

NICOLA FEDRIGONI

CONFRONTI  
GIORNATE DEGLI AUTORI

# MANARA

regia  
**VALENTINA ZANELLA**

con PAOLO BACILIERI, BORIS BATTAGLIA, MATTEO BUSSOLA, PAOLO CONTE, GISELE DE HAAN, ELODIE, FUMETTIBRUTTI, JACQUES GLENAT, MARIO GOMBOLI, TANINO LIBERATORE, VINCENZO MOLLIKA, LUISA MANARA, FRANK MILLER, NICOLA PIOVANI, VALERIA PARRELLA, DAVID RIONDINO, FULVIA SERRA, CRISTINA TAVERNA

soggetto e sceneggiatura TITO FARACI, FEDERICO FAVA e VALENTINA ZANELLA fotografia ELEONORA CASTIELLO  
montaggio NICOLA BONALDO musica STEFANO BRANDONI mix PAOLO FAVARIN grafico SIMONE BRILLARELLI  
una produzione KPLUS FILM prodotto da NICOLA FEDRIGONI regia di VALENTINA ZANELLA

**K+** Athesis

REGIA VALENTINA ZANELLA

PRODOTTORE NICOLA FEDRIGONI

SCENeggiatura TITO FARACI, FEDERICO FAVA, VALENTINA ZANELLA

FOTOGRAFIA ELEONORA CASTIELLO

MONTAGGIO NICOLA BONALDO

MUSICA STEFANO BRANDONI

MIX PAOLO FAVARIN

GRAFICO SIMONE BRILLARELLI

UNA PRODUZIONE KPLUS FILM

PRODOTTO DA NICOLA FEDRIGONI

REGIA VALENTINA ZANELLA

CONFRONTI

GIORNATE DEGLI AUTORI



**CONFRONTI**  
GIORNATE DEGLI AUTORI

**K+**  
presents



directed by  
**VALENTINA ZANELLA**

written by  
**TITO FARACI, FEDERICO FAVA e VALENTINA ZANELLA**

with  
**MILO MANARA**

&

(in alphabetical order)

**PAOLO BACILIERI, BORIS BATTAGLIA, MATTEO BUSSOLA, PAOLO CONTE,  
GISÈLE DE HAAN, ELODIE, FUMETTIBRUTTI, JACQUES GLÉNAT,  
MARIO GOMBOLI, TANINO LIBERATORE, VINCENZO MOLLIKA, LUISA MANARA,  
FRANK MILLER, NICOLA PIOVANI, VALERIA PARRELLA, DAVID RIONDINO,  
FULVIA SERRA, CRISTINA TAVERNA**

a production  
**K+**

international sales  
**TRUE COLOURS**

Release Date  
**8 SEPTEMBER**

**press office**

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**Athesis**  
CONTENT CREATORS SINCE 1964



NON-CONTRACTUAL CREDITS



## Credits

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| direction                | <b>Valentina Zanella</b>                              |
| story & screenplay       | <b>Tito Faraci, Federico Fava e Valentina Zanella</b> |
| cinematography           | <b>Eleonora Castiello</b>                             |
| editing                  | <b>Nicola Bonaldo</b>                                 |
| production sound mixer   | <b>Andrea Guerrini</b>                                |
| sound mix                | <b>Paolo Favarin</b>                                  |
| music                    | <b>Stefano Brandoni</b>                               |
| graphic design           | <b>Simone Brillarelli</b>                             |
| <br>                     |   |
| produced by              | <b>Nicola Fedrigoni</b>                               |
| a production             | <b>K+</b>   |
| with the contribution of | <b>Regione Veneto (PR FESR 2021-2027)</b>             |
| with the support of      | <b>Veneto Film Commission</b>                         |
| <br>                     |   |
| international sales      | <b>True Colours</b>                                   |
| <br>                     |   |
| country                  | <b>Italia</b>   |
| year                     | <b>2025</b>   |
| running time             | <b>100'</b>   |



NON-CONTRACTUAL CREDITS



## Synopsis

Milo Manara (b. 1945) revolutionized the world of comic books, liberating female desire through the protagonists of his drawings. His career is defined by his encounter with Hugo Pratt, his master and companion in adventure, and by his exploration of the power of sex as a political act, culminating in the publication of *Click! (Il Gioco)*. His collaboration with Federico Fellini redefined the boundaries between eroticism, cinema, and comics, and his unmistakable style has made him a touchstone for entire generations.

On the occasion of Manara's 80th birthday, this documentary by Valentina Zanella celebrates this giant of Italian culture by exploring his work, life, and passions, while bringing together an extraordinary group of colleagues, admirers, and lifelong friends to join the celebration.

## MILO MANARA – Biographical Notes

Born on September 12, 1945, in Luson, a small town in the province of Bolzano, Milo Manara is universally recognized as one of the world's greatest masters of comic art. He is an artist capable of blending the power of visual storytelling with an unmistakable style that has made sensuality and elegance his signature.

