

# PERSMAP

3 DONATELLO AWARDS  
BEST ACTOR • BEST ACTRESS • BEST SCRIPT

WONDERFUL,  
COLORFUL.

Moving Pictures Network

A HIGHLY POLISHED  
CROWD-PLEASER.

The Hollywood Reporter

VALERIO  
MASTANDREA

MICAELA  
RAMAZZOTTI

STEFANIA  
SANDRELLI

CLAUDIA  
PANDOLFI



# la Prima Cosa Bella

UN FILM DE - EEN FILM VAN PAOLO VIRZÌ

the production MEDIA FILM MOTORINO AMARANTO INDIANA PRODUCTION COMPANY  
dir. VALERIO MASTANDREA MICHAELA RAMAZZOTTI STEFANIA SANDRELLI CLAUDIA PANDOLFI MARCO MESSERI FABRIZIO SACCHI SERGIO ALIBELLI ISABELLA CECCHI DARIO BALLANTINI PAOLO RUFFINI EMANUELE BARRESI  
scenari FRANCESCO BRUN FRANCESCO PICCOLI e PAOLO VIRZÌ musiche TONINO ZERA costumi GABRIELLA PESCOCCI son MARIO IAGUONE www.itaz SIMONE MANETTI image NICOLA PECORINI montate CARLO VIRZÌ realizzate PAOLO VIRZÌ

NOSTALGIE  
LA LEGENDE



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NOSTALGIE  
What a feeling!

# La prima cosa bella

Een film van Paolo Virzì

Italië · 122 min · 2010 · Drama/Komedie

*Zomer, 1971. Bruno en Valeria zijn getuigen van de lotgevallen van hun moeder, Anna, die door haar jaloerse echtgenoot op straat is gezet nadat ze was verkozen tot 'mooiste mama van het strand'. Vanaf dat moment leidt Anna samen met haar kinderen een onzeker bestaan met talloze verhuizingen en verschillende minnaars.*

*Heden. Het einde van het leven van de nog altijd strijdlustige en vrolijke Anna nadert. Valeria haalt Bruno over om terug te keren naar hun geboortestad Livorno en voor hun moeder te zorgen. Deze hereniging haalt een hoop emoties naar boven en zorgt voor onverwachte gebeurtenissen; een huwelijk, een verloren zoon, een scheiding en een verzoening.*



**Italiaanse Oscar inzending voor Beste Buitenlandse Film 2011**

Release datum: 25 augustus 2011

Distributie: Cinéart

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## **Meer informatie:**

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## CAST

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VALERIO MASTANDREA	BRUNO MICHELUCCI (2009)
MICAELA RAMAZOTTI (1970-1980)	ANNA NIGOTTI IN MICHELUCCI
STEFANIA SANDRELLI	ANNA NIGOTTI IN MICHELUCCI (2009)
CLAUDIA PANDOLFI	VALERIA MICHELUCCI (2009)
MARCO MESSERI	IL NESI
FABRIZIA SACCHI	SANDRA
AURORA FRASCA	VALERIA MICHELUCCI (1970)
GIACOMO BIBBIANI	BRUNO MICHELUCCI (1970)
GIULIA BURGALASSI	VALERIA MICHELUCCI (1980)
FRANCESCO RAPALINO	BRUNO MICHELUCCI (1980)
SERGIO ALBELLI	MARIO MICHELUCCI
ISABELLA CECCHI	ZIA LEDA NIGIOTTI
EMANUELE BARRESI	IL LENZI
DARIO BALLANTINI	AVVOCATO CENERINI (1970-1980)
PAOLO RUFFINI	CHRISTIANO GENERIN



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## CREW

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DIRECTOR	PAOLO VIRZÌ
SCRIPT	FRANCESCO BRUNI FRANCESCO PICCOLO PAOLO VIRZÌ
CINEMATOGRAPHER	NICOLA PECORINI
PRODUCTION DESIGNER	TONINO ZERA
COSTUME DESIGNER	GABRIELLA PESCUCCI
EDITOR	SIMONE MANETTI
PRODUCERS	FABRIZIO DONVITO MARCO COHEN BENEDETTO HABIB
PRODUCTION COMPANIES	MEDUSA FILM MOTORINO AMARANTO INDIANA PRODUCTION

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## LONG SYNOPSIS

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Summer, 1971. The youthful, stunning Anna Nigiotti is dubbed Miss Mamma of Livorno's most famous bath house. Unaware of rousing the unwelcome attention of the male population; the suspicions of her husband Mario; the hidden embarrassment of her son Bruno.

Today. Ever the heartthrob – despite her terminal illness – Anna blows the doctors away with her irresistible, contagious verve.

Bruno, instead, has burned all bridges with his hometown, his family, his past. A passionless teacher in a trade school, he leads an obstinately disengaged life. But his sister Valeria persuades him to come home to see his mother for the last time. So Bruno makes his reluctant return to Livorno, to visit that vibrant, beautiful ball of energy, who seems to defy all the medical odds. That meeting, after years of hostility, forces Bruno to come to terms with the tumultuous past he had tried to forget at all costs. Those days and nights, years ago, spent wandering in search of a place to stay, with his still naïve, fragile sister. Thrown out of the house by their jealous father. Yet pressed on by their mother's buoyant, dogged optimism. A family drama set against the narrow-mindedness of a provincial Italy that craves new desires, embodied in the indolent, fickle men who'd like to take advantage of Anna's sensual charm and candor, but ultimately lack the courage and the strength; and especially in the malicious maneuvering of Aunt Leda to usurp her talked-about sister's husband and children.

After the eleventh-hour discovery of an unknown brother, a surprise wedding and separation, our trio's adventures lead to an unexpected reconciliation. A final life lesson, from an unconventional, unique mother. About keeping the faith in the little joys that life holds in store.



