Emergency Exit
Young Italians abroad
A DOCUMENTARY DIRECTED BY BRUNELLA FILÌ

AN ENTIRE GENERATION IS BLEEDING OUT FROM ITALY

SIX STORIES OF ORDINARY SEPARATIONS, A LONG TRIP FROM EUROPE TO USA, ONE SINGLE VOICE: THAT OF A LOST GENERATION.

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Something has changed in Europe. From Ireland to Greece, to Spain and to Italy, young people from south Europe are, now, the ones desperately seeking exit strategies from economies in free fall (The Guardian).

‘Emergency Exit’ is a documentary about Italy and the consequences that the last 20 years of politics have had on the young generation: in fact, a lot of young italians (as young spanish, portogueses, greeks, etc) leave their country every year; more then 90% of them are graduated or professionally skilled.

They move away because of a lot of reason, also due to the economic crisis, and not only. But nobody seems to have the desire to listen or care for them, or to follow their stories and motivations, in a way deeper than the generic cliché of the ‘brain drain’.

So I decided to start a trip: I traveled trough six cities, looking for young italians who left Italy to find better opportunities of life and career. Six - and more - stories of ordinary separation, one question: what happened to Italy?

Anna, Milena, Michele, Mauro, Cristina, Marco, Nicola, Clara, Ilaria, Sergio. They don’t know each other, but there’s a connection between them: they all left Italy to live and work abroad. Emergency Exit is a docu-trip whose aim is narrating their stories of “ordinary separation”: almost forced to leave Italy due to high unemployment rate (over 31% of young population) and very precarious job conditions, inspite of their studies and merits, they choose to move away, living in a deep contrast between the desire of keep better opportunities in a global scenario and the strong attachment to their homeland’s roots and traditions.

After many trips, meetings and interviews, we discovered a motley fresco of the life of young Italians abroad: their ideas, their motivations, their jobs, their habits are very diverse.

Moreover, the concept of docu-trip in itself, made of thousands of air miles, low cost flies and trains, temporary accomodation, unexpected situations and new habits, in uncertain production conditions, is the mirror of the interior journey of our protagonist, always suspended between the reasons of more satisfying prospectives and the sense of belonging to Italy but stucked in a forced exile.

We will try to describe the complex entirety of passions which characterizes contemporary life abroad: homesickness, pride, frustrations, desire for a better future are but a few feelings which contribute to build the experience of these new migrants. London, Paris, Berlin, and many other European cities have become centres of attraction for Italians who are trying to rebuild their affective, professional and cultural realities. Emergency Exit will show the intimate paths of its protagonists: the decision to leave, the difficulties of getting used to new cultural contexts, the “going back home” dilemma, the cultural exchange.

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FRANCO FERRAROTTI, SOCIOLOGIST, ROME
In Italy there are also politicians, professors, my colleagues, who blame young people, who are ‘lazy’. But you can not turn the victims into executioners of themselves. There is a clear responsibility of leaders. That must be declared, identified, affirmed. Today, we have a whole generation, maybe a generation and a half, since sociologically generation is 20 years, which is condemned to not be able to enter permanently into the world of work.

BILL EMMOTT, FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE ECONOMIST
The first thing that comes to my mind when you say Italy, is BEAUTY. But also creativity, ingenuousness. Now, all these qualities seem to be suppressed. Politicians … they don’t like discussion or examination of problems and realities that may be uncomfortable for them, especially about young people. Young Italians, both in Italy and abroad, have to start the process of change; they need to get confident that change is possible, they need a new sense of progress and energy.

ANNA, 26 YEARS VETERINARY IN WIEN
“Italy has forced me to leave. And I can’t forgive this. There is not much focus on young people, is a country of old people where too many resources are invested in the old people. Living away from home, in a foreign country can be really difficult sometimes. Optimism is fundamental.”

MAURO, 34 YEARS, JAZZ MUSICIAN OF SUCCESS, LIVE IN PARIS
“I live in Paris since fifteen years now. Indeed, I miss … beautiful things that are there in Italy … but I did not see any future. I felt I was struggling with a system where everything was much slower; coming here in Paris I discovered a different dimension, especially for the interest given by the State to culture and art. Yet, every time I go back to Italy, I still have enormous difficulties to leave …”

CAMILLA, 27 YEARS, GRADUATED, LIVES IN BERGEN, NORWAY.
“I like the idea that there is a country - Norway - where at age 27 you are treated as an adult, where you have the right to have a stable job, to create your family, buy a house. This country unfortunately is not Italy. Here in Norway, if you are 27 years, you are an adult, with responsibilities that should not chase an unpaid internship or live until 35 or more years in a shared apartment or with your family.”

