

THE AQUARIUM

L'ACQUARIO

A Short Movie by GIANLUCA ZONTA





THE AQUARIUM (L'Acquario)

(Italy - 2024 - 14')

PRODUCTION COMPANIES **Capetown, Trama**

CO-PRODUCTION COMPANIES **Filandolarete, Manufactory Productions**

WITH THE SUPPORT OF **Nuovo Imaie**

IN COLLABORATION WITH **AdCom, Horizon**

DIRECTED BY **Gianluca Zonta**

WRITTEN BY **Alessandro Salentino, Gianluca Zonta**

CINEMATOGRAPHY BY **Mirco Sgarzi**

EDITING BY **Paolo Marzoni, Clara Pellizzi**

PRODUCTION DESIGN BY **Chiara Guadagnini**

MUSIC BY **Giuseppe Tranquillino Minerva**

COSTUME DESIGN BY **Beatrice Zannini**

PRODUCED BY **Camillo Esposito, Andre Guidot, Serena Marcon, Gianluca Zonta**

CO-PRODUCED BY **Matteo Castaldo, Lamberto Mongiorgi**

CAST **Giovanni Anzaldo, Barbara Venturato, Jacopo Costantini, Anna Pancaldi**

WITH THE VOICES OF **Licia Navarrini, Luca Ward**



Vincenzo, a shy and insecure young man, is on his first date with Sara. Unsure of what to say, he turns to Chat-AIT, an artificial intelligence app that provides perfect responses in real time. A digital Cyrano that always seems to know what to do... but at what cost?

The Aquarium is a romantic comedy that humorously and paradoxically depicts the consequences of an excessive use of artificial intelligence.



GIANLUCA ZONTA

DIRECTOR AND SCREENWRITER

Born in 1980. He graduated in Computer Science and in Cinema at DAMS; he attended the "**Carlo Mazzacurati**" Screenwriting Master.

In 2009, he created the first Italian web series, "**COPS**". In 2015, he was a finalist for the Solinas Award with the screenplay for the film "**Teresa, Luisa and the #NotteRosa**".

He directed numerous short films, including "**Pizza Boy**" (2019), presented at the Rome Film Festival in the "Alice nella città" section and winner of over 50 awards at Italian and international festivals; "**The Right to Vote**" (2021), a political and science fiction story that won at the Elche and Galacticat festivals in Spain; and "**The Aquarium**" (2024), a story about love and artificial intelligence, premiered at the Cortinametraggio festival, where it won the technical jury award and the audience award.

Filmography

The Aquarium (2024)

The Right to Vote (2021)

Pizza Boy (2019)

it's only a rolling tape(2017)

A Quarter to Eight (2015)

The Borderline (2012)

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

With **The Aquarium**, my aim is to explore, through a romantic story, the implications that artificial intelligence can have on people today. In particular, I want to highlight—through situations that verge on the paradoxical—the distortions that new digital technologies can lead to.

The short film follows two couples. The first one (Vincenzo and Sara) completely rely on the advice of Chat-AIT (an app similar to ChatGPT—an actual AI-based software) which provides precise suggestions on everything to say or do in their relationship. This allows them to meet, date, and build a relationship that appears stable and happy, but at the cost of losing their own identity—or rather, of bending it to the instructions they receive.

The second couple (Marco and Alice) are more skeptical. Alice doesn't want to use the app but is insecure and afraid of making mistakes, as she's coming off a series of failed relationships. Marco, on the other hand, is certain he doesn't want to use it, so as not to give up his personality. But when Marco expresses himself in a sincere and unconventional way, the app interprets it as threatening and advises Alice not to see him again—even though she was actually moved by his words. What to do in such a case? Is it better to conform to what everyone else is doing, or follow your instincts and take the risk of getting hurt?

The short doesn't aim to provide definitive answers to the problem, but rather to encourage reflection on a highly relevant topic. The story can also be seen from another perspective: perhaps the fact that the app suggests things we would never have thought to do could actually lead to longer-lasting relationships. Maybe the app is right, and Marco is an unstable person best avoided.

