



GIORNATE
DEGLI AUTORI
VENICE DAYS

Mood Film presents

Hit the Road, Granny

(Hit the road, nonna)

a documentary by Duccio Chiarini

Mood Film



MOOD FILM

presents

HIT THE ROAD, GRANNY

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a documentary by
Duccio Chiarini

Official Selection

SIDEBARS
(SPAZIO APERTO)



during the

68° Mostra Internazionale d'Arte Cinematografica
La Biennale di Venezia 2011

OFFICIAL SCREENING:
Sunday, September 4th | h. 10:00 pm | La Pagoda
In front of Hotel Des Bains, Lungomare Marconi 17 - Lido di Venezia

MOOD FILM



HIT THE ROAD, GRANNY
■ **cast & crew**

Cast DELIA UBALDI, DUCCIO CHIARINI, ALBERTO CHIARINI,
GIOIETTA DI PRETE, KLAUS VOIT

Direction and Story DUCCIO CHIARINI
Screenplay DUCCIO CHIARINI
OTTAVIA MADEDDU

Photography CARLO RINALDI
Editing CHIARA GRIZIOTTI
DAVIDE VIZZINI

Sound Editing DANIELE SCARINGELLA
Mix DAVIDE FAVARGIOTTI

Unit Manager LIVIA CORTESE
Production Manager TOMMASO ARRIGHI

Production MOOD FILM
With the support of MINISTERO PER I BENI E LE ATTIVITÀ CULTURALI
REGIONE TOSCANA

In collaboration with TOSCANA FILM COMMISSION
LA RÉGLE DU JEU

Produced by TOMMASO ARRIGHI

Country ITALY
Year 2011
Language ITALIAN
Subtitles ENGLISH
Lenght 64'
Color Color / Black and White
Format HD
Sound 5.1
Aspect Ratio 1:1.85

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Doc web site <http://www.moodfilm.com/-E-productions-hittheroadgranny-story&credits.html>

HIT THE ROAD, GRANNY

- logline
- synopsis
- director's note & biography

■ logline

Throughout her life, Delia Ubaldi has gone from being the daughter of destitute Italian immigrants to France to successful businesswoman across Europe. Her talent has earned her enormous riches but her character has made her lose them all.

■ synopsis

Delia is eighty-eight years old, she has a husband twenty years her junior and has spent her life travelling around the world, ever since she emigrated from Italy to France when she was only six months old. Having come back for love, in the 60s she starts working in the textile industry. Soon her products start filling the shelves of European department stores, procuring her huge fortunes and making her one of the first female entrepreneurs of the *pret a porter* world. But Delia wants more and throws herself into high fashion, without understanding that perhaps the time has come even for her to stop.

■ director's note

As a kid, when I said her name everyone's mood changed: Grandma Delia. She used to come and visit me twice a year, she would appear suddenly and leave after a few hours, always leaving me full of questions: where was she always running off to? Was she really a billionaire? And why at some point was she no longer?

(Duccio Chiarini)

■ director's biography

DUCCIO CHIARINI graduated in Law at the University of Firenze and has a diploma from the London Film School. He has directed several shorts, including *Alone Together*, selected at Clermont Ferrand, and *Lo zio*, which won several awards. He was assistant director to Peter Del Monte and to Spike Lee in *Miracle at St. Anna*, he has collaborated with Radio 3 as author of radio documentaries. He is currently preparing his debut film *divani degli altri* with Acaba Produzioni, co-written with Roan Johnson and Davide Lantieri, the screenplay for which was in the final at the Franco Solinas Award 2011.



■ **Delia Ubaldi's biography**

Born in 1923 in a small country town, Delia Ubaldi grows up in France where her family had expatriated to work in the steel plants in Thionville, Lorraine. She attends French school and learns German as well. Thanks to her knowledge of languages she finds a job at the Italian consulate as a translator but then is forced to act as a dispatch rider for the Nazi SS during France's occupation. She saves the lives of a few political exiles wanted by the Nazis and falls in love with an Italian prisoner she helped to repatriate towards the end of the war. A few years later, she joins him in Florence where they are married. A child is born, Alberto, our director Duccio's father.