DANIELE SILVESTRI, ARTIST, ITALY
Perhaps today Italy is a place where it’s very easy to think about leaving, though it’s surely a pity to leave Italy… To leave is a defeat, not a defeat for who is leaving, it is a defeat for the ones remaining, who perhaps forced others to leave the Country.

Director Brunella Fili
interviewed on BBC WORLD NEWS
in London about Emergency Exit’s project

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Is it easy for young Italian to live abroad and get a job, have friend? What do they think about Italy, as seen from abroad? What kind of Italy they would want, if they could decide about future? Do they fear losing their origins? What are their advice for those who stayed?

The idea of this documentary is born from a social needing I felt very urgent, that one to collect and make known here the stories of young Italian people who choose to move away from Italy, also because many of these stories were regarding friends or people close to me.

Yes, migrations have always existed, all over the world, but numbers and motives are very different nowadays. A century ago, Italy was exporting arms to work and people was moving abroad to increase their fortune; today we talk about a real academic and professional escaping of young talented people, almost forced to leave to have access to their own future.

The rate of Italian graduates seeking their fortune abroad, in ten years, increased from 11% to 28%. It is no longer healthy desire to explore, it is a diaspora, paid for with public funds.

But many Italian institution want to deny this kind of reality, that has been this emigration and that the cause is the lack of opportunity at home, and not the globalization, that has just made travel easier.

Italians with less than thirty years are becoming a ‘LOST’ generation. Institution and media from Italy just cross them with their eyes, even when they say they want to keep their ‘talents’ at home.

Europe economic crisis, has worsened a critical pre-existing situation, that was caused by a stationary ‘Italian’ system - which leaves no space for young resources and lengthens the time of their entering the world of work - and to a national government that didn’t not invest in research, knowledge and merits in the last 20 years.

Some data:
• Youth unemployment in Italy reaches over 42%, highest data ever;
• 50% of graduates in their first job in Italy is underpaid (data CENSIS 2011);
• Italy has the lowest average salaries in Europe (ISTAT 2012);
• Corruption costs to Italy every year 10 billion of its P.I.L.
• Over 70,000 Italian young people (under 40) have gone to live abroad in 2010.
• 70% of them are graduated and professionally skilled.
• 27,000 leave every year, according to official data of AIRE. Not official data is about twice this number.

Motivations

Mauro Gargano, from Bari (South of Italy) lives in Paris since 10 years
Emergency Exit is a documentary co-produced by Officinema DOC srls and Di Santo Productions (Italy - USA); it is the first feature documentary directed by emerging director Brunella Filì; before finding a producer, the film started its production and first shootings thanks to more than 5000 $ of contribution raised on Indiegogo.com, the crowdfunding web-platform.
- On January 2014 the film has been completed in Turin and now is looking for an international distribution and an international premiere.
It also won a contribution of 25,000 euros from UE and Regione Puglia (resulting Winner of Principi Attivi - Young Ideas) for the development of a transmedia follow up (a web documentary series), arriving 16th on more than 2500 projects.
- On November 2012 Emergency Exit has been officially selected to the Italian Doc Screenings for documentary work-in-progress, in Florence.
- On 28th of January 2014, the first official trailer was presented at the European Parliament in Bruxelles, during an international conference about Young People unemployment.
- On February 2014 it has been selected to the Madrid International Film Festival, competing for the ‘best foreign documentary’ and the ‘best emerging director’ categories.

Winner of Principi Attivi

Selected to IDS 2012

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BRUNELLA FILI’ -DIRECTOR

I was born in 1982, in Bari, South of Italy. I graduated in Communication Science and have a Master Degree in Cinema Studies at University of Bologna, summa cum laude (2008). I’m a freelance director since 2005, when I debuted with a short movie: “Aesthetic expression”, which won the prize for ‘best actor’ at Bari Film Festival. Until 2008, I worked in Bologna, as assistant director on series and feature films (Ispettore Coliandro, Quo Vadis Baby, for RAI).

Then, I started working between Milan and Bari, realizing audiovisual contents (documentaries, commercials, filler, backstage) and continued as ass. director on short movie and tv set (Sky TV; “Poppitu”, short movie directed by R.De Feo & V.Palumbo and produced by Apulia Film Commission).

I trained myself with courses in: directing film (held by Giuseppe Tornatore), movie language (held by Abbas Kiarostami), production (held by Oscar’s winner producer Nicola Giuliano) and scriptwriting.

