



Adriana Chiesa Enterprises

**KITCHENFILM SRL**

*presents*

the charm of a farmhouse in the South of France  
vineyards and lavender, laughter and love  
for a perfect moment in a legendary life...

# SIMONE AND GUSTAVE

*a summer of divine seduction*



*a film by*

**EMANUELA PIOVANO**

*a film produced with the support of the*

**WORLD DISTRIBUTION**

**ADRIANA CHIESA ENTERPRISES srl**

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## SIMONE WEIL

(1909-1943)

"People called her a mystic, a secular saint, or just plain saint... crazy, anorexic... even during her lifetime she was laughed at for her strange attire, her eternal cape, those oversized glasses, her studied unattractiveness, proverbial clumsiness... Not one of the usual stigmata used to ridicule women with a mind was spared Simone Weil... And indeed, she was to become one of the most important philosophers of the 20th century had her life not been cut down at only 34 years of age..." LE MONDE

"Simone Weil was light, courage, the force of intelligence, commitment, a great thinker completely immersed in life..."  
LAURE ADLER, journalist and author of "L'INSOUMISE"

"a woman of genius, a kind of genius akin to saints..."  
T.S. ELIOT

"An exceptional woman, become 'cult', her categorical opinions, excesses, impassioned thirst for truth, her scathing irony, sarcasm sometimes too, but also the gentleness of her natural authority, all of these qualities charmed people just as much as they disturbed, irritated, outraged. For some, she was their guiding light... Gifted with a formidable appetite for knowledge... no field – philosophy, politics, history, science, religion, art, languages, social issues – escaped her penetrating mind".  
SYLVIE COURTINE DENAMY author of "SIMONE WEIL: la quete de racines célestes"

*directed by* **EMANUELA PIOVANO**

*story* **EMANUELA PIOVANO**  
*based on an episode in the life of Simone Weil*

*screenplay* **EMANUELA PIOVANO**  
**LUCILLA SCHIAFFINO**

*original music score* **MARC PERRONE**

*director of photography* **RAOUL TORRESI**

*editing* **ROBERTO PERPIGNANI**

*costumes* **NUNZIA PALMIERI**

*sets* **GIAN PIETRO D'ACQUI**

*casting* **ROSSELLA CHIOVETTA**

*mixing* **SIMONE CORELLI**

*produced by*  
**GIULIA BONAVOLONTÀ**  
*for*  
**KITCHENFILM SRL**

*cast*

LARA GUIRAO	<i>Simone Weil</i>
FABRIZIO RIZZOLO	<i>Gustave Thibon</i>
ISABELLA TABARINI	<i>Yvette Thibon</i>
MARC PERRONE	<i>Pépé</i>
LUIGI LIPRANDI	<i>Mayor</i>
DANILO BERTAZZI	<i>Father Perrin</i>
DIL GABRIELE DELL'AIERA	<i>Ivo</i>

# SYNOPSIS

## *SIMONE AND GUSTAVE* *a summer of divine seduction*

A magical summer interlude, like a secret gift, awaits a renowned young woman in a dark moment in history when she reluctantly accepts an invitation to a couple's farmhouse in the South of France.

Based on a true episode in the young life of the charismatic French philosopher Simone Weil, this was the charming historic encounter with her host, Gustave Thibon, the "philosopher peasant" who would later posthumously publish one of her most famous manuscripts.

Under the spell of this "enchanted land" of vineyards, lavender, and the Provencal sun, Simone, Gustave and his wife Yvette live a unique and precious moment of intimacy. As teasing, complicity, and jealousies give way to love and laughter, the power of sheer joy makes even time stop for a moment in occupied France.

## *director's note*

I wanted to make a simple film, light and airy, as Simone would have liked it.

I wanted to shoot it here, near home, so as not to lose sight of Simone when I glimpsed her just over there, so close. Here, amidst the woods and vineyards of the Serra d'Ivrea, where Adriano Olivetti used to come cycling. It was here that Olivetti decided to translate Simone Weil, for the first time in the world, and make her work a manual for workers relations. This was considered by all a veritable laboratory in durable development.

