



**ROUGH CAT  
AND REVOLUMENFILM**  
IN COPRODUCTION WITH  
RSI RADIOTELEVISIONE SVIZZERA

PRESENT

A FILM BY  
**ALDO GUGOLZ**

# COWS ON THE ROOF

TREATMENT **SUSANNE SCHÜLE & ALDO GUGOLZ** CINEMATOGRAPHY **SUSANNE SCHÜLE** EDITING **SAMIR SAMPERISI** SOUND RECORDING **RICO ANDRIOLO, VITTORIO CASTELLANO, MARCO VIALE**  
SOUND EDITING **RICCARDO STUDER** SOUND MIX **DOMINIK RAETZ** MUSIC **STONE LEAF** COLOR CORRECTION **JUAN GALVA** ASSISTANT DIRECTOR **NICOLA MACCANETTI** GRAPHIC DESIGN **ISABELLE MAÜCHLE**  
PRODUCTION **NICOLA BERNASCONI / ROUGH CAT** CO-PRODUCTION **CHRISTINA CARUSO & ALDO GUGOLZ / REVOLUMENFILM** CO-PRODUCERS **RSI RADIOTELEVISIONE SVIZZERA, SILVANA BEZZOLA RIGOLINI & MICHAEL BELTRAMI** WITH THE SUPPORT OF **UFFICIO FEDERALE DELLA CULTURA, REPUBBLICA E CANTONE TICINO, FILMPLUS DELLA SVIZZERA ITALIANA, KANTON LUZERN, FUKA-FONDS DER STADT LUZERN, TELEPRODUKTIONS FONDS, ERNST GOEHNER STIFTUNG, TICINO FILM COMMISSION, FOCAL-MENTORING FOR DOCS**



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present

# COWS ON THE ROOF

ANCHE STANOTTE  
LE MUCCHE DANZERANNO  
SUL TETTO

a film by Aldo Gugolz

world premiere  
April 23rd 2020

**51. Visions du réel - Festival International de cinéma Nyon  
online edition**

- National Competition -  
Winner: Jury Prize SSA/Suissimage to the most innovative film



Documentary / 82' / Switzerland / 2020  
Colour / 2K / 1:1.85 / 5.1

PRESS INFOS  
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## Synopsis

Fabiano is haunted by nightmares. They are a reflection of his life as the heir of his father's small-scale agricultural business, located in an isolated valley of Southern Switzerland. He owns fifty goats and eight cows and is trying his best to produce the special alp cheese that first made his hippie parents back in the 1980s. But nothing is going the way it should... He is in debt, the alpine hut that he rents for the summer is dilapidated, and the goats cheese business is no longer profitable. His thoughts wander back to a fatal accident occurred the previous year to a Macedonian illegal worker. His death is haunting him, because he feels that he is at least in part responsible for it. Fabiano is not exactly in a good place to start a family, but will be a father soon. His girlfriend Eva is expecting – and is hoping to fulfill her dreams of a simple life surrounded by nature and animals. But how can they build a life together in such difficult circumstances?



# Main artistic and technical collaborators

original idea and treatment **Susanne Schüle** et **Aldo Gugolz**

direction **Aldo Gugolz**

cinematography **Susanne Schüle**

assistant director **Nicola Maccanetti**

production assistant **Patrick Micaroni**

sound recordists **Rico Andriolo, Vittorio Castellano, Marco Viale**

editing **Samir Samperisi**

film editing consultant **Nino Kirtadze**

sound editing **Riccardo Studer** e **Alessandra Modugno**

sound mix **Dominik Raetz**

color grading **Juan Galva**

video and sound post-production studio **Rotor Film GmbH, Berlin**

music **Stone Leaf**

titles and graphics **Isabelle Mauchle**

press agent (CH) **Eric Bouzigon - Filmsuite**

with

**Fabiano Rauber / Eva Clivio / Santino Rauber / Philippe Rauber / Dominik Studer / Martina Clivio / Fritz Abderhalden / Bruno Lukas**

produced by **Nicola Bernasconi / ROUGH CAT**

co-produced by **Christina Caruso** e **Aldo Gugolz / revolumenfilm**

in co-production with **RSI Radiotelevisione svizzera / Silvana Bezzola Rigolini, Michael Beltrami**

with the financial support of

**Office fédéral de la culture / Repubblica e Cantone Ticino / Fondo FilmPlus della Svizzera italiana / Ticino Film Commission / Kanton Luzern / FUKA-Fonds der Stadt Luzern / Fonds de production télévisuelle / Ernst Goehner Stiftung / FOCAL Mentoring for Docs**



