

PICASSO FILM & SD CINEMATOGRAFICA

presents

MY FIRST CANOE

Written and directed by Paolo Sodi

60' Documentary film

Embark on a captivating journey to Papua New Guinea, where magical places unfold before you. Delve into this enchanting world to discover how tradition, nature, and modernity blend seamlessly, revealing a harmonious coexistence that defies time and expectation.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the magical world of contrast, where the past and present merge in a fascinating balance. In 2024, the year of the future, the impressive spread of technology has led us to slowly abandon ancient traditions, but there is still a place where people manage to live in harmony with nature, in a world that seems immune from the passage of time.

From different parts of the world, such as Papua New Guinea, breathtaking landscapes and a daily life that challenges modernity emerge. Here technology stops at the seductive sound of a canoe, symbol of a magical journey in which nature returns to be the protagonist, in which the determination of men and women, handed down through generations, challenges all modern logic.

In this almost fairy-tale world, the canoe is an essential means of communication. In rivers, in navigation channels, on the open waters of the ocean, the natives move with mastery among the waves, guided by the strength of the currents and by the experience handed down from ancient times. The ancient traditions of navigation have their roots in a deep past and blend with modernity, creating a fascinating contrast that reminds us how important the connection with nature and our cultural heritage is.

This documentary aims to explore these different perspectives, combining the director's vision with the voice of a young protagonist. A journey to discover the territorial differences that influence and shape the way of life. A reflection on the value of traditions and their importance in the modern age. Venture into these magical places and get to know their world, to understand that tradition, nature and modernity can coexist in perfect harmony.





OVERVIEW

An intimate and personal documentary film about the life of a child who dreams of learning to build his own fishing canoe.

The rainforest is his home.

The protagonist will take us inside this wonderful place, the camera will follow his movements and his daily life, revealing to us a way of living that is as simple as it is distant from our everyday life.

His testimony will accompany us in these enchanted places, acting as a common thread with the nearby villages.



VISION

We don't have to be heroes to regain the simple meaning of life, sometimes we just need to stop and listen.

The vision of this film is to emphasize in an unprecedented way the simplicity and uniqueness of those like Trevor, who live in the Rainforest in Papua New Guinea, suggesting to the viewer that "feeling" does not mean "listening", if we learn to "listen" then, perhaps, everyone will be able to hear the voice of the forest.

SYNOPSIS

In a remote corner of Papua New Guinea, lives a young boy named Sereva, who at the age of 10 opens the doors to an enchanted world. We are immersed in the rainforest, among immense trees and mysterious sounds. Nature is the undisputed master here, and blends harmoniously with the ancient traditions of the village of Sereva. Adopted son of a humble carpenter and a peasant woman, Sereva undertakes a long journey every day to reach school. His curiosity leads him to want to know the process of building fishing canoes. Dreaming of making one together with his father. Sereva hopes to one day own a boat that can transport many people to Milne Bay. But Sereva's aspiration is hindered by the community's strict rules. The construction of war canoes, a symbol of power and prestige, is reserved only to a few chosen men, and must be authorized by the spirits of the forest through a sacred ceremony. Despite the difficulties and an insurmountable ban imposed on the men and women of the village, Sereva does not give up. His dream of having his own canoe pushes him to go beyond limits and face every obstacle. Because the culture of Papua New Guinea teaches that the canoe is an indispensable means, and owning one's own boat represents a sign of status and recognition. When the traditional age to receive a fishing canoe is still far away (18 years old), Sereva wants to build one together with his father. His tenacity and love for tradition allow him to find within himself the strength to overcome any obstacle. Sereva's story is not just a tale of adventures, but invites us to reflect on the value of ancient practices and the importance of connection with nature. In an increasingly technological world, Sereva reminds us how important it is to preserve our roots and never forget the traditions that have defined us.



THE FILM

FORMAT

55 minute documentary with a cinematic setting.
Immersive narrative.

CASTING

Main Character: Child: Age 10 years.
Sweet, curious, decisive and empathetic.

VISUAL STYLE

Visually unique and poetic video.

1) Cinematic narrative. 2) Shots with long shots alternating with details. 3) Slow motion shooting with stabilizers.