Last May, I finished my first short webdocumentary, “Piazza Macao”, street documentary about an occupation of a skyscraper in Milano, by a group of young artists, arrested by police. I’ve directed the shootings of a booktrailer for Marsilio Editori, selected to the Cortinametraggio 2014.

OTHER CREDITS

Emergency Exit – Storie di Giovani Italiani all’estero
Documentario  (ITALIA - USA, 2014, 62’)

Written by Brunella Filì
Produced by: Officina DOC srls
Executive Producer: Beth di Santo (USA)
Assistants director: Lucia Crollo
Camera: Daniele Raspanti, Simone Danieli
Comunication: Pooya

With the special partecipation of Bill Emmott.

Editing: Brunella Filì ed Enrico Giovannone
Original Soundtrack: Gioacchino Balistreri
Sound: Rodolfo Mongitore
Color Correction and titles: Giulio Bruno


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TRAILER  presented at European parliament on VIMEO: https://vimeo.com/84993049
FACEBOOK: http://www.facebook.com/emergencyexitdocutrip
Official Website with first official PROMO: www.emergencyexit.it
Interview on BBC World News: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dDU2gyy2Kqg
Twitter: @emergencytwit
The Guardian UK, La Stampa, Le Monde, Internazionale are some of the international newspapers which talked about the documentary project Emergency Exit - Stories of young Italians abroad.
Intervista in diretta su BBC World News, da Londra, per raccontare la nascita del documentario - 22 febbraio 2013

Intervista per importante testata norvegese www.de.no di Morten Anestad

Lykkelig italiensk i oljebyen


In diretta su Brontolo (Rai Tre), con Oliviero Beha, Massimo Cacciari; intervista alla regista sul documentario e sulle storie raccontate in esso - 4 marzo 2013

Man mano si avanzano dei pionieri. Natascia Mussard, 28 anni, ha scelto Mainz, Germania, perché spiega, non vuole diventare mamma a 40 anni. Cioè tornare in Italia le donne saranno messe nella condizione di scegliere liberamente se avere un figlio oppure no, senza dover dire non me lo posso permettere.

Mentre tuffa i suoi occhi in Europa a caccia di cervelli in fuga italiani

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Presentation of the documentary on Rai NEWS 24, with the director Brunella Filì (5th of February 2014).

RAI 3
TGR 3 PUGLIA - BUONGIORNO REGIONE
NEWS CHANNEL
Special on Italian young people's diaspora narrated in Emergency Exit documentary.

Other infos

Director’s notes

The idea of this documentary was born from what I identify as a very strong and urgent social need, which starts with collecting and making known the stories of young Italian people who choose to move and build lives away from Italy, first of all most of my friends and acquaintances.

Migrations have always existed all over the world, of course, but the numbers and motives are very different nowadays. A century ago, Italy was exporting arms to work or people were moving abroad to increase their fortune; today we talk about a real academic and professional diaspora of young talented people, almost forced to leave. European economic crisis has worsened a critical pre-existing situation, that was caused by a stationary 'Italian' system -which leaves no space for young resources and lengthens the time of their entering the workforce. It's been further perpetuated by a national government that didn't invest in research, knowledge or merits in the last 20 years, leaving the youth and progress behind.

Paris, Vienna, and many other cities have become centers of attraction for young Italians who are trying to build or rebuild their professional, personal, and cultural realities. But, being an Italian abroad is not a choice without sadness. Far from home, uprooted, to look for a better future -- an emergency exit, in fact -- from a country blocked, mostly by its own doing. We will discover that Italian youth abroad are far from being a lost generation: they work hard, often speak several languages, are trained and often highly skilled. And they still have something to say to their country.

Honestly, I have to say that I choose to listen to them without preparation or reconstructions of episodes, to avoid the risk of spoil their spontaneity; I went to characters pretty blank. But the reason is not why I didn’t know what my aim was, of course: I knew my premises very well, did a lot of research about it and lived on my skin a lot of this precariousness. My method has been to live daily with my protagonists in their new spaces, which I didn't know because it would be quite expensive for me to go in very city more than one time! So, I went there to really understand the good and bad aspects of their choice being on place and everything came to me and my eyes. Then, I talk with my protagonists, turning my camera on when it was needed and focusing on some of the aspects that I considered important for the whole situation, some ‘universal’ pieces (feelings, missed things, other psychological aspects reveal by some of their new habits).

My presence is there, in the final film, linking the stories as the external point of view of Bill Emmott, but is very passive in relationship to their ‘confessions’. I didn’t give so much importance to the photography, to be honest, because it would have compromised the relationship between me and the character to have more persons in the crew. I had their faces and their eyes in my picture, and that’s it.