOOD MORNING NIGHT and MY MOTHER'S SMILE.