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**GIAN-PIETRO CALASSO**

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**Experience:** Director, Screenwriter, University Professor of Performing Arts.

**Languages:** Italian (mother tongue), fluent English, French, German. A little Spanish and Japanese.

**Nationality:** Italian and American.

**International Awards:** In Italy, First prize at MystFest Festival as screenwriter -  
In Japan, Japanese Critic's Award for the best direction of the year in Japan.

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**ACTIVITY AS FILM DIRECTOR**

Presently in negotiation with American, English and Italian companies to co-produce a movie based on my own screenplay "The Alibi" (story by Daphne du Maurier).

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**Previous Productions**

- The Vulture is a Patient Bird - By G. P. Calasso, African action adventure, based on the novel by J. H. Chase; with Donald Pleasence, Michela Rocco, Bruno Corazzari, Bruno Bilotta, etc. (1993).
- Have a Change of Scene - By G. P. Calasso, suspense drama, based on the novel by J. H. Chase; with Alvaro Mosca, Marina Suma, Jean Desailly, Linda Christian, etc. (1992).
- Covenant with Death - By G. P. Calasso, thriller, based on a novel by J. H. Chase; with Luc Merenda, Laura Trotter, William Berger, etc. (1982) **First Prize at the International MystFest Festival, 1982.**
- The Borden Enigma - By G. P. Calasso, dramatization of the famous American criminal case; with Anna Bonasso, Mario Feliciani, Bruno Corazzari, Adolfo Geri, etc. (1982).
- Winchester M2 - By G. P. Calasso, psychological crime drama, based on a story by G. Scerbanenco; with Alfredo Pea, Mario Feliciani, etc. (1979). Considered by Scerbanenco's estate to be the best cinematic interpretation of the novelist's work.
- Spy. The Philby Case - By G. P. Calasso, based upon the real life of the famous Soviet secret agent; with Gigi Pistilli, Claudine Auger, etc. (1977).
- The Killers - By G. P. Calasso, based on the story by E. Hemingway; with Vittorio Mezzogiorno, Ernesto Colli, etc. (1975).
- The Undefeated - By G. P. Calasso, based on two short stories by E. Hemingway ("The Undefeated" and "The Capital of the World"); with Duilio Del Prete, Gigi Pistilli, etc. (1975).
- Investigation of a Robbery - By G. P. Calasso, based on a famous real crime story; with Michele Placido, Vittorio Mezzogiorno, Lucia Catullo, etc. (1972; preview showing for the Premio Italia in Turin).
- Hypothesis of a Murder - By G. P. Calasso; based on the true story of a crime by a young schizophrenic; with Gabriele Lavia, Gigi Pistilli, Milly, etc. (1971; preview showing at the Festival dei Popoli, Florence, 1970).

## SCREENPLAYS

### (Recent projects)

(The asterisk indicates the screenplay has been produced, or deals in progress)

- The Alibi\* - Psychological thriller. Based on Daphne du Maurier's short story. A dull bank clerk finds out that murder is more gratifying than paperwork, and art more gratifying than murder. But... The dramatic concept tackles the problem of crime and punishment as both legal and moral issues.
- The Silence\* - Based on the novel by S. Endo and historical background, drama of a young Jesuit priest looking for his vanished missionary mentor, and his own spiritual identity, amidst the turmoil of the persecutions in 17<sup>th</sup> century Japan. **(Letters of congratulations from Pope John Paul II - Archbishop John Foley, chief of all Mass Communication of Vatican - Archbishop Giuseppe Pittau, vice-general of the Jesuits and head of cultural activities of Vatican).**
- Voices \* - Based on a novel by Dacia Maraini. Psychological thriller/romance. Through the investigation of the screenplay mysterious murder of a young actress, the story provides an inquiry into the problem of feminine identity in contemporary life.
- The Oasis - Based on a short story by H. G. Wells and historical background. Fantasy adventure drama/romance. Fighting all kind of obstacles a visionary archaeologist pursues the solution of the greatest mystery of ancient history. A visually enthralling and dramatic metaphor of the alienation of the hero in his own community and his dearly paid final triumph.
- Real Magic - Based on an unpublished novel by Russell Targ, ESP expert and author. Family movie, entertaining and dramatically meaningful adventure. A Caucasian teenager, raised in a Navajo reservation, with strong ESP powers, crosses the country on a motorcycle looking for his identity. His outstanding scores on video games arouse the curiosity of the computer company which sells them, of a newspaper editor, of an ESP expert, and of the CIA. They all chase him, eager to decode and exploit his mystery, but he gets the best of all of them.
- Shock Wave - Based on a novel by Tim Parks. Psychological suspense-drama /romance. Under the dazzling light and in the sensual atmosphere of a Greek island, a brilliant geologist, through the investigation of a fraudulent billion-dollar real estate project, tackles the puzzle of his own erotic identity.
- Requiem for Voice and Piano \* - Based on a novel by J. H. Chase. Film noir. A great pianist falls head over heels for an angelic-looking, but rotten-to-the-core teenage pop singer. She turns his life into a nightmare of blackmail and crime. An eye for an eye, a crime for a crime seems the only way out, but is it?
- Boulevard of Broken Dreams - Original story. Show business drama. A young, gifted, Italian director struggling to have his film produced in Hollywood. His virgin experience of the capital of show business. Paradoxically, the fantasy story he wrote seems to come true in reality. Dramatic surprise finale, both positive and tragic (first draft).
- The Professor - Based on a novel by J. Lynn. Strongly character-driven drama of a university professor who gets accidentally mixed up in a nightmarish Mafia connection. (Treatment).