I wanted to make a film filled with light for our dark times, Simone having taught me that the ultimate essence of courage was hope.

This was the first time I had ever thought of making a period film. And I would not have done so if it had not been a relevant film. Relevant also to that period when this very young woman, a professor of philosophy, stayed at a farmhouse in the Ardèche with Gustave Thibon and his wife. The France of Vichy, and the Italy of today. That is, a historic moment when we are not quite sure what will happen to those ideologies whose limits we have seen, though we have not seen how to develop them differently.

A time when our search for an image with meaning turns to raptures and forgetting, rather than to observation. Perhaps "myopic" observation, like Simone's. That is, to simply let things be as much as possible, to let them reveal themselves on their own and tell us their secrets.

We tried to make an open and profound film about the passing of a meteor, for Simone was a meteor, through the everyday life of an ordinary couple, though he too became a philosopher after this passing.

A love story in which love is not attachment, but illumination.

EMANUELA PIOVANO

# *biography* **EMANUELA PIOVANO**

Emanuela Piovano is an author, director, producer and, most recently, distributor. She was born in the mid-sixties in Turin where she graduated in Film History and Criticism. Piovano worked for several years for Paolo Gobetti's ARCHIVIO NAZIONALE CINEMATOGRAFICO DELLA RESISTENZA, RAI, and the film journal IL NUOVO SPETTATORE. She is the founder of CAMERA WOMAN, KITCHENFILM and SUNNY SIDE. The latter two are commercial firms involved in cultural products, and the first is a non-profit organization for women in film. Emanuela Piovano lives in Rome where she heads Kitchenfilm. The independent film production company recently became fully equipped for editing features.

## **filmography**

### **FILMS**

*as director and producer*

1990 Le Rose Blu

1997 Le Complici

2003 Amorfù

2009 Simone and Gustave (in post-production, Media Development Fund)

### **FILMS AND TV SERIES**

*as producer*

1983 Processo a Caterina Ross

1995 Parole Incrociate

1996 La Grande Dea Madre

### **FILMS**

*as distributor*

2006 Whisky

2007 Caramel

# *biography* LARA GUIRAO

## **AUTHOR**

*as playwright*

HAUTE PRESSION

LA BELLE SAISON

*as television screenwriter*

LA VICTOIRE DES VAINCUS (Telefim)

## **CINEMA as actress**

*Features*

2009

SIMONE WEIL dir. by Emanuela PIOVANO

2008

MICMACS À TIRE-LARIGOT dir. by Jean-Pierre JEUNET

CHACUN DANS SA NUIT dir. by Jean-Marc BARR and Pascal ARNOLD

LA JUNGLE dir. by Matthieu DELAPORTE

HOLY LOLA dir. by B. Tavernier

QUI PERD GAGNE dir. by L. Benegui

LAISSEZ PASSER dir. by B. Tavernier

MÉDITERRANÉE dir. by P. Beranger

COUPLES ET AMANTS dir. by J. Lvoff

L. 627 dir. by B. Tavernier

LA VIEILLE QUI MARCHAIT DANS LA MER dir. by L. Heynemann

*Shorts*

2006 OEDIPE AN III

## **THEATRE as actress**

2008 AGATHA by Marguerite Duras dir. by Jacques Kraemer (Tour)

2007

A LA VIE by Jean-Louis Milesi dir. by Pierre-Loup Rajot

Théâtre Toursky (Marseilles) and Théâtre du TMR (Montreux, Switzerland)