## Director's note

In the course of a lifetime, your choices narrow down. At 20, the world's your oyster. At 40, you start to realize that many small decisions of the past have almost unnoticeably shaped your life in such a way that it has become almost inescapable. Smoothly and without a noise, doors have closed that you believed to be wide open. Much of what influences our paths in life is inconspicuous until we become sucked into a direction that we cannot change easily.

I have noticed this in my own life, and can see it with particular clarity in the life of my film's central character Fabiano. Beyond the tragic event in the midst of which he unfortunately found himself a few years ago, just before the shooting of the film - which inevitably blows like an echo on the background of the whole film, telling the story of the fragility of our lives - is this aspect of his story that I am most interested in. The second generation (and soon the third one, too) has been born into a world which they haven't quite chosen for themselves. Or are they living a life they chose freely?

Being trapped in your existence – that's the story behind what is visible, behind the reality that I film. It is a feeling that my protagonist is not talking about. The pressure he is under is palpable to me. But while the external reasons for this pressure are obvious, what they trigger in Fabiano is not, and he doesn't express it with words either. Nor does he spell out what caused him to stay and accept his hippies parents' heritage in the first place.

I wanted to convey what is happening with Fabiano in a subtle, sometimes dreamy and nuanced way and enable the viewer to feel what is invisible. Accompanying Fabiano and his girlfriend Eva in the bustle of their complicated everyday life, the film also tells about the last breaths of a rural world whose survival, based essentially on cheese production, it's now highly endangered. And it also wants to take a close and immersive look into life in a remote peripheral valley of Southern Switzerland, a region dominated by a powerful and wild nature, which was almost entirely abandoned in the '70s before a generation of young Swiss German hippies arrived there to try out new ways of life.

Aldo Gugolz



## the director



Born in Lucerne in 1963, **Aldo Gugolz** first studied political sciences and communication in Zurich, while working as a photojournalist for several Swiss newspapers. Between 1986 and 1992 he attended the "Hochschule für Fernsehen und Film" of Munich. Since works as a filmmaker in Germany and Switzerland. Has directed several documentaries for television and cinema, among which *Zeit im Fluss* (1997), *Leben ausser Atem* (2001), *Wir Zwei* (2009) and *Rue de Blamage* (2017), a huge hit in German-speaking Swiss theaters.

## the production companies



Founded in Lugano in 2014 by Nicola Bernasconi, with the aim to develop and produce fiction films and documentaries mainly by local authors - with an eye open on European cinema and international coproductions - **ROUGH CAT** has to its credit, among others, the documentary *Stella Ciao* by Vito Robbiani (2015), presented at 50. Solothurn Film Festival's Prix du public; the international coproduction *Gold Is All There Is* by Andrea Caccia (2019), selected at important international film festivals such as Rotterdam, Karlovy Vary and Turin, and the fiction feature *Learning the ropes (I segreti del mestiere)* by Andreas Maciocci (2019), presented in competition at the 32nd Castellinaria - Festival del cinema giovane, and at the 55. Solothurn Film Festival.



Created by Aldo Gugolz, supported since 2007 by producer Christina Caruso, **REVOLUMENFILM** is based in Lucerne. Over the years, it has mainly produced documentaries for cinema and television, including Gugolz *Wir Zwei* (2009) coproduced with SRF DOK, presented at Solothurn Film Festival as well as at several international festivals (winner of ABM Munich "Integrations Award"); *Spaghetti, Sex und Videos* (2012) broadcasted by national and international broadcasts, and *Rue de Blamage* (2017) presented at 52. Solothurn Film Festival's Prix du public and great public success the same year in German-speaking Switzerland.



## **ROUGH CAT**

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