



# THE PROPHECY OF COCA

of Kiana-Chuyma, (inca priest xv century)

... for you it will be spirituality, for them instead idiocy

...and when white people
will try to do the same
and they will allow themselves to use
the coca leaf like you do,
the opposite effect will happen to them.

Its juice for you will be the life strength,
for your new rulers instead
it will be a repulsive and degrading vice.

While for indigenous people it will be a healthy spiritual nourishment to them it will cause idiocy and dementia.

...I die now, and anybody, who reveals this secret will die too.



#### SYNOPSIS

FRANCESCO BARTOLI, aka FRANK is a very promising neuroscientist; he is making researches on the coca leaf, a natural resource indigenous in Andean countries where it is cultivated and was used for more than five thousand years. FRANK is married with Bolivian scientist LINDA. The couple has a young boy, PABLO, who is suffering of a secondary form of autism. For the love of his son, FRANK synthetises a special enzyme GAUDIUM (from Latin: happiness), hoping to cure PAB-LO's sickness. At the same time, FRANK discovers that GAUDIUM could eliminate addiction to cocaine, offer relief for mental diseases like depression, and facilitate happiness. Therefore, FRANK's research could disrupt enormous economic interest in the trade of big pharma and of coca-derived beverages as well as in the underworld of narcotraffickers.

One day, two people just landed in Bangkok, the city where FRANK is living, show up at his door and ask him to follow them.



It sounds like an arrest or a kidnapping but it is not: the two men just request FRANK to follow them because they want to talk with him. They go to a luxurious happy end massage parlour for kinky Japanese's businessmen and during the massage they start to question him about his job and his researches.

FRANK, who is also an activist for the poor Andean population, has a strong belief that the coca leaf may be not dangerous at all. Furthermore, FRANK is aware that GAUDIUM will affect the most lucrative businesses on earth, manifold more profitable than arms trades. Hence, the visit of the two guys is not a real unpredictable surprise for FRANK. However, a sudden Japanese mafia attack destroys the nice feelings of their chat. All get killed except FRANK who passes to other less gentle hands and gets into a dangerous Kafkaesque's story.



### HISTORICAL NOTES

For over a thousand years, South American indigenous peoples have chewed the leaves of Erythroxylon coca, a plant that contains vital nutrients as well as numerous alkaloids, including cocaine. The remains of coca leaves have been found with ancient Peruvian mummies. There is also evidence that these cultures used a mixture of coca leaves and saliva as an anesthetic for the performance of trepanation. When the Spaniards arrived in South America, they legalized and taxed coca production and its trade. Nicolás Monardes described the indigenous peoples' practice of chewing a mixture of tobacco and coca leaves to induce "great contentment". Although the stimulant and hunger-suppressant properties of coca had been known for many centuries, the isolation of the cocaine alkaloid was not achieved until 1855. In that year, Friedrich Gaedcke, a German chemist, first isolated the cocaine alkaloid; however, he just confirmed the earlier original research by Enrico Pizzi and Domenico Lorini, the pharmacist

ca-elixir Lorini, the precursor of Coca Cola. Since then, an innocent leaf able to support the life of the Andean population, will be the source of the biggest businesses of the modern world: cocaine and Coca Cola.

of Garibaldi's troops, who, later on, created the co-

.



### DIRECTOR NOTES

Gaudium is an amazing subject due to the large scientific and historical background that places the whole story in a natural feeling of truth. The fictional part opens up new scenarios to investigate deeper about our time's societal changes, getting closer to key aspirations of the lives of all of us. My creations give always the priority to contents where, at present, form seems more privileged among writers and directors. To emphasize this path, our way to shoot may protect the will of truth, insisting in long take often by hand, trying to preserve and enhance the actors' performances. The work of the actors is crucial: a two weeks preparation is neded before the start of the production.





## PRODUCTION NOTES

Thailand is the stage of more than 1,000 films every year. This high number of productions is due to the presence of an incredible number of amazing locations from the north (Jungles and mountains) to the south (dreaming beaches) with at the center a huge ultra-modern metropolis (Bangkok) In several years of intense activities, Thailand (and Bangkok in particular) built a large expertise in every field of the movie business, able to rich high-quality standard.

In addition, shooting in Thailand is truly convenient compared to US and Europe. That represents a real opportunity for investors looking for a new production, with a high standard quality and a low budget risk.

#### LOCATION

BANGKOK Is the capital and most populous city of the Kingdom of Thailand. It is known in Thai as Krung Thep Maha Nakhon. The city occupies 1,568.7 square kilometres (605.7 sq mi) in the Chao Phraya River delta in Central Thailand, and has a population of over 8 million, or 12.6 percent of the country's population. Over 14 million people (22.2 percent) lived within the surrounding Bangkok Metropolitan Region at the 2010 census, making Bangkok an extreme primate city, significantly dwarfing Thailand's other urban centres in terms of importance.