The implications of this topic are broad and can't be reduced to a simplistic view. My intention is to present a situation—one we're already facing or will soon face—by shedding light on its critical aspects and complexities, in order to spark a deeper reflection on how we use these new technologies.



FESTIVAL AND AWARDS

Cortinametraggio 2024  **TECHNICAL JURY AWARD**  **AUDIENCE AWARD**

Kinofilm Festival 2024 (**ENGLAND** )  **BEST EUROPEAN SHORT**

Officine Social Movie 2024  **AUDIENCE AWARD**

Settimo Senso International Film Festival 2024  **BEST ITALIAN SHORT**

Dea Open Air International Film Festival 2024 (**ALBANIA** )  **MEDIA SPECIAL AWARD**

Fantasy Day Film Festival 2024  **JURY AWARD**

Festival corto... ma non troppo! 2024 OFFICIAL SELECTION

Bardolino Film Festival 2024 OFFICIAL SELECTION

Cinestesia - Festival Internazionale dei Corti 2024  **AUDIENCE AWARD**

BCT - Festival nazionale del cinema e della televisione 2024 OFFICIAL SELECTION

Ostia International Film Festival 2024 OFFICIAL SELECTION

Mediterraneo Festival Corto 2024 OFFICIAL SELECTION

Corto in Corte 2024  **BEST SHORT**

Guayaquil International Comedy Film Festival (**ECUADOR** ) OFFICIAL SELECTION

ICFF - Italian Contemporary Film Festival 2024 (**CANADA** ) OFFICIAL SELECTION

Sommacampagna Film Festival 2024 **EVENTO SPECIALE**

Comedy Film Fest 2024 OFFICIAL SELECTION

Festival Aquicorto 2024  **BEST NATIONAL SHORT**

Saturnia Film Festival 2024 OFFICIAL SELECTION

Festival Inventa Un Film 2024  **BEST SCREENPLAY**  **IMPORTANT MESSAGE AWARD**

Premio Atena Nike 2024  **SPECIAL MENTION "MOSCRINE FILM FESTIVAL"**

Calvi Festival 2024  **AUDIENCE AWARD**

Corto di Sera 2024 OFFICIAL SELECTION

Corto Fiction - Festival di Chianciano Terme 2024  **SOCIAL THEME AWARD**  **AUDIENCE AWARD**