### Previous works

(The asterisk indicates that the screenplay was purchased and the film was produced)

- The Christ Commission - Historical-religious drama. Based on the novel by Og Mandino (1994).
- For Whom the Sun Rises\* - Criminal and love story. Based on G. Scerbanenco's novel "Dove il Sole non Sorge Mai" (1993).
- Love is not for Spies\* - Espionage and love story. Based on G. Scerbanenco's novel "Le Spie non Devono Amare" (1992).
- The Vulture is a Patient Bird \* - African action adventure. Based on the J. H. Chase's novel (1990).
- Death on Contract - \* Action thriller. Based on J. H. Chase's novel "This Way for a Shroud" (1987).
- Have a Change of Scene \* - Action drama. Based on the J. H. Chase's novel (1986).
- Dawn of an Empire - Period piece. An original story. Historically documented dramatization of Julius Caesar's youth set against the background of First Century B. C. Rome in the period of its transition from the Republic into the Empire (1884-1985).
- You've Got it Coming\* - Action thriller. Based on the J. H. Chase's novel (1984).
- Black Fog - Espionage. Freely based on Matsumoto's novel (1983).
- Covenant with Death \* - Thriller. Based on J. H. Chase's novel "There's always a Price Tag" (1981). **First Prize at the International MystFest Festival 1982.**
- The Borden Enigma \* - Criminal drama. An original story, based on the documentation regarding the famous American 19th century judicial case (1980).
- Winchester M2 \* - Psychological crime story. Based on G. Scerbanenco's short story "Come i Gatti" (1978).
- Spy. The Philby Case \* - Espionage. Historically accurate reconstruction of the famous Soviet secret agent's life (1975/76).
- The Killers \* - Criminal drama. Based on E. Hemingway's short story (1974).
- The Undeclared \* - Corrida drama. Based on two short stories by E. Hemingway: "The Undeclared" and "The Capital of the World" (1974).
- The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber - Adventure drama. Based on E. Hemingway's short story (1973).
- The Murder of the Rosselli Brothers \* - Dramatization of the well-known political murder commissioned by Mussolini to the French fascist organization *La Cagoule* - Based on 3000 pages of secret documents discovered by the author (1970/72).
- Investigation of a Robbery \* - Action drama. Based on a true story: the reconstruction of the famous criminal story (1972).
- Zustiscia Mala (Bad Justice) - Social drama. An original story, based on a study of Sardinian vengeance (1970/72).
- Hypothesis of a Murder \* - Psychological drama. Reconstruction of the murder of a schizophrenic, based on psychiatric documentation (1970).

