

A SHORT FILM
BY
NOUR GHARBI



A SCHOOL.
ITS STUDENTS.
A CRIME.



THE

RECESS

PRESS KIT



A film
about the challenge
of growing up.

bin



RAGABELLA
PRODUCTION

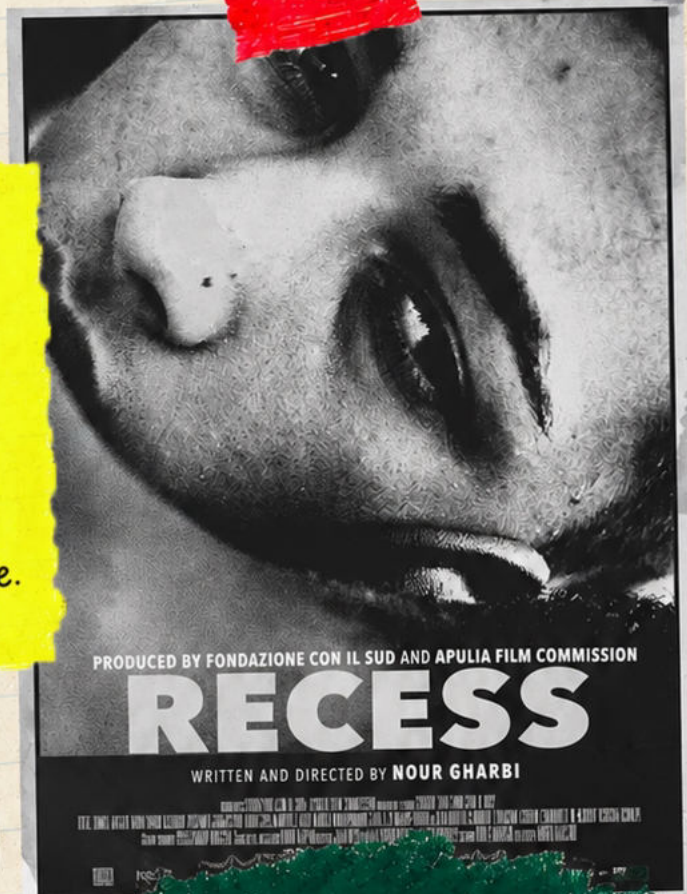


THE FILM

Title	Recess
Director	Nour Gharbi
Country	Italy
Year	2020
Duration	15'
Language	Italian
Subtitles	English
Genre	Drama

LOGLINE

After a boy is stabbed during recess, the school principal and the Carabinieri marshal question teachers and students in an attempt to discover who is responsible.



A FILM ABOUT
ADOLESCENCE,
MIGRATION
AND DISCRIMINATION.

CINEMA
IS ALSO
A SCHOOL.

SYNOPSIS



SCHOOL
IS A WORLD
OF VOICES.

In a school on the outskirts of Bari, a student, Michele Cannizzaro, is rushed to hospital after a fight during recess.

Based on the initial evidence — the weapon and witness statements — it appears that the boy was stabbed by a refugee classmate, Birhan Afewerki.

The school principal and the Carabinieri commander question teachers and classmates in an attempt to discover what really happened.

But as the questioning continues, the facts become increasingly difficult to establish. The accounts conflict, and it is unclear what the truth really is.



REAL
STORIES.
REAL
PEOPLE.



CINEMA IS ALSO
A SCHOOL.



THEMES

-  Adolescence
-  Migration
-  Discrimination
-  Youth violence
-  School
-  Identity



THE FILM TELLS
THE PRESENT
THROUGH THE EYES
OF YOUNG PEOPLE.

SCHOOL
MATTERS



CAST & CREW

CINEMA
IS ALSO
A SCHOOL.

CAST

Totò Onnis
Angelo Tanzi
Fabio Salerno
Italia Aiuola
Mario Criteri

CREW

Screenplay and direction	— Nour Gharbi
General organizer	— Alessandra Ruggieri
Script supervisor	— Viola Piccinnini
Editorial secretary	— Laura Campanile
Director of photography	— Luca La Vopa
Camera assistant	— Marco Ranieri
Gaffer	— Milo Cadau
Ronin operator	— Enzo Canta
Sound recordist	— Vincenzo Santo
Costume designer	— Rosa Lorusso
Make-up artist	— Marianna Manco
Set designer	— Alessio Donno
Editing and color grading	— Nour Gharbi
Post-production sound	— Eric Guerrino
Music	— Jean-Louis Bachelet



SCHOOL
IS A REAL
SET.