Taurasi Film Festival 2024  **CRITICS' AWARD**

Villammare Festival Film & Friends 2024  **THIRD PLACE**

Latina scalo in corto 2024  **BEST SHORT**

Festival de cine Ponme 2024 (**SPAIN** )  **BEST SCREENPLAY**

Festival Internacional de cine Sendependa 2024 (**SPAIN** ) OFFICIAL SELECTION

Film Festival Pino Scicolone 2024  **BEST ACTRESS "ANNA PANCALDI"**

Corti in Cortile 2024  **AUDIENCE AWARD**

Procida Film Festival 2024  **BEST ITALIAN SHORT**

Flaminio Film Festival 2024  **BEST DIRECTOR**

I Corti dei Fabbri 2024  **BEST SHORT**  **AUDIENCE AWARD**

IB.A. Film Festival 2024 OFFICIAL SELECTION

San Diego Italian Film Festival 2024 (**USA** ) OFFICIAL SELECTION

Sedici Corto 2024 OFFICIAL SELECTION

Cecinema 2024  **HONORABLE MENTION**

Festival del Cinema di Castel Volturno 2024 OFFICIAL SELECTION

CineOff 2024  **BEST NATIONAL SHORT**

Tuscania in Corto 2024  **CRITICS' AWARD**

Alessandria Film Festival 2024 OFFICIAL SELECTION

Inferenze Film Festival 2024  **BEST SHORT**  **AUDIENCE AWARD**

Castellinaria 2024 (**SWITZERLAND** ) OUT OF COMPETITION

Gaiaitaliapuntocom Film Fest 2024  **BEST CULTURAL PROJECT**

Aaretaler Kurzfilmtage 2024 (**SWITZERLAND** )  **AUDIENCE AWARD**

Punto di Vista Film Festival 2024 OFFICIAL SELECTION

Italian London Film Festival 2024 (**ENGLAND** )  **AUDIENCE AWARD**

Visioni Italiane 2024  **BEST EMILIA-ROMAGNA PRODUCTION**

accordi @ disaccordi - International Short Film Festival 2024 OFFICIAL SELECTION

Foggia Film Festival 2024 OUT OF COMPETITION

Fantasticon Film Festival 2024 OFFICIAL SELECTION

Via dei Corti 2024 OFFICIAL SELECTION

Corti Sonanti 2024  **BEST SCREENPLAY**

Amarcort 2024  **BEST ITALIAN SHORT**

Batman Kisa Film Günleri 2024 (**TURCKEY** ) OFFICIAL SELECTION

Fabriano Film Fest 2024 OFFICIAL SELECTION

Comedy Film Festival - Festival della commedia Pulcinella 2024 OFFICIAL SELECTION

Festival La Mirada Tabú 2024 (**SPAIN** ) OFFICIAL SELECTION

CORTODino Film Festival 2024  **BEST SHORT OVER**

Short Film Day 2024 (**RUSSIA** ) OUT OF COMPETITION

Clint 2024 (**PORTUGAL** ) OFFICIAL SELECTION

Caserta Film Festival 2024  **BEST SCREENPLAY**

COLiseum International Film Festival 2024  **BEST ACTOR "GIOVANNI ANZALDO"**

Cinemagma Festival 2025 OFFICIAL SELECTION

Valencia Indie Film Festival 2025 (**SPAIN** ) OFFICIAL SELECTION

Est Film Festival 2025  **BEST SHORT (AUDIENCE AWARD)**

Star Film Fest Barcelona 2025 (**SPAIN** ) OFFICIAL SELECTION

CineTech Future Fest 2025 (**POLAND** ) OFFICIAL SELECTION

iLCORTO.it - Festa Internazionale di Roma 2025  **BEST SCREENPLAY**

Chiara Melle Cortofilm Festival 2025  **ABSOLUTE AWARD**  **BEST DIRECTOR**  **BEST INDEPENDENT SHORT**

Corto d'Amore - Savona Film Festival 2025  **BEST SHORT**

Muestra de Cine de Palencia 2025 (**SPAIN** )  **JURY AWARD**  **AUDIENCE AWARD**

Liberamente Short Selection 2025 OFFICIAL SELECTION

CURT MOVIES - Barcelona indep. short film festival 2025 (**SPAIN** ) OFFICIAL SELECTION

Milazzo Film Festival 2025 OFFICIAL SELECTION

Scrittura e Immagine Short Film Festival 2025 OFFICIAL SELECTION

Cortinametraggio 2025  **SPECIAL AWARD "IL ROSSETTO": FROM SCREEN TO STAGE**

Festival De Films de Futur Font D'en Fargues 2025 (**SPAIN** )  **AUDIENCE AWARD**

Italian Film Festival USA 2025 (**USA** ) OFFICIAL SELECTION

Festival Internazionale Corti da sogni - Antonio Ricci 2025 OFFICIAL SELECTION

Festival Internacional De Cine De Lebu 2025 (**CHILE** ) OFFICIAL SELECTION

European Union Short Film Festival 2025 (**CANADA** ) CHOSEN TO REPRESENT ITALY

Festival La Fila de Cortometrajcs 2025 (**SPAIN** ) OFFICIAL SELECTION

I Corti sul Lettino - Cinema e Psicoanalisi 2025  **BEST SHORT**

Tulipani di Seta Nera 2025 OFFICIAL SELECTION

Corti in Opera 2025  **SOCIAL AWARD**

Festival Internacional de cine de comedia de Cuenca 2025 (**SPAIN** ) OFFICIAL SELECTION

