



*Brindisi is a city in Southern Italy, overlooking the Mediterranean.*

*Thanks to its natural harbour, it was an important commercial and cultural crossroads and the preferred gateway to the east, from the Roman Empire to the East India Company.*

*The city reached its utmost splendour under the Swabian Emperor Frederick II, mentioned in the Divine Comedy as the “wind of Swabia”, in reference to the strong force with which his dynasty dominated southern Italy.*

*Brindisi has now become an important industrial hub. At its port many cargo ships arrive every day, unloading tons of fossil fuels to supply Eni’s petrochemical plant and Enel’s power plant, two of the biggest in Europe.*

**TRAILER:** <https://vimeo.com/256944691>

## DATA SHEET

genre: documentary  
year of production: 2017  
duration: 77 minutes  
nationality: italian  
size: DCP (1:1,77) Color  
language: italian

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## CREDITS & CAST

directed by: Corrado Punzi  
based on an idea by: Stefano Martella e Corrado Punzi  
written by: Francesco Lefons e Corrado Punzi  
production: Fluid produzioni srl; Muud Film  
editor: Cristian Sabatelli  
director of photography: Corrado Punzi  
sound recordist: Gianluigi Gallo  
mix: Soundwalk Studio  
producer: Davide Barletti  
executive producers: Stefano Martella, Davide Barletti  
scenography: Luigi Conte

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## CONTACTS

**Fluid Produzioni srl:**  
Prov.le Arnesano-Novoli Km 3 - 73010 Arnesano (LE)  
Tel./Fax 0832 247473 - Cell. 347 3667224  
info@fluidproduzioni.com  
www.fluidproduzioni.com

**Associazione Muud Film:**  
P.tta F.lli Cervi, 13 - 73020 Cavallino (LE)  
Tel: 338 1380387  
muudfilm@gmail.com  
www.muudfilm.com



## STORY

What is life like in a southern Italian city, nestled between two of Europe's largest industrial plants: a coal fired power plant and a petrochemical plant? What promises of progress and development?

Two farmers living and working under the two plants and a somewhat fleeting environmentalist scuba diver try to prove the economic and health damage inflicted by the facilities. The press officer of the however, tells a completely different story. While the inhabitants of the city attend cultural and sporting events funded by the industries, truth and justice remain suspended and unattainable, like in a Kafkaesque trial.

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH DATA

*Since 1997 Brindisi has been classified as an "Area with high environmental risk", and it is still waiting for the reclamation of over 5,800 hectares of land and 5,600 of sea.*

*Only in 2017, the Puglia Region published the first epidemiological report on the territory of Brindisi: the pollutants of the two Plants are linked to the staggering rise in tumours, leukaemia, congenital malformations and cardiovascular and respiratory diseases.*

*As far back as 2013, a research study by CNR in cooperation with some physicians of the Brindisi general hospital showed evidence of congenital cardiac malformations that were 68 percentage points higher than the European average.*



## PRODUCERS' NOTE

*«This is the splendor of the great Costanza,  
who by the second Wind of Swabia gave  
the third and final Power birth.»  
(Dante Alighieri, Paradiso, Canto III)*

Wind of Swabia is the term used by Dante Alighieri in his Divine Comedy to refer to the Swabian ('Soave', which in Italian language means suave) Hohenstaufen dynasty, whose domination in Southern Italy is compared by the poet to an impetuous wind. The third and final Power birth is the emperor Frederick II, who succeeded his father Henry VI, namely the second wind who was married to Constance of Hauteville. Under Frederick II, also known as stupor mundi (the wonder of the world) and puer Apuliae (child of Apulia), the city of Brindisi, in Apulia, knew years of cultural and commercial glory. However, just a few monuments are now testimony to that glorious past, and the name of the Emperor only calls to mind the Federico II coal-fired power station, which is one of main producers of pollutants and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Europe.

Today the wind carries the smoke and steam coming out from that power station, as well as from the Eni petrochemical plant. Its suave breeze links the stories of four people, who embody the two sides of an old dilemma that seems to be unchangeable, like the cycle of the seasons. The purpose of this movie is to show the complexity of the issue through multiple perspectives and an attentive observation of the daily life of those who, despite believing that they are victims of the environmental impact of the industries, continue to live near the plants or to work at them, as well as of the managers and executives who contribute to building and promoting their public image. Rather than being a report on Brindisi and its industrial estate, the movie has tried to convey a wider approach to one of the most crucial problems of our age: the conflict between economic development and environmental and health damages. Therefore, observing Brindisi means examining a development model that, however unsustainable, continues to be adopted in many regions of the global South.

## PRODUCTIONS



**MUUD FILM** is a collective group founded by two directors, Mattia Epifani and Corrado Punzi, and an editor, Mattia Soranzo. They are specialized in filmmaking and film training, and regularly organize workshops in correctional facilities.

Documentaries by the members of the group have been shown at several important film festivals in Italy and abroad, such as IDFA (Amsterdam), Festival dei Popoli (Florence), Cinéma du réel (Paris) and many others.

## SIGNIFICANT PRODUCTIONS:

Wind of Swabia (2017)  
 La musica delle barberie (2016)  
 I quattro elementi (2015)  
 Ubu R1E (2015)  
 Fresia (2013)

**Fluid Productions** is a movie production society, born in 1995, with its operative centres in Rome and Puglia. More than 50 works had been put on by them, documentaries, movies, short movies, advertisings, tv and web series.

Fluid Production work has always been characterized by a strong authorial and artistic research, supported by public and private institutions, being part of the biggest International Movie and Documentary Festivals (Venezia, Rotterdam, Turin, Buenos Aires, Rome, Thessaloniki, Copenhagen, New York, Berlin and many more...)

Fluid Productions has also worked together with several italian and international broadcast channels and it's considered as one of the most interesting crews in the italian scene.

## SIGNIFICANT PRODUCTIONS:

Wind of Swabia (2017)  
 Il Paese dove gli alberi volano ( 2015)  
 The successor (2015)  
 Un ritratto di Ettore Scola ( 2014)  
 Non c'era nessuna Signora a quel tavolo - il cinema di Cecilia Mangini (2012)  
 Rockman ( 2011)

## BIOFILMOGRAPHY OF THE DIRECTOR



Corrado Punzi was born in Lecce on April 2, 1979. Graduated in Communication Sciences in Bologna with a thesis in documentary filmmaking, since 2010 is a PhD in Philosophy of Law and deals with power and identity, on which wrote monographs: Democracy as a paradox and Ettore Majorana or the Right to Allness. He also wrote The Framing and Film-making, voices in the film dictionary, published by Carocci in 2009. He has written and directed several short films and documentaries, especially with social issues: the prison (Our Faces, 17 Mins, 2005), Burundi War between Hutu and Tutsi

Hutu and Tutsi (Petit Pays, 52 mins, 2008), the struggles of Salentine tobacco workers (Who are you son, 42 min.), Chilean Dictatorship (Where, My Eyes, 32 min., 2007; Fresia, 75 min., 2013), Environmental Pollution in Taranto (The Four Elements, 29 Minutes, 2014). He is a member of the independent film group Muud Film