His journey into the world of "the ninth art" began in the late 1960s, a period of great cultural ferment, as he took his first steps creating stories that intertwined eroticism with noir atmospheres. The 1970s marked his rise and the start of significant collaborations for magazines like *Corriere dei Ragazzi*. During this time, he produced works of strong social impact like *Un fascio di bombe* (A Bundle of Bombs). However, his shift toward more mature, "auteur" comics came through his partnership with Silverio Pisu, resulting in emblematic characters such as *Lo Scimmiotto* (The Ape) and *Alessio, il borghese rivoluzionario*.

1978 was the year of his consecration: Manara wrote and drew his first major successful character, Giuseppe Bergman. This adventurer served as the author's alter-ego to explore dreamlike, exotic, and philosophical worlds. In the early 1980s, with *Click! (Il Gioco)*, Manara achieved global success, redefining the erotic imagination in comics through his refined line and bold narration.

His stature as a complete artist led to legendary collaborations, most notably with his great friend and mentor Hugo Pratt, for whom he drew two masterpieces: *Indian Summer* and *El Gaucho*. This period also saw the birth of one of his most iconic creations, the sensual Miele, protagonist of *The Fragrance of the Invisible* and *Candid Camera*. Another fundamental encounter was with cinema genius Federico Fellini. Their artistic partnership, starting in 1987, resulted in two "comic-strip dreams": *Trip to Tulum* and *The Voyage of G. Mastorna*.

Versatile and tireless, Manara has also adapted literary classics such as *Gulliveriana*, *Kamasutra*, and *The Golden Ass*. His social commitment remains evident in works like *Ballad in B-flat*, *Revolution*, and *Three Girls on the Net*.

His fame has long transcended European borders. In 2009, Marvel Comics paired him with legend Chris Claremont for *X-Men: Ragazze in fuga* (X-Men: No More Humans), and he has collaborated with DC Comics alongside Neil Gaiman. Between 2004 and 2010, he illustrated the scandalous epic *The Borgias*, written by Alejandro Jodorowsky.

Recently, he immersed himself in art history to tell the life of Caravaggio in an acclaimed two-volume biography: *The Palette and the Sword* (2015) and *Grace* (2019). In 2019, his fifty-year career was honored with a major retrospective at the prestigious Angoulême International Comics Festival.

Currently, Manara is working on two exceptional projects: the comic adaptation of Umberto Eco's masterpiece, *The Name of the Rose* (Volume I published in 2023, Volume II expected in 2025), and a highly anticipated collaboration with Frank Miller for a story set in the *Sin City* universe, scheduled for 2026.

## Valentina Zanella – Author and Director

Valentina Zanella was born in Verona and developed professionally in Milan, where she earned a Master's degree in Marketing and Communication for the Music Industry. Since 2009, she has served as the creative director of the production house K+. Among the numerous projects she has produced are the film *Finché c'è Prosecco c'è Speranza* (Last Prosecco) and the documentary *Disco Ruin*.

As an author and screenwriter, she wrote the story for *Si muore solo da vivi* (Only the living can die, 2019) and the screenplay for the film *Acqua e Anice* (Olimpia's Way, 2022), which premiered at Venice Days. Her 2022 credits also include the documentary *Gilles Villeneuve - The Aviator* (Rai2) and the four-part docu-series *Sound Gigante* (Sky Arte). In 2023, she wrote and directed the documentary *Zuccheri - Sugar Fornaciari*, selected for the Rome Film Fest. In 2024, she wrote *L'invenzione di noi due* (The invention of us), based on the novel by Matteo Bussola. In 2025, she directed her first fiction feature, *Non è la fine del mondo* (It's not a big deal!), and the documentary *Manara*, selected for the Venice Days – Confronti section.

## Federico Fava – Author

Federico Fava was born in Agugliaro (Vicenza) in 1978. After graduating in History and Film Criticism, he earned a degree in screenwriting from the Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia. His thesis short film, *Giganti* (dir. F. Mollo), for which he served as screenwriter, won the Torino Film Festival. Early in his career, he worked as a screenwriter and story editor for various television productions (*CentoVetrine*, *Alta Infedeltà*, *Ci Vediamo in Tribunale*, *Sangue del Tuo Sangue*) and as an author of commercials and branded content web series.

Currently, his work spans documentaries (*Sperduti Nel Buio*, 2014; *Gilles Villeneuve – L'aviatore*, 2022; *Zuccheri – Sugar Fornaciari*, 2023), cinema (*Mollami*, 2019; *Acqua e Anice* (Olimpia's Way), 2022; Gianni Amelio's *Lord of the Ants*, 2022; *L'invenzione di noi due* (The invention of us), 2024; and the upcoming 2026 releases *Non è la Fine del Mondo* (It's not a big deal!) and *Agata Christian - Delitto sulle Nevi*), and TV series, including *Belcanto* (co-creator).

