

# THE EMBALMER

A Film by  
**MATTEO GARRONE**

**104 minutes, 35mm, Color, 2002**  
in Italian with English subtitles

*Awarded the "Davide di Donatello"  
for Best Screenplay and Best Actor 2003*



**First Run Features**  
153 Waverly Place  
New York, NY 10014  
(212) 243-0600/Fax (212) 989-7649  
Website: [www.firstrunfeatures.com](http://www.firstrunfeatures.com)  
Email: [info@firstrunfeatures.com](mailto:info@firstrunfeatures.com)

## **synopsis**

Middle aged, tiny Peppino is a taxidermist who meets a very tall and attractive young waiter named Valerio at the zoo. Peppino invites Valerio to become his well-paid assistant, to which Valerio readily agrees. Valerio enjoys his new profession, and the prostitutes that Peppino hires for him are a fringe benefit. However, Peppino cannot really afford Valerio's salary, and has been borrowing money from the Mafia, for which he does work on the side with human corpses. When Valerio falls for Deborah, a beautiful young woman, a battle of wills ensues for the attentions of Valerio.

## **THE DIRECTOR**

### **MATTEO GARRONE**

Matteo Garrone was born in Rome on 15 October 1968, and graduated from the Artistic Lyceum in 1986.

In 1996 he won the Sacher Festival with the short film *Silhouette*. The following year his production company, Archimede, made Garrone's first feature film, *Terra di mezzo*, distributed by Tandem, which won awards at the Festival Cinema Giovani in Turin (Special Jury award and the Cipputi prize). The film was also shown at the Festival of Angers, the London Film Festival and the N.I.C.E. in New York. That same year he shot a documentary on Pentecostal traditions set in New York, *Bienvenido Espirito Santo*.

In 1998, with Massimo Gaudioso and Fabio Nunziato, he co-directed the short film *Un caso di forza maggiore*, and in Naples made a documentary titled *Oreste Pipolo, fotografo di matrimoni*, selected at the Documentary Festival in Amsterdam.

Again in 1998 he made his second feature film, *Ospiti*, awarded at the Exhibition of Cinema Art of Venice (Kodak award), officially selected for the festivals in Brussels, Rotterdam, Vancouver, London, Luxembourg and Aix-en-Provence. The film received a Special Mention at the Angers festival, Best Film of the Valencia festival, Best Film and Kodak award at the Messina festival.

His third feature film, *Estate Romana*, made in 2000, was an official selection of the Venice Festival and participated in the festivals of London, Buenos Aires and Rotterdam.

### **FILMOGRAPHY**

- *Silhouette*, 1996, short film, 16mm, color, 20 min.
- *Terra di mezzo*, 1997, feature film, 35mm, color, 80 min.
- *Benvienido Espirito Santo*, 1997, documentary, 16mm, color, 50 min.
- *Un caso di forza maggiore*, 1998, short film, 35mm, color, 10 min.
- *Oreste Pipolo, fotografo di matrimoni*, 1998, documentary, 16mm, color, 50 min.
- *Ospiti*, 1998, feature film, 35mm, color, 82 min.
- *Estate Romana*, 2000, feature film, 35mm, color, 90 min.

## THE ACTORS

### Ernesto Mahieux

#### Filmography

1982	GIURAMENTO	Alfonso Brescia
1984	GUAPPARIA	Stelvio Massi
	TORNA	Stelvio Massi
1985	MACCHERONI	Ettore Scola
1986	TERNOSECCO	Giancarlo Giannini
	SEPARATI IN CASA	Ricardo Pazzaglia
1990	C'E POSTO PER TUTTI	Giancarlo Planta
2002	L'IMBALSAMATORE (L'EMPAILLEUR)	Matteo Garrone

### Elisabetta Rocchetti

#### Filmography

1996	COMPAGNA DI VIAGGIO	Peter del Monte
1997	I COLORI DEL DIAVOLO	Alen Jessua
	LA CLASSE NON E ACQUA	Cecilia Calvi
	CUORI PERDUTI	Teresio Spalla
1998	LA BALLATA DEI LAVAVETRI	Peter del Monte
1999	BESAME MUCHO	Maurizio Ponti
	LA PRIMA VOLTA	Massimo Martella
2000	TOBIA EL CAFFE	Gianfranco Mingozzi
2001	LE TRE MOGLI	Marco Rosi
	IL PIACERE DI PIACERE	Luca Verdone
	L'ULTIMO BACIO	Gabriele Muccino
	IL CHIMICO	Matteo Garrone
	NON HO SONNO	Dario Argento
2002	L'IMBALSAMATORE (L'EMPAILLEUR)	Matteo Garrone

## Cast

**Peppino**  
**Valerio**  
**Deborah**  
**Mère de Deborah**  
**Père de Deborah**  
**Patron**  
**Manuela**

Ernesto Mahieux  
Valerio Foglia Manzillo  
Elisabetta Rocchetti  
Lina Bernardi  
Pietro Biondi  
Benardino Terraacciano  
Marcella Granito

## Crew

**Director**  
**Screenplay**  
**Director of photography**  
**Original Musics**  
**Editing**  
**Art Director**  
**Costumes**  
**Sound Engineer**  
**Assistant Director**  
**Executive Producer**  
**Produced by**  
**Production**

Matteo Garrone  
Ugo Chiti, Matteo Garrone, Massimo Gaudioso  
Marco Onorato  
Banda Osiris  
Marco Spoletini  
Paolo Bonfini  
Francesca Leondeff  
Maricetta Lombardo  
Salvatore Sansone  
Luigi Lagrasta  
Domenico Procacci  
Fandango

*Italy – 2002 – color – 35mm – 104min*  
*cinemascope*