

## **Belonging**

Our class has been divided in groups by our reference teachers and every group has been arranged according to specific abilities of the students. In particular we've been divided in three working groups according to: historical knowledge, linguistic knowledge, cinematographic skills and artistic skills. The three teams actually took their name from the reference movie that each group has chosen, so in our class we had Roman holiday, the law is law and the great beauty. Before actually starting to work on our audio-visual project we had a lot of training activities in order to get into the cinema world. We had afternoon workshops with our English and History teachers twice a week, where we analyzed audio-visual techniques, we had many discussions on European values, our teachers taught us all the cinematic terms and we had extra history lessons.

But one of the most important activity in which we participated is for sure the cineforum, where we were able to discover many films, such as roman holiday, the law is law, the great war and the great beauty; all these movies deal with many european historical events and each group chose one of them and used it as a starting point for the short-film.

We started with the idea that being European, for us, means to be part of something greater than we could possibly imagine. As a matter of fact being a european citizen means to be fully immersed in a culture that no other country in the world has. In this short film our group wanted to show how the magnificence of Rome leads people to lose themselves, because Rome is the place where you have a tendency to confuse dream and reality.

In order to write down our story we started to reflect on what came out during the student workshops that took place in November and after brainstorming with the team we choose to focus on two questions:

“Do you feel safe in Europe?” And “What does being European mean to you?”

Then - with the guidance of our teachers - we chose the reference film - The Great Beauty - which gave us the right inspiration to start our short-film.

The European values that we decided to promote in this short film are freedom of movement, human dignity and exaltation of culture. These themes were mainly extrapolated from the

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movie, but we also decided to refer to the treaty of Lisbon which was temporally close to the release of the film and covered many important aspects, such as the importance of mutual assistance between states in case of terrorist attack and armed assault.

Being european means belonging to something greater than ourselves, it means to feel free without having to wear “masks”.

The great beauty is without a doubt a masterpiece, especially when it comes to the technical aspects. We actually chose two scenes from the movie. The first one is when the main character is walking down Trastevere and we can hear in the background all his thoughts; we could say that this scene is about introspection and gives us more information about the character's psychological state.

While the second scene that we chose was very challenging both technically and artistically, because while the main character was laying on the bed, a flash-back appeared on the ceiling, so we had to use the green-screen technique.

We believe that the hardest part was writing down the story and the script; we started making a draft of both the story and the script in italian, then we translated it and wrote the final script on the computer. While we were shooting the scenes we made some changes to adapt the lines to the actors.

The choice of locations wasn't that hard because we chose Rome since it was the original location of our reference movie, we used the bedroom of one of us to shoot the interior scenes, while we were kinda forced to chose Amelia for our last scenes 'cause we couldn't go to the janiculum anymore due to the pandemic.

While some of us were shooting the interior scenes, Micaele started to draw digitally the entire intro, in particular Narni's fortress, the tour eiffel and the colosseum. A couple of us worked on the props, such as the airplane tickets, while others started the editing process on Adobe premiere.

The last step of our production process was shooting the scenes in Rome and in Amelia, which were actually the more significant and emotionally touching.

This project was a great way for us to challenge ourselves; we finally had the chance to do something out of our comfort zone, something we would have never expected to do when we

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enrolled in this school. Thanks to this opportunity we improved our linguistic and teamwork skills, but we also grew artistically and technically.

When we wrote down the script, approximately half a year ago, we had no idea about what would have happened in the following months.

We believe that the topics covered in our short-film, such as the freedom of movement and human relationships, are important now more than ever. After a year in which everything stopped, the resumption of a project such as the Erasmus gives us hope and optimism for the future.