MAURIZIO MISTRETTA - CO WRITER AND DIRECTOR

Born in Florence (Italy), Maurizio Mistretta has been writing, directing and acting in theatre and multimedia plays for the past 20 years. At present he is the director of the Italian Film Festival in Bangkok and actor and director of Mistrettatheatre and duo Mistretta-Firrincieli (www.mistrettatheatre.com) His extensive career began in Bologna at the Conservatoire of Theatre and develops working along several important masters in Italy, followed by a long-term role inside the Pisa Prison as Art Director directing a company of inmates-actors (1993-2001). Further works include projects inside of public and private schools in Italy and Thailand (1990-2008). In 2001 a collaboration with the RAI, producing a documentary about the theater in prison: "Pisa's Towers" RAI 3 (National Channel). In 2004 he created a multimedia production, linking movie and theatre languages "Black Jealousy from Othello by W. Shakespeare and 5 short videos of 4-5 minutes in duration were merged together creating a stage production with an added contemporary feel, The marriage of multimedia to live stage performance allowed for the audience to connect with the characters on stage in a more intimate fashion. From 2000 to 2006 he organized workshops in several Thai Correctional Houses in Bangkok in collaboration with UNICEF-Bangkok and produced a video document "Pinocchio in Siam" (Melampo Documentary Production, La7 TV, 2007).



#### FILMOGRAPHY

2017 GAUDIUM (Tv series - pre-production)

2017 EGO (feature-writing)

2017 SOI TANANKAN (feature-writing)

2016 BOXER REBELLION (documentary-post production)

2016 THE RED IRON DOOR (feature - distribution)

2015 FATIMA'S SECRET (feature - distribution)

2014 FUFU, 99 minutes of life (poetic short - post production)

2006 BLACK JEALOUSY (5 short movies about Othello of Shakespeare)

2004 PINOCCHIO IN SIAM (documentary LA7) 2001 THE PISA'S TOWERS (documentary RAI3)



SANDRO CALVANI CO-WRITER AND PRODUCER

Dr. Sandro Calvani is the Senior Adviser on Strate-

Dr. Sandro Calvani is the Senior Adviser on Strategic Planning at the Mae Fah Luang Foundation (under
Royal Patronage) in Bangkok, Thailand: www.maefahluang.org, and the Director (Emeritus) of the ASEAN
Center of Excellence on U.N. Millennium Development
Goals ,Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand: www.ait.asia He is a professor of Politics of
Development and of Humanitarian Affairs in International Politics at the Webster University Masters
Course in International Relations, Bangkok, Thailand
and Former Director General UNICRI, Turin, Italy, www.unicri.it.

Mr. Calvani has worked for 35 years as a senior official of International NGOS and of the United Nations in 135 countries in five continents and is the author of 23 books, 29 multi-author books and more than 700 articles on sustainable development, humanitarian aid, public health, convergence of emerging threats in human security. Mr. Calvani is a recognized expert in history and biology of the coca leaf and of its extracts, alcaloids, traditional medicines, drinks and cocaine. He has researched some of the world oldest archives on coca in Bolivia and written four books on coca.

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandro\_Calvani

NICCOLO DE LA FERE - PRODUCER

Niccolò Bordin, alias Niccolò de la Fère, was born in Montebelluna, near Venice (Italy), in 1984. He became interested at a very young age in literature and film. After attending the Linguistic high school, he enrolled at the public college for performing arts in Padua, where he improved his technical skills in cinematography and storytelling. He then began his collaborations for feature films, commercials and music videos, some of which got aired on MTV USA. In 2015, Niccolò moved to Asia, where he works at the moment, between Thailand and Japan, for TV and Film industry, producing considerable promo and commercial work.





DIn his ongoing, decades-long career as as a musician, songwriter, composer, arranger, producer, and recording artist, Bruno has composed, arranged and produced music scores and original songs for feature films, television, documentaries, and commercials, amassing over a hundred albums to his credits as well as a composer for numerous movies scores of every imaginable style and genre.

Today Bruno is much sought after for his award winning capabilities as an experienced and acclaimed film score and multimedia composer.

In 2007 the movie | Pleasure Factory | was selected for the Un Certain Regards competition at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival with Bruno original score. In 2008 Bruno scored the movie | Sell Out | winner at Venice Film Festival, Critics Week Young Cinema

In 2017 Bruno won for the third time the Supannahong Awards, the Thai equivalent of the Academy Awards, for Best Original Song Written for a Motion Picture, and also nominated for Best Original Score In March 2017 Winner for best Original Song at the Bangkok Critics Assembly, the Thai equivalent of the American Golden Globe

Winner of the 32th TV GOLD AWARD 2018 for the documentary "The Yodia Awaken" by director Chartchai Ket-