LOCATION & SETTING

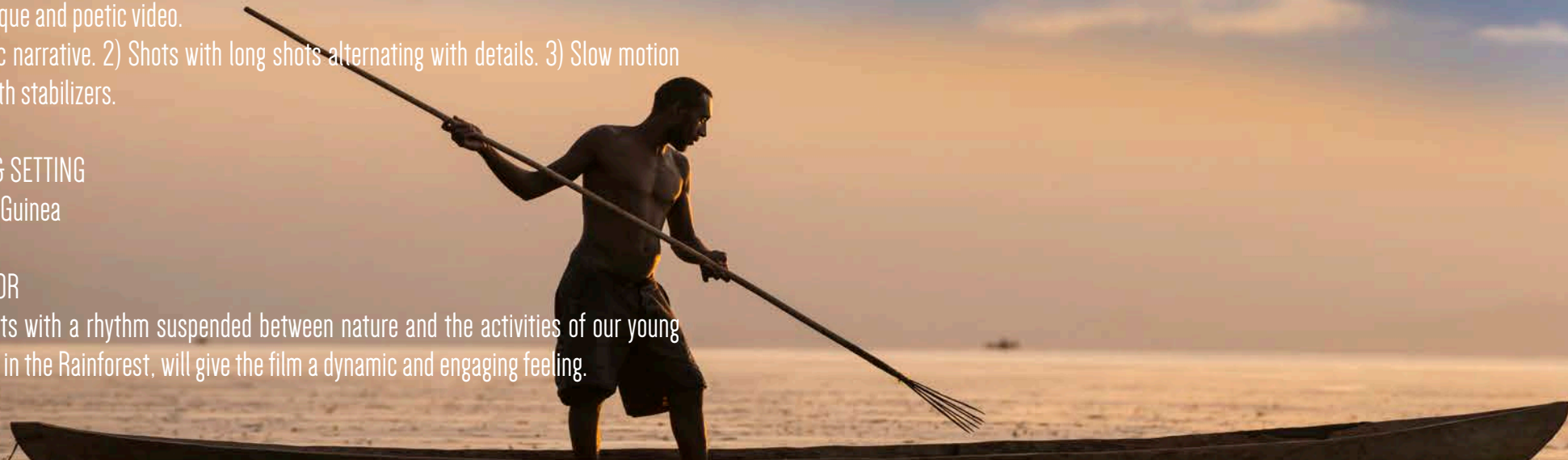
Papua New Guinea

EDIT + COLOR

A mix of cuts with a rhythm suspended between nature and the activities of our young protagonist in the Rainforest, will give the film a dynamic and engaging feeling.

SOUND

We will use elements of sound design to increase the intensity of each location and situation.



THE DIRECTOR

Paolo Sodi is an Italian director and cinematographer. Since he was a teenager he knew what his path was. The desire to experiment took him around the world and, to date, his productions are a concentration of aesthetic beauty, full of "stories to tell".

"My intent is to arouse reflections, I love going in depth and I want my stories to be authentic, truthful."

An eclectic professional, he dedicates himself full time to making documentaries. He prefers naturalistic and anthropological themes.

Paolo is Sony Europe's ambassador for cutting-edge cinematography technologies. He has directed and shot 9 short films and 3 feature films in the natural history and people and nature genres, as well as a cornucopia of campaigns and commercials for leading brands and international production companies: TBN, Sony, Off The Fence, Sd Cinematografica, WildAid and many others.

A regular RAI collaborator, Paolo has directed and filmed some of the most successful titles for the esteemed documentary program GEO.

He has filmed in countries as diverse as Papua New Guinea, Kenya, Zambia, France, Denmark, Iceland, Sierra Leone and Cameroon.

[Explore More Exciting Works by Paolo!](#)



THE PRODUCERS

SD CINEMATOGRAFICA



SD Cinematografica is one of the rare Italian production companies that can boast over 60 years of activity.

Throughout his life he has faced challenges of different nature, from fiction to variety shows to documentaries.

For many years the company's choice has been to focus on the documentary sector, involving international partners such as ZDF, ARTE, PBS, NHK, and of course RAI and Mediaset.

To date, SD Cinematografica has received an Oscar nomination, an Emmy Award nomination as well as hundreds of awards at major international festivals. His documentaries have been broadcast on the major television networks in the world.

PICASSO^{film}

Picasso Film stands as a distinguished leader in the television and film production industry. Over the last 14 years, this company has carved out a notable niche as a prime executive producer, director, and creator, collaborating with prestigious platforms such as Netflix, National Geographic, Curiosity Stream, ZDF, Discovery Channel, RAI, France Télévision, RTL Germany, RMC, ITV, BBC, A&E, and History Channel.

In partnership with www.bigmedia.tv, Picasso Film has been instrumental as an associate producer in delivering more than 250 hours of documentary series that have reached audiences globally.

Since 2008, Picasso Film has produced over 50 enthralling unscripted series for top broadcasters around the world. Our dedicated team excels across a diverse array of genres—from true crime and military insights to Natural History and historical narratives and scientific explorations. Managing every aspect of the production process internally—from initial concept development to scriptwriting, filming, and editing—Picasso Film ensures the highest quality in programming. Our commitment to broadcasting excellence is showcased in our meticulous production details, including in-depth interviews, dynamic re-enactments, and cutting-edge CGI, all tailored to meet the dynamic demands of international viewers.

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR TIME AND ATTENTION DURING THE PRESENTATION.

YOUR ENGAGEMENT AND THOUGHTFUL QUESTIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

PICASSOfilm



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