### LEGITIMATE STAGE DIRECTION

- Zeami - By Masakazu Yamazaki; lavish European Première at the XXXIV Maggio Musicale Fiorentino. Sets and costumes by Piero Gherardi (Fellini's designer, 2 Academy Awards); music by Ennio Morricone (several nominations). All star cast with Giorgio Albertazzi, Annamaria Guarnieri, Mariangela Melato, Claudio Gora, Gabriele Lavia, etc. La Pergola Theater, Florence (1971). Farewell to the legitimate stage, and one of the most outstanding shows of the Italian post war period.
- The Pelican - By August Strindberg; with Anita Laurenzi, Ernesto Colli, etc. Teatro Stabile dell'Aquila, Milan, Rome, Florence and tour (1968). Great success which engineered a massive revival of Strindberg on the Italian stages (12 Strindberg's shows followed).
- Voices of India - By Giuseppe Davino; with Tino Carraro, Edmonda Aldini, Achille Millo, etc. Teatro Club and Festival dei Popoli of San Marino (1967).
- Due Atti in Forma di Chiave - By Enzo Siciliano; with the Porcospino Company. Via Belsiana Theater, Rome (1967).
- Henry IV - By Luigi Pirandello; Japanese version; with Hideo Kanze, etc. First performance ever in Japan. Great box office success and **Japanese Critic's Award for the best direction in Japan for 1967**. Jiyugekijo Theater, Tokyo.
- Ubu Roi - By Alfred Jarry; Japanese version with Eiji Okada, etc. Dai-ichi Seimei Theater, Tokyo (1967). Controversial, but great success, particularly appreciated by the American audience and critics.
- Zeami - By Masakazu Yamazaki; English version with American actors. Asia House Hall, New York (1966).
- Krapp's Last Tape - By Samuel Beckett; with Warren Finnerty. Actors Studio, New York (1966).
- The Maids - By Jean Genet; with Wendy McKenzie. Actors Studio, New York (1965).

### OPERA DIRECTOR

- Oedipus Rex - By Igor Stravinsky; outstanding set and costumes by the famous sculptor Giacomo Manzù. Great international operatic successes. Staged 5 time: at Rome Opera House (1964, 1972, 1978), Lyric Opera, Chicago (1968). Teatro Comunale, Florence (1970). (Co-directed with Luigi Squarzina)
- Mavra - By Igor Stravinsky; with Lajos Cozma, Fedora Barbieri, Gabriella Ravazzi. Teatro Comunale, Florence (1976).

### DIRECTOR OF RADIO DRAMA

- Purple Dust - By Sean O' Casey; RAI (Florence); with Claudio Gora, etc. (1970).
- Sugar Cane - By Israel Horowitz; RAI (Florence); with Mico Cundari, etc. (1970).
- Biography - By Max Frisch; RAI (Florence); with Alberto Lionello, Anna Miserocchi, Raoul Grassilli, etc. (1969).
- The Burned-down House - By August Strindberg; RAI (Florence); with Raoul Grassilli, Andrea Checchi, etc. (1968).
- A Day like Sunday - By Colin Finbow; RAI (Milan); with Valentina Cortese, Ivo Garrani, etc. (1968).

### ACTIVITY AS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (1961/64)

- With Franco Zeffirelli: Don Giovanni by Mozart (Covent Garden, London).  
Alcina by Händel (Covent Garden, London).  
The Great Gala by Zeffirelli (Albert Hall, London).  
Falstaff by Verdi (Teatro dell'Opera, Rome).  
Romeo and Juliet by Shakespeare (Teatro Romano, Verona).
- With Mario Monicelli: The Organizer, film (Rome and Jugoslavia).
- With Orazio Costa: The Giants of the Mountain by Pirandello (Théâtre National, Brussels).  
Dialogues of the Carmelite Nuns by Bernanos (a RAI-TV production, Rome).
- With Luigi Squarzina: The Prisoner by Dallapiccola (Teatro dell'Opera, Roma).

### ACTING CREDITS (1961-64)

- Screen: The New Angels - Directed by U. Gregoretti.  
The Three Devils of Spartivento - Directed by L. Savona.  
Stranded - American movie directed by G. Compton. (One of the three protagonists).
- Stage: Sganarello and the King's Daughter - Free adaptation of Molière's work in the style of the Commedia dell'Arte, directed by A. Fersen (Teatro delle Arti, Rome - Schauspielhaustheater, Zürich).  
The Imaginary Invalid - By Molière, directed by A. Fersen (Teatro Olimpico, Vicenza).  
The Gold Machine - A pantomime, directed by Roy Bosier (Schauspielhaustheater, Zürich).  
Concert Champêtre - By F. Poulenc, a ballet, choreography by A. Sahkaroff (Teatro dei Rinnuovati, Siena).

### PREPARATION IN THE PERFORMING ARTS

- In USA: Harkness Grant to carry out show business studies.  
Yale University Drama School (1964-65).  
Actors Studio with Lee Strasberg; acting, directing and playwright. (1964/66).
- In France: Mime with Marcel Marceau (1960/61).
- In Italy: Acting and directing at the Alessandro Fersen Studio of Performing Arts (1957/60).
- In Germany: Collaboration with Bertolt Brecht and Helene Weigel at the Berliner Ensemble (1955/57).
- In England: London School of Film Technique (1962).