CHÈRE ELENA SERGUEIEVNA by Ludmilla Razoumovskaia dir. by D. Bezace -

Théâtre de la Commune and Tour

LE HOME YID dir. by J. Kraemer - Festival d'Avignon

LE GLEM dir. by J. Kraemer - Théâtre de Chartres and Théâtre de la Tempête

DOM JUAN dir. by J. Kraemer - Théâtre de Chartres and TEP Paris

PIÈCES DE LA MER dir. by J. Kraemer - Théâtre de Chartres

HAUTE PRESSION by Lara Guirao dir. by L. Guirao - Théâtre de Chartres

LILIOM dir. by S. Chevara (Tour)

BÉRÉNICE dir. by J. Kraemer (Tour)

LE SECRET DE L'AIGUILLE CREUSE dir. by G. Gleizes - T.J.S. Montreuil

LA PLUS FORTE dir. by J. Kraemer - Théâtre de Chartres

UN COIN D'AZUR dir. by J. Bouchaud - Théâtre La Bruyère

LA BELLE SAISON by Jacques Prévert - adaptation L. Guirao dir. by J. Lvoff -

Théâtre de Chartres and Théâtre du Ranelagh

CINQ NO MODERNES dir. by D. Quehec - Opéra Bastille

UNE PETITE ENTAILLE dir. by Xavier Durringer - Théâtre du Rond Point

AGATHA by Marguerite Duras dir. by J. Kraemer - Théâtre Lucernaire and

Festival d'Avignon



**TELEVISION as actress**

*TV series*

2008 SOS 18 - SAISON 6 - ep. 1 to 6 dir. by Jean SAGOLS FRANCE 3  
2007 SOS 18 - SAISON 5 - ep. 1 to 6 dir. by Nicolas PICARD FRANCE 3  
2006 BOULEVARD DU PALAIS - ep. 23 UN PETIT COIN SANS HISTOIRES  
dir. by Philippe VENAULT FRANCE 2  
2006 SOS 18 - SAISON 3 - ep. 1 to 6 dir. by Bruno GARCIA FRANCE 3  
2006 SOS 18 - SAISON 4 - ep. 1 to 6 dir. by Patrick JAMAIN FRANCE 3  
2006 P.J. - 11ÈME SÉRIE - ep. 121 dir. by Claire de LA ROCHEFOUCAULD FRANCE 2  
2005  
P.J. - 10ÈME SÉRIE - ep. 115 dir. by Thierry PETIT  
SOS 18 dir. by D. Baron  
UNE FEMME D'HONNEUR dir. by M. Perrota  
JULIETTE LESAGE, MÉDECINE POUR TOUS dir. by C. François  
P.J. dir. by B. Coscas  
B.R.I.G.A.D. ÉPISODE "TRAUMA PROFOND" dir. by M. Angelo  
JULIE LESCAUT – ep. "LA NUIT LA PLUS LONGUE" dir. by P. Aknine  
CRIM'2 dir. by D. Berry  
MÉDECINS DE NUIT dir. by G. Béhat  
L'INSTIT – ep. "LES DEUX RIVES" dir. by E. Niermans  
MAIGRET À PEUR dir. by C. Goretta  
JULIE LESCAUT - EPISODE "HARCÈLEMENT" dir. by C. Huppert  
NAVARRO – ep. "MORT D'UN TÉMOIN" dir. by P. Jamain  
QUAI N° 1 - ep. LE TUEUR DE LA PLEINE LUNE dir. by Patrick JAMAIN

*Telefilms*

2008

DRÔLE DE NOËL ! dir. by Nicolas PICARD FRANCE 2  
UN PETIT PARISIEN dir. by S. Grall  
LA VICTOIRE DES VAINCUS dir. by N. Picard  
PASSAGE DU BAC dir. by O. Langlois  
CAMPAGNES dir. by O. Langlois  
LA PART DE L'OMBRE dir. by P. Venault  
MARS OU LA TERRE dir. by B. Arthuys  
UN AMOUR INACHEVÉ dir. by F. Cazeneuve  
LA MALAIMÉE dir. by B. Arthuys  
MORTELLLES RENCONTRES dir. by P. Jamain