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## DIRECTOR PAOLO VIRZÌ

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Paolo Virzì (director, screenwriter, producer) made a name for himself with his debut film, LA BELLA VITA, winning the David di Donatello and Silver Ribbon awards for best new director.

Later, he wrote and directed eight other films for the screen, including the choral comedy FERIE D'AGOSTO, OVOSODO (Jury's Special Grand Prize at the Venice Film Festival), BACI E ABBRACCI, MY NAME IS TANINO, CATERINA VA IN CITTÀ and N. - LO E NAPOLEONE starring Daniel Auteuil and Monica Bellucci.

His penultimate feature film, TUTTA LA VITA DAVANTI, won two Silver Ribbons (best picture and best supporting actress, Sabrina Ferilli).



### Filmography:

2010: LA PRIMA COSA BELLA

2009: L'UOMO CHE AVEVA PICHIATO LA TESTA (video documentary)

2008: TUTTA LA VITA DAVANTI

2006: N. - LO E NAPOLEONE

2003: CATERINA VA IN CITTÀ

2002: MY NAME IS TANINO

1999: PROVINO D'AMMISSIONE (short)

1999: BACI E ABBRACCI

1997: OVOSODO

1996: FERIE D'AGOSTO

1996: INTOLERANCE (segment "Roma Ovest 143")

1994: LA BELLA VITA

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## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

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“La prima cosa bella” is one of the chirpy, romantic songs that Anna Nigiotti-Michelucci sings to her children, Bruno and Valeria, to cheer them up during the tough times they endure after her husband Mario throws the three of them out in a jealous rage. It’s the early ’70s: Bruno is 8, Valeria is 5. Their stunningly beautiful mother is unexpectedly crowned Miss Mamma on a balmy summer night at the Bagni Pancaldi, Livorno’s most famous bath house. From that moment on, Mario loses his head, unable to bear the unwelcome attention showered on his gorgeous young wife. All this unfolds before the sweet, naïve gaze of Valeria and the watchful eyes of Bruno, ever alert of the family disputes and people’s malicious gossip. These are the years when provincial Italy seems to have lost its innocence, and the wanderings of this jovial, wishful and unlucky mother, with her two kids in tow, are filled with as many false hopes as dangers encountered along the way. Today, Bruno is an unhappy, unemotional forty-something who abandoned his small hometown years ago. After much hostility, his sister Valeria persuades him to return to Livorno to say his last goodbyes to their dying mother. But he’s in for a surprise: despite the clinical evidence, Anna is still beautiful, carefree, hungry for life. What should have been a quick visit turns into Bruno’s chance to come to terms with a past he had stubbornly tried to forget. And Anna’s passing finally becomes a celebration of life, where the pain of loss is bearable and bittersweet.

It has been a moving experience for me to shoot this movie in the city I tried to escape a quarter of a century ago. Evidently, I couldn’t stay away. Livorno is my own personal stage, a bit like Newark is for Philip Roth, Boulder for John Fante, or the Rione Sanità for Mario Merola. It’s a city teeming with extraordinary stories of ordinary people that I am excited to tell and put on film.

Maybe because we’re all going through rough times, in which our society is seething with resentment and distrust, and maybe also because my last film, TUTTA LA VITA DAVANTI, brought me face to face with today’s disturbing issues and many troubling figures – this time around I wanted to take shelter in the warmth of this story, about characters we all grow to love: the circle of life and its painful but joyful mysteries, in a family like many others. For once, maybe, no social commentary. Only the vibrant pieces of my heart.

*-Paolo Virzì*



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## MORE ABOUT THE CREW

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### **GABRIELLA PESCUCCI**

*Costume design*

Gabriella Pescucci began her career in Rome in the 1960s as an assistant to the great Pierluigi Pizzi and Piero Tosi in Pasolini's MEDEA. She has worked in opera at La Scala in Milan. Through the years, she has worked intensely in many films, making her international debut in Sergio Leone's ONCE UPON A TIME IN AMERICA, for which she won a BAFTA. An Oscar winner in 1994 for best costume design for Scorsese's THE AGE OF INNOCENCE, she received two more nominations, including one in 2006 for Tim Burton's CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY. She has won seven Silver Ribbons and two David di Donatello awards and has collaborated with many famous filmmakers both in Italy and around the world.

### **TONINO ZERA**

*Set design*

Tonino Zera's career began in 1978 in Rome, where he studied architecture. In 1979, he was assistant set designer for the great Elio Ballelli. He first met Paolo Virzì in 1991 on the set of the film CONDOMINIO. Since 1994, he has collaborated with Carlo Vanzina in all of his work. In 2002, he designed the sets for Paolo Virzì's CATERINA VA IN CITTÀ and in 2006 for L'ESTATE DEL MIO PRIMO BACIO, directed by Carlo Virzì. His work in recent films includes Zampaglione's NERO BIFAMILIARE, Tornatore's LA SCONOSCIUTA, for which he earned nominations for the David di Donatello and Venice Film Festival awards, Silvio Muccino's PARLAMI D'AMORE, Spike Lee's MIRACLE AT ST. ANNA, and HOTEL MEINA by Carlo Lizzani. He has already collaborated with Indiana Production on the set of Paolo Monico's 4 SINGLE FATHERS.

### **NICOLA PECORINI**

*Director of Photography*

Today, he is the leading Italian Steadicam expert. In 1988, he founded the Steadicam Operator Association with Garret Brown. As director of photography, he has worked with major directors including Oliver Stone, Bernardo Bertolucci and Roman Polanski, and especially Terry Gilliam, with whom he has formed a true artistic brotherhood.

