



FESTIVAL DE CANNES  
SÉLECTION OFFICIELLE



# DRAQUILA

Ein Film von  
**Sabina Guzzanti**

**Am 6. April 2009 bebt die Erde in Aquila.  
Es gibt mehr als 300 Tote.  
Noch ein Jahr danach haben mehr als 50'000 Personen kein  
eigenes Dach über dem Kopf.**

Nach VIVA ZAPATERO schafft es die Regisseurin Sabina Guzzanti auch mit ihrem neuen Film, die Berlusconi-Regierung in Rage zu bringen. In DRAQUILA ist zu sehen, wie sich der Ministerpräsident an L'Aquila bereicherte und dabei Gesetze über Notsituationen zu seinen Gunsten umbog. Italien zittert und zersplittert langsam – wegen den Verfehlungen der Regierung, der Korruption und der Veruntreuung öffentlicher Mittel.

**Startdatum: 17. März 2011**

**Dauer: 99 Minuten**

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**:<http://www.frenetic.ch/films/782/pro/index.php>**


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## **CREW**

Written and Directed by .....SABINA GUZZANTI  
Producers .....SECOL SUPERBO E SCIOCCO PRODUZIONI  
..... GRUPPO AMBRA  
..... ALBA PRODUZIONI  
Associated Producer.....BIM DISTRIBUZIONE  
Editor .....CLELIO BENEVENTO  
Production Manager .....ANITA LAMANNA  
DPs..... MARIO AMURA, CLARISSA CAPPELLANI  
Sound Recordist ..... ERWAN KERZANET  
Original Music..... RICCARDO GIAGNI, MAURIZIO RIZZUTO  
Sound Editors ..... DANIELA BASSANI, MARZIA CORDÒ  
Graphics and Animation ..... SERGIO GAZZO  
Line Producers ..... SERGIO BERNARDI, SANDRO FREZZA,  
..... FERDINANDO VICENTINI ORGNANI  
Soundtrack..... 

## **LONG SYNOPSIS**

### *Why do Italians vote Berlusconi?*

Te violence of propaganda, the impotence of citizens, questions of the economy, illicit power relationships...

And a catastrophe: the city of L'Aquila devastated by an earthquake...

All these combine to show how the young Italian democracy has been subdued. Sabina Guzzanti, celebrated Italian comedian, director and popular satirical author, conducts her enquiry by digging through the rubble of the 6th April 2009 earthquake. Te caricature of Berlusconi – one of the director's most celebrated impersonations - strolls through Aquila's refugee camp and wanders the deserted town like an emperor at the end of his reign.

A town devastated by an earthquake – the perfect location from which to recount Italy's drift into authoritarianism, the mess of blackmail, scandal, swindles and inertia of the political classes, the media and the citizens, that have paralysed the country. why do the Italians vote for Berlusconi?

Aquila – this magnificent city laid low by an earthquake – will give us the answers. Why did the proud people of Aquila exchange their most precious commodity – their community, a dynamic town full of students and works of art – for a little apartment in a dormitory town, furnished by Berlusconi? Why did they believe TV propaganda rather than the evidence of their own eyes? And how did it happen to others too, as quickly and as deceitfully? Who was leaning on them?

Te days of Berlusconi's reign seem numbered: it's time to search through the rubble and draw what conclusions we can.

## **DIRECTORS NOTES**

Trough the aftermath of the L'Aquila earthquake, the film shows Berlusconi's propaganda at work and its effects on the Italian people. One only needs to scratch the surface to see scandals breaking out everywhere.

I wanted to talk about the fact that there is no reaction from the opposition, about the inconsistency and lack of political power; about the fact that the citizens can't seem to be able to get organised and are only capable of accomplishing desperate acts. First and foremost this enquiry shows how, in the name of emergency and safety, laws are constantly bypassed and civil rights ignored through the power of a pseudo citizen's organisation, the so-called 'Civil Protection', which - thanks to Berlusconi - has acquired immense power.

### *What prompted this subject?*

I waited a few weeks before going to L'Aquila. It was after the G8 summit in July 2009. I spent one evening there in a self-managed refuge camp where I talked to the people. I was told about the "invaders"... who weren't volunteers on site, nor fremen but teams from the State department's 'Civil Protection'. I thought it was necessary to observe what was happening there....

What I found out about the 'Civil Protection' seemed far-fetched, unbelievable. For nine years, a kind of parallel state had been taking shape without the public's knowledge. No one seemed to know that a government army had been given the right to bypass the law through spending, hiring, authorizing inappropriate planning permissions and the allocation of grants from vatican funds. Te real challenge was to assess the situation, which was rapidly reaching the point of anarchy.

I thought I was blinded by my loathing for Berlusconi...

Government propaganda had nearly convinced me that the victims of the disaster were grateful to the Prime Minister. Ten scandals broke out.....

Shooting this film and looking at the images again, editing them and linking all the events has moved me deeply. It will take a long time to rebuild L'Aquila: a city whose construction was begun by Frederick II as a bulwark against a corrupted Rome and completed in the 13th century by his son; a city subjected to many terrible earthquakes and today confronted by something much more serious. It will take at least as long to rebuild Italy.

Sabina Guzzanti

## **SUSANNA GUZZANTIS BIOGRAPHY**

November 2003: *RaiOt*, a late night TV political satire shown on Rai 3, written and directed by and starring Sabina Guzzanti, is taken off the air. Sabina Guzzanti leaves RAI, proving that making fun of Berlusconi and his politics is not accepted and that freedom of expression has to be fought for in her country.

Sabina's mission, after a long television career as both writer and actor in cult TV shows, is to tell the truth and shed light on dark contemporary events in Italy, encompassing politics and economics.

As a form of protest against the censorship imposed on *RaiOt*, Sabina Guzzanti shot her side of the story in the film *VIVA ZAPATERO* (2005) in which she shows and condemns the lack of freedom of expression in Italy. Following the film's great success with the public she found herself behind the camera again in 2007 with the comedy *LE RAGIONI DELL'ARAGOSTA* (Sympathy for the Lobster), which featured the comedians from *Avanzi*, a popular political satire show much in vogue in the early nineties.

Her films have generated much debate and controversy in the media but have allowed her to gain the audience's trust. Freedom of expression won. With this conviction as ammunition she returns behind the camera.

*DRAQUILA, ITALY TREMBLES* - Sabina Guzzanti's fourth feature film - is a penetrating report of the events tied to the earthquake in L'Aquila, and an intense and disturbing story about the effects of autocracy.

Sabina Guzzanti has always been active on many fronts: film, television, literature, music, political activism and theatre, all of which have displayed her exceptional qualities as a performer and creator in constant search of dramatic material.

## **PRESSESTIMMEN**

★★★★★

«Angriffslustig und unterhaltsam.»

**TAGES ANZEIGER**

★★★★★

«Draquila is the Italian film Berlusconi doesn't want you to see. All the more reasons to go and see it as soon as it hits the screen.»

**THE GUARDIAN**

★★★★★

«Draquila, documentaire engagé, une dénonciation.»

**LE MONDE**

★★★★★

«Un portrait au vitriol de Berlusconi.»

**LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR**

★★★★★

«Ti fa uscire dalla proiezione con le mani tra i capelli.»

**LA REPUBBLICA**

★★★★★

«Draquila L'Italia che trema è un'inchiesta sul dolore di una terra martoriata. Un film serio.»

**IL MANIFESTO**