### GENERAL EDUCATION

- Rome University, degree cum laude and publication (March 24, 1960).
- Yale University (1964-65).
- High School diploma in Classical Studies from the Liceo Tasso, Rome, with highest grades in Italy and Grand Prize for the best Italian essay (July '55).

### ACTIVITY AS A PHOTOGRAPHER

- Author of photographic books (see publications) and exhibitions.
- 200 pictures purchased by the Paul Getty Museum in LA.
- Published photos in various magazines (including front pages)
- Stock collection of 15,000 photos

### TEACHING ACTIVITIES

- UNIVERSITY "LA SAPIENZA" ROMA 1, "Digital Directing", 4 years contract, starting Academic Year 2004/2005.
- NUCT (Nuova Università del Cinema e della TV, Cinecittà, Roma) "American Screenwriting" - 2003.
- UCLA (University of Southern California, Los Angeles) Film School "Advanced Screenwriting" - 1997.
- AFI (American Film Institute, Los Angeles) Private instructor "Screenwriting & Directing". 1997>2003.
- G. D'ANNUNZIO UNIVERSITY (Chieti) - "History of Performing Arts" - "Classical Japanese Theater" - "Screenwriting & Directing") - 1970>1992.

### PUBLICATIONS

- Currently working on a photographic book entitled LOS ANGELES / Nowhere - Now here (See a sample of pictures at <http://www.mbaciu.com/demos/gp>).
- Lo Spettacolo come il Sogno e il Gioco della Società - Illustration of a new theory on the essence, psychodynamics and social function of drama. Casa Editrice Università La Sapienza, 2006.
- Narcissus' Eros - Photographic book. Contemporary, visual interpretation of the Narcissus' myth. Edition bilingual, English & Italian. International distribution. Format cm. 30 x 40 (12"x 16" appr.). Pages 112, 80 color illustrations, mostly full-page, several double-page. The photos are accompanied and integrated by an essay about the myth and its psychological interpretation. Leonardo Arte, Electa (Mondadori) 2002.
- Hypothesis on the Nature of Comedy - Illustration of a new theory on the essence and psychodynamics of laughter. La Nuova Italia Editrice, Firenze, 1992.
- Toru - Translation from classical Japanese of the Noh play with an introduction and notes. Quadrifluus Amnis, published by the University G. D'Annunzio, Chieti, 1987.

- Theatrical Theater and Virtuoso Actor - Essay on the problem of the survival of the theater. Il Ponte, XLII, Nov./Dic. 1986. Vallecchi.
- Noh is a Dream of Images and Sound - Article on Noh theater published in "La Repubblica". Roma 1984.
- Hadrian - An opera libretto - A proposal for a new kind of contemporary theater and lyric opera. Published by G. D'Annunzio University Press (1983).
- Trip to Paradise - An opera libretto - A proposal as above, published by G. D'Annunzio University Press (1983).
- The Most Modern Theater - Comparative essay on Western avant-garde theater and Japanese Noh theater. Il Ponte, N. 2, 1981, La Nuova Italia.
- Zeami - Translation from modern Japanese of Yamazaki Masakazu's five act play, presented at the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino in 1971.
- Princess Aoi - Translation from classical Japanese of the Noh drama "Aoi no Ue" with notes and an introduction. Sipario, N.294, October 1970.
- Critical note - Introductions to several Noh and Kyogen theatrical representations. Premio Roma 1970.
- Notes on Ubu Roi by Alfred Jarry - Article published in Japanese on the interpretation of the play. Ed. Gekidan Seihai Company, Tokyo, October 1, 1966.
- Henry IV by Jiyugekijo - Article on the interpretation of Pirandello's Henry IV, published in Japanese in the playbill of the show, Tokyo 1966.
- Drama - Entry in the Encyclopedia Universo, De Agostini, Novara, November 28th 1963.
- Commedia dell'Arte - Entry in the Encyclopedia Universo, Agostini, Novara, 1963.
- Notes on the Concept of "felicitas" - Philological essay. Athens and Rome, Nuova Serie, VII, N.1, MCMLXII, G.D'Anna, Messina, Florence 1962.
- Italo Svevo, Comedies - A review on Svevo's work. Il Ponte, Florence, March 1961, La Nuova Italia.