BEYOND
THE WALLS
REAL STORIES.



NOUR GHARBI

DIRECTOR

STORIES,
PEOPLE,
CONFLICTS

BIO



Nour Gharbi is a French director and writer of Tunisian origin. Born in Paris, he lives and works in Italy. His cinema explores the margins of society, migration, youth disillusionment and the fractures of contemporary identity. His works are characterized by a strong human perspective, attention to detail and an exclusive visual research linked to conflict and the truth of the characters. His films have received awards and selections at numerous national and international festivals.

IDEAS
PEOPLE
REAL
WORLDS

CINEMA
IS ALSO
A
SCHOOL.

Nour
Gharbi



MANIFESTO

I do not seek simple stories. I look for fractures, conflicts and zones of shadow in the blind spots of society.

I tell about humanity at the moment when it begins to crack, imperfect characters in search of answers that do not exist.

I explore their failures through unconventional narrative choices and an expressive use of light.

I believe in a transformative cinema: that questions, disturbs and leaves a mark — like life.



FILMOGRAPHY

SHORT FILMS

- Rimbalzo
- Mokusatsu
- The Son Who Leaves
- The Taste of Salt
- Recess
- The Sheep



SMALL
FILMS
BIG
QUESTIONS

DOCUMENTARIES

- Reaching Terminus
- Joy
- The Hook

A CINEMA
THAT LEAVES
A MARK

SAME
CLASSROOMS
SAME DREAMS
DIFFERENT
REALITIES

CINEMA
CHANGES
PERSPECTIVES



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

SAME
CLASSROOMS
SAME DREAMS
DIFFERENT
REALITIES



Recess is a dramatic short film with a film noir feel, which tells the story — through a fragmented school scenario — of the difficulty of uncovering the truth when a violent act is committed. Set in a middle school on the outskirts of Bari, the film takes the form of an investigation, like an interrogation conducted by the Carabinieri commander, the school principal and the students after the stabbing of a boy during recess.

Through the microcosm of the school, the film explores phenomena that are increasingly present in Italian society: youth deviance and discrimination towards migrants. As the son of a Tunisian immigrant, who arrived in Italy as a poor and jobless person in search of a future, I feel this story very personally. I chose to tell it not only because I have had similar experiences, but also because many other disadvantaged and immigrant teenagers live this reality every day.

Taking inspiration from **Rashōmon** by Akira Kurosawa, the film reflects on the relativity of truth: recess is a subjective narration that changes according to each person's perspective. I imagined a film with a strongly realist style, with stark contrasts of light and shadow, fixed shots, close-ups and subjective shots. No music, so as not to dilute the impact of the story. I chose non-professional actors from the working-class neighbourhoods of Bari, to give the characters and settings authenticity.

"I did not want
to sugarcoat
the truth."

Nour Gharbi

School is the place
where dreams and
wounds intertwine.



↑
NOUR
GHARBI
→ DIRECTOR



CINEMA
IS ALSO
A SCHOOL.



BEYOND THE WALLS

CINEMA
CAN OPEN
NEW
HORIZONS.

SCHOOL
BECOMES
A REAL
SET.



The project

The film was also born as a path of collaboration between school and businesses, as part of the educational project

"Beyond the walls: cinema, school and society", created with the Social Film Fund and the South Apulia Film Commission, in collaboration with I SUD Film Commission and the CON IL SUD Foundation.

The project involved the I.C. "Giovanni Paolo II - De Marinis" in Bari, transforming the school into a place of dialogue through cinema, training and social awareness.

Students took part in workshops and reflection activities on the themes of bullying, discrimination and youth distress.

Objectives

- Actively involve students and teachers
- Use audiovisual language for education
- Raise awareness about bullying, discrimination and youth distress
- Strengthen dialogue between school, cinema and the local area

REAL
STORIES
REAL
PEOPLE
REAL
CHANGE.