## *biography* FABRIZIO RIZZOLO

Born in Asti, Italy, in 1964, Fabrizio Rizzolo was twenty when he starred in the musical **"Torno ad Itaca?"** directed by Gianni Miroglio. Nevertheless, he chose to pursue a career in music, composing songs for names such as **Gloria Gaynor, Arthur Miles, and Danilo Amerio**, as well as other Italian music stars. He participated in **Sanremo Giovani** and arranged compositions for **Walt Disney**. In the 80s, Rizzolo became famous under the pseudonym **Brian Ice** and topped the charts in several European countries. He continued his career in music and founded a band that became historic in Piedmont, the **Farinei dla Brigna**, with which he recorded 5 albums.

In 1999, Rizzolo returned to musicals and appeared in **"Aggiungi un posto a tavola"** (directed by Piero Fassio) and **"Sketch"**. With the theatre troupe **"Compagnia della Rancia"**. He was also cast as Herr Zeller in **"Tutti insieme appassionatamente"** with *Michelle Hunziker and Luca Ward* (directed by Saverio Marconi), and subsequently as Prince Charming in **Cenerentola**, and Mr. Warbucks in **"Annie"**.

His acting career finally led him to cinema when the Florentine director Emiliano Cribari chose him for the leading role in his film **"Tuttotorna"** (2005, CECCHI GORI HV). A series of appearances in television fiction and soaps then followed (**"La Freccia Nera"**, **"Centovetrine"**) and many other projects, among which notably **"Dark Resurrection"**, the Italian sci-fi picture directed by Angelo Licata, as well as Paolo Valeri's **"Limen"**.

In 2006, Fabrizio Rizzolo was the protagonist in **"Tagliare le Parti in Grigio"** (awarded "Best First Film at the Locarno Festival) directed by Vittorio Rifranti.

The following year, he wrote the screenplay, composed the music score, and starred in **"Ho soltanto chiuso gli occhi"** to then appear as the bank manager in **"Tutti intorno a Linda"** (by M. and B. Sgambellone, DANIA FILM, theatrical release).

In 2008, he was again directed by Cribari who cast him in the comedy **"Brokers, eroi per gioco"** written by Riccardo Leto (a Rome Fest Special Event). Subsequently, Rizzolo was the lead actor in Emanuela Piovano's film **"La vendemmia del vento cattivo"** (Kitchenfilm), with Lara Guirao and Isabella Tabarini.

In 2009, after a brief return to musical comedy in **"Kiss me Kate"**, Fabrizio Rizzolo made **"Il nostro uomo"** with Ennio Fantastichini, and was cast in the leading role of another new film by Cribari, the psychological noir **"Autodafé"**. In Emanuela Piovano's new film to be released in 2009 on an episode in the life of **Simon Weil**, Rizzolo stars as Gustave Thibon.

## *biography* ISABELLA TABARINI

Isabella Tabarini was born in Borgomanero, Italy, in 1981. At the age of five, she began studying dance, and then acting. In 1998, at only 17, she was cast in the leading role of *“Aggiungi un posto a tavola”*, directed by Giovanni Siniscalco. She continued her studies, and graduated in 2003 from the Accademia Professionale **M.A.S.** under the artistic direction of Susanna Beltrami.

Tabarini began her artistic career as a dancer (*“La sagra della primavera”* directed by S. Beltrami, with Luciana Savignano, and *“La febbre del sabato sera”* directed by M. R. Piparo). In 2003, she was among the successful candidates selected by Pupi Avati to participate in the preparatory seminar of the Centro Sperimentale Cinematografia. This gave her the opportunity of studying with the great Giancarlo Giannini, among other fine artists.

In 2005, Massimo Bologna chose her for the role of Lulú in his disturbing *“Cafè Agrado”*. At the time, Tabarini was also performing with the Compagnia Arcademia which staged *“All that musical”*, *“Love”*, and *“Il paradiso può attendere”* in which she appeared in the role of Betty Logan.