## Tito Faraci – Author

Tito Faraci is one of Italy's most prominent comic book screenwriters. He has created stories for *Mickey Mouse* (*Topolino*), *Dylan Dog*, *Tex*, *Diabolik*, and *Magico Vento*, among others. He was also one of the first Italian writers to work on iconic American characters such as *Spider-Man*, *Daredevil*, and *Captain America*. For Disney, he adapted Alessandro Baricco's *Novecento*, casting Goofy as the protagonist.

His published works with Feltrinelli include the novel *La vita in generale* (2015) and several graphic novels in collaboration with the artist Sio, such as *Le entusiasmani avventure di Max Middlestone e del suo cane alto trecento metri* (2016) and *Il pesce di lana e altre storie abbastanza belle* (2018). Under the Feltrinelli Comics imprint, he also adapted Baricco's *Senza sangue* (Without Blood, 2019) alongside Francesco Ripoli.



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## FILM TESTIMONIALS (in alphabetical order)

### **Paolo Bacilieri**

Italian cartoonist known for his ironic and sophisticated style. He has engaged with Manara as a colleague, sharing a passion for narrative and visual experimentation in comics. His perspective in the film helps situate Manara within the tradition and evolution of Italian "auteur" comics.

### **Boris Battaglia**

Critic and essayist specializing in comics. His contribution analyzes Manara's work from a historical and theoretical approach, emphasizing his ability to break taboos and redefine erotic language. His presence enhances the critical reflection on the artist's work.

### **Matteo Bussola**

Writer and cartoonist with a passion for auteur comics. He brings a sensitive and contemporary point of view, recounting the impact Manara has had on new generations of visual storytellers and writers.

### **Paolo Conte**

Musician and painter, friend and colleague in the exploration of a sensual, melancholic, and evocative imagery. His bond with Manara is both artistic and spiritual: both have created poetic universes capable of telling Italy's story through the filter of elegance and desire.

### **Gisèle De Haan**

Editor and partner of Hugo Pratt, Manara's lifelong friend and collaborator. She offers an intimate perspective on the bond between two masters of comics and the cultural climate in which Manara was formed. Her testimony explores mutual influences and shared legacy.

### **Elodie**

Singer and actress, a young and contemporary voice reflecting on the allure of eroticism and its artistic representation. Her presence in the film introduces a modern look at the myth of Manara and how his imagery resonates today.

### **Fumettibrutti**

Contemporary cartoonist and iconic voice of the new Italian comic scene. Her testimony serves as a generational bridge, showing how Manara paved the way for a free and unconventional representation of desire and identity.

### **Jacques Glénat**

French publisher who brought Manara international success. His presence highlights the author's European recognition and France's role in the dissemination of erotic auteur comics. He is a historical ally who consolidated Manara's global fame.

### **Mario Gomboli**

Author and director of *Diabolik*. He knows Manara as a colleague in popular Italian comics. He provides an analysis of the cross-pollination between genres and Manara's relationship with serial storytelling, revealing his ability to reinvent classic codes with a personal style.



NON-CONTRACTUAL CREDITS



### **Tanino Liberatore**

Artist and cartoonist famous for his provocative hyperrealism. A friend and colleague, he shares with Manara the drive to break visual and narrative taboos. His testimony reflects on the aesthetics of the body and expressive freedom in comics.

### **Vincenzo Mollica**

Critic, journalist, and historical supporter of Italian comics. He has followed Manara's career for decades with an empathetic and expert eye. His presence in the film provides cultural contextualization and personal affection for the artist.

### **Luisa Manara**

Wife of Milo Manara. She offers a unique family perspective, revealing the master's private and daily side. Her presence humanizes the figure of Manara, restoring his dimension as a man.

### **Frank Miller**

American cartoonist and director, a graphic novel legend. A friend and collaborator, he recognized Manara as a master of visual language. His testimony emphasizes the international dialogue and mutual influence between authors of different cultures.

### **Nicola Piovani**

Oscar-winning composer. His bond with Manara is that of an artist who understands the evocative power of images. His presence adds a reflection on the relationship between music and visual storytelling with refined sensitivity.

### **Valeria Parrella**

Writer and playwright. She offers a female and literary gaze on Manara's work, reflecting on the representation of eroticism and freedom. Her testimony enriches the film with a critical and sensitive point of view.

### **David Riondino**

Writer and multifaceted artist. A friend and connoisseur of Manara, he brings a personal and ironic account that illuminates the artist's human side. His testimony adds color and lightness to the narrative.

### **Fulvia Serra**

Editor and critic. She brings an analytical approach to the editorial construction of Manara's work, describing him as a conscious and rigorous author capable of evolving and engaging with the market without betraying his own poetics.

### **Cristina Taverna**

Gallerist and curator, a deep connoisseur of Manara's art. Her bond is that of someone who has championed comics as "high" art, bringing Manara's original plates to prestigious galleries and exhibitions, and consolidating his status as a complete visual artist.