During the 50s she works as a secretary in a textile factory in Florence and this is the beginning of her ascent. Having learnt the secrets of entrepreneurship, she starts her own business and slowly makes her way in the import-export field. She obtains success in Europe and then across the world during the 60s and 70s trading in clothing and knitwear. She travels across the world, keeping Florence as her headquarters. Her apartments in Paris and her villas in Forte dei Marmi and in Chianti are frequented by secretaries, accountants, businessmen and friends. But these are the last flares of her "bella vita". Her business keeps on growing, perhaps too much.



At the beginning of the 80s, she meets an extremely wealthy German businessman: his chain of clothing stores, Juschi, has shops in London, Paris, Beverly Hills, Bel Air. Delia becomes his business partner. Their boutiques even appear in a scene of "American Gigolo", starring Richard Gere. But her associate is a swindler. Delia unknowingly signs a guarantee, falling into a financial domino effect which will take her, as well as the German banking institute which had financed the operation, to bankruptcy. Wanted by German police, her photos appear on newspapers, where she is named "the Italian dame". These are very difficult years for her: she loses her credibility, her friends and clients. Relationships with her son, brothers and other relatives are strained. She is a throne-less queen and loses everything.

During the 90s, an employee of the bankrupt German bank testifies in court on her behalf. His name is Klaus. They soon start working together, with small knitwear mills in southern Italy and import-export operations with Slovakia, France and Germany. Eighty-eight years old today, Delia Ubaldi has retired from business and lives in stable financial conditions. Klaus is by her side: after having been her driver, secretary, partner, and even though twenty years her younger, he has become her husband and they now live near Ubersee, a small town in Germany.

In the late years, she has spent most of her time aboard her Volkswagen. Stretching her legs out onto the dashboard and watching the road, on her way to France or maybe Italy, she has been thinking about visiting her relatives and keeping close relations with her son and grandchildren, which have become the most important thing to her, in her old age.

In April 2011, she was hospitalized in Serravalle del Chienti and her health conditions has gradually deteriorated. She is now back in Ubersee where her husband Klaus is looking after her, but her journey seems to be over.

HIT THE ROAD, GRANNY
■ **Production**

■ **production**
MOOD FILM

Established by Tommaso Arrighi, Mood Film has produced four short films:

- ***Sotto le foglie (Under the leaves)*** (2005, 35mm, 12')
by Stefano Chiodini with Cecilia Dazzi and Valerio Mastandrea
(2006 Italian Golden Globe, Special Mention to Cecilia Dazzi 2005 Nastri d'Argento Awards, Best Short in 7 festivals and 7 more awards)
- ***La preda (The Prey)*** (2009, 35mm, 18', MiBAC and PCS)
by Francesco Apice with Paolo Sassanelli and Cecilia Dazzi
(Special Mention to Paolo Sassanelli 2010 Nastri d'Argento Awards, Best Short in 2 festivals and 10 more awards)
- ***Uerra (War)*** (2009, 35mm, 16', MiBAC and AFC)
by Paolo Sassanelli with Dino Abbrescia and Totò Onnis
(Out of Competition at 2009 Venice Film Festival, Nominated at 2010 David di Donatello Awards, Special Mention for Direction 2010 Nastri d'Argento Awards, Best Short in 13 Festivals and 26 more awards)
- ***La casa di Ester*** (in postproduction)
by Stefano Chiodini with Cecilia Dazzi and Sergio Albelli.

In 2011 Mood Film has produced the documentary ***Hit the road, nonna (Hit the Road, Granny)*** by Duccio Chiarini with MiBAC and Regione Toscana support.

Mood Film is now developing a few feature films. One of these, Paolo Sassanelli's debut feature film ***La vita ti arriva addosso (Life Runs Over You)***, written by Francesco Apice and Paolo Sassanelli, has been nominated at 2011 Franco Solinas Screenplay Award.