Corteggiando Vimodrone 2025  **AUDIENCE AWARD**

Sparknify Human Vs. AI Film Festival 2025 (**USA** )  **SPARKNIFY HUMANITY AWARD**

Italian Film Fedic 2025 OFFICIAL SELECTION

Ficcions de Ciència - Barcelona Film Festival 2025 (**SPAIN** ) OFFICIAL SELECTION

Festival du Cinéma Italien Contemporain 2025 (**CANADA** ) OFFICIAL SELECTION

San Roque International Short Film Festival 2025 (**SPAIN** ) OFFICIAL SELECTION

Les Nuits Méditerranéennes 2025 (**FRANCE** ) OFFICIAL SELECTION

Innovation Film Festival - We Make Future! 2025 OFFICIAL SELECTION

River Film Festival 2025  **AUDIENCE AWARD**

Festival Internacional de Cortometraje UVAQ 2025 (**MEXICO** )  **BEST SHORT**

AXD Film Festival 2025 (**GREECE** )  **BEST SHORT**

Festival Corto Ciudad Real 2025 (**SPAIN** ) OFFICIAL SELECTION

Tokyo International Short Film Festival 2025 (**JAPAN** ) OFFICIAL SELECTION

Korterraza Festival de cortos al aire libre 2025 (**SPAIN** )  **KELER SARIA AWARD**

AmiCorti International Film Festival 2025 OFFICIAL SELECTION

Noci Film Festival 2025 OFFICIAL SELECTION

Lunigiana Cinema Festival 2025 OFFICIAL SELECTION

Festival Internazionale Del Cinema Povero 2025 OFFICIAL SELECTION

London Vaporetto Shorts Film Festival 2025 (**ENGLAND** )  **BEST SCREENPLAY**

Corti in Carcere 2025 OFFICIAL SELECTION

taSHORTfest 2025 (**SPAIN** ) OFFICIAL SELECTION

Corti in Villa 2025 OFFICIAL SELECTION

Villa de Ayerbe International Short Film Festival 'CAJAL AWARDS' 2025 (**SPAIN** ) OFFICIAL SELECTION

Sicily International Short League 2025 OFFICIAL SELECTION

Ardea Film Festival 2025 OFFICIAL SELECTION

Maazzeni Film Festival 2025 OFFICIAL SELECTION

Last Hope International Film Festival 2025 (**VIETNAM** ) OFFICIAL SELECTION

Vinaròs AGUSTÍ COMES Short film Festival 2025 (**SPAIN** ) OFFICIAL SELECTION

Corto Colonna 2025 OFFICIAL SELECTION

SanSalvaStorie 2025 OFFICIAL SELECTION

Certamen De Cortometrajcs El Pecado 2025 (**SPAIN** ) OFFICIAL SELECTION

Festival Internacional de Cine Independiente de Paracho 2025 (**MEXICO** ) OFFICIAL SELECTION

No Bounds Short Film Festival 2025 OFFICIAL SELECTION

Cortintelvi 2025 OFFICIAL SELECTION

Islantilla Cineforum 2025 (**SPAIN** ) OFFICIAL SELECTION

Curta Cine Sumaré 2025 (**BRAZIL** ) OFFICIAL SELECTION

Fernando Di Leo Short Film Festival 2025 OFFICIAL SELECTION

Mostra de Cinema Do Rosal 2025 (**SPAIN** ) OFFICIAL SELECTION

Int. low & no budget film-sharing festival 2025 (**GERMANY** ) OFFICIAL SELECTION

Dieciminuti Film Festival 2025 OFFICIAL SELECTION

Videocorto Nettuno 2025 OFFICIAL SELECTION

Open Festival Marseille 2025 (**FRANCE** ) OFFICIAL SELECTION

Impavidarte 2025 OFFICIAL SELECTION

CIP Milan Shorts 2025 OFFICIAL SELECTION



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