The actress subsequently launched into a successful film debut: Vittorio Rifranti was the first director to recognize her talent. He cast her in the leading role of *“Tagliare le parti in grigio”*. The film was awarded the **Pardo** for "Best First Film" at the **2007 Locarno Film Festival** and was invited to international festivals in all the world. In the film, Tabarini plays Paola, a simple girl who, after an accident and suffering a coma, sees her life devastated by a double fatal encounter.

Several independent film projects then followed. In the Italian sci-fi film *“Dark Resurrection”* directed by A. Licata, she is the protagonist Hope. Subsequently, she appeared in films including *“Ho soltanto chiuso gli occhi”* (presented on Odeon TV by Lamberto Sposini), and *“Brokers - Eroi per gioco”* (**2008 Rome Fest Special Event, "Best Film" award at the 2009 Imperia Festival**), directed by Emiliano Cribari.

In 2008, Isabella Tabarini was the protagonist in a new important film, *“Fuga dal call center”* (Special Event at Milan's Filmmakerfest and **winner of the 2009 Sguardi di Cinema Italiano**). The work was directed by Federico Rizzo, produced by Gagarin (*Fame chimica*) and Ardaco, and boasted for cinematography, director of photography L. Bigazzi (already winner of 4 David di Donatello and 3 Nastri d'Argento). In the film, Isabella brought to the screen the world of precarious existence. Her role as Marzia expressed the emotional precariousness of her generation, in language that ranged from the grotesque to the dramatic.

Her most recent film as protagonist is soon to be released. This is the new film by **Emanuela Piovano**, set in the 40s, on an episode in the life of **Simone Weil**, produced by Kitchenfilm.

The year 2009 opened with her participation in a national commercial for *“Famiglia Cristiana”*, and for the stage, her starring role as Kate in the musical *“Kiss me Kate!”* directed by Fulvio Crivello.

# KITCHENFILM

*the producer*

KITCHENFILM was created in Turin at the end of 1988, as a direct commercial response to activities of the cultural association CAMERA WOMAN. Towards the end of 1993, its legal headquarters were transferred to Rome and it became an S.r.l.

In recent years, research has been a prime focus of Kitchenfilm and the Company has invested in documentation, filmed inquiries, and the promotion of encounters, seminars, and the acquisition of rights for film and literary works.

In addition to the three films directed by Emanuela Piovano, the Company has also produced films by other female directors such as Adele Cambria, Gabriella Rosaleva and Annabella Miscuglio.

The name "Kitchenfilm" originated as a homage to the "Kitchen" in New York where some works of the founders were exhibited in the eighties. The idea that a kitchen could be a workshop for ideas was inspired by the Aristotelian principle that creation is much like the process of cooking. The Company's trademark is a little lady flourishing an egg in a pan much like a trophy.

## **RESEARCH**

Kitchenfilm has produced a number of filmed inquiries and has a selection of important documentation on social, political and cultural issues.

## **PROMOTION**

Kitchenfilm has planned and organized meetings, festivals and seminars for the development and promotion of women's cinema and Italian cinema in general.

## **MARKETING**

To keep abreast of constant changes in a rapidly evolving field, Kitchenfilm has broadened and developed its expertise in the field of marketing and communications. It has produced market and consumer studies and surveys for companies.

## **PRODUCTION**

Kitchenfilm's main activity is film and television production. This involves not only the acquisition and commercialization of rights of film and literary works, but also the production of television and/or film products.

## **DISTRIBUTION**

In line with this philosophy, the Company considered completing its activity by also becoming a distributor. The Uruguayan film "Whisky" could be considered a first experiment. In 2008, Kitchenfilm distributed "Caramel" in partnership with Archibald.

### *Most recent acquisitions:*

"Sonhos de Peixe" directed by Kirill Mikhanovsky

"A via Lactea" directed by Lina Chamie

"In the Battlefield" directed by Danielle Arbid

"4 mujeres descalzas" directed by Santiago Loza