CINEMA
AND
TERRITORY.

Territorial partners

- I.C. "Giovanni Paolo II - De Marinis" - Bari
- District Social Services Company for Families
- Social Cooperative Zorba - Terlizzi
- Anti-Bullying Center - Terlizzi
- Apulia Film Commission
- CON IL SUD Foundation
- Ragarella Production



IDEAS
TRAVEL
FURTHER.



A MORE
INCLUSIVE SCHOOL
IS A BRIGHTER
FUTURE.



PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION



CINEMA
BUILDS
BRIDGES

PRODUCTION

- Apulia Film Commission
- Fondazione con il Sud

STORIES
OF TODAY
FOR A FAIRER
TOMORROW



EXECUTIVE PRODUCTION

- Raganella Production



SCHOOL
IS ALSO
THE WORLD

A SMALL
FILM
A BIGGER
POSSIBLE
WORLD



SOCIAL AND TERRITORIAL PARTNERS

- Circumnavigando (Bari Carbonara)
- Cooperativa Zorba
- Cooperativa Centro Lotta al Disagio
- I.C. "Giovanni Paolo II - De Marinis"

COMMUNITY
TERRITORY
PEOPLE
OPPORTUNITIES



DIFFERENT
SCHOOLS
BRIGHTER
HORIZONS



RESPECT
IS ALWAYS
A GOOD
ANSWER

DISTRIBUTION

- Prime Video

prime video



OTHER
STORIES
ARE
POSSIBLE

FURTHER INFORMATION

- Social Film Fund con il Sud
- Territory: Bari / Terlizzi / Bari Carbonara



SAME
HUMANITY
SAME
FUTURE



FESTIVALS AND RECOGNITIONS

CINEMA
IS ALSO
A SCHOOL.



Recess

17 official selections

3 awards



- ★ Picentia Short Film Festival 2020 - Press Award
- ★ VIFF Varese International Film Festival 2020 - Best Short Film
- ★ Festival Roma Filmcorto 2020 - "Colosseo d'Argento" Award for Best Screenplay

STORIES
THAT
COUNT



ALL THE FESTIVALS

- 1 Picentia Short Film Festival 2020 - Press Award
- 2 VIFF Varese International Film Festival 2020 - Best Short Film
- 3 Festival Roma Filmcorto 2020 - "Colosseo d'Argento" Award for Best Screenplay
- 4 Via dei Corti Independent Short Film Festival 2020 - International Short Film Competition
- 5 International Film Festival of Salerno 2020 - Short Film Competition
- 6 Foggia Film Festival 2020 - Short Film Competition
- 7 SediciCorto Forlì International Film Festival 2020 - Short Films
- 8 Festival Internazionale del Cinema Povero 2020 - Italian Short Films
- 9 Mediterraneo Short Film Festival "Cürt E Mäl Cavàt" 2020 - Competition
- 10 Provo.Corto Gargano Filmfest 2020 - Competition
- 11 CinemadaMare 2020 - Competition
- 12 Social World Film Festival 2020 - The Night of Cinema
- 13 Cinestesia Festival dei Corti 2020 - Competition
- 14 Figari Film Fest 2020 - Junior
- 15 Giffoni Film Festival 2021 - School Experience II Competition
- 16 COFFI CortoGlobo Film Festival Italia 2020 - Official Selection
- 17 AFROBRIX 2026, African-European Festival - Official Selection



**17 steps,
3 awards.**



A small
film,
a long
journey.



THE SAME
SCHOOL,
A MORE
HUMAN FUTURE.



THANK YOU FOR READING

A
SMALL
FILM
A BIGGER
TOMORROW

SCHOOL
LIVES
IN PEOPLE

SAME
CLASSROOMS
NEW
WORLDS



A
BRIGHTER
FUTURE
BEGINS
HERE
TOO

DIFFERENT
SCHOOLS
BRIGHTER
HORIZONS

LA RICREAZIONE
😊

RECESS 😊

STORIES
OF TODAY
BUILD
TOMORROW



For information and materials:



info@nourgharbi.com

PRESS KIT



See you soon!



SAME
HUMANITY
SAME
FUTURE