



**Locarno Film Festival**  
Official Selection

# BROTHERHOOD



**PRESS KIT**

**Documentary film**

# BROTHERHOOD

a film by Francesco Montagner

## TECHNICAL SPECS

**Title:** Brotherhood  
**Original title:** Bratrství  
**Country of production:** Czech republic, Italy  
**Year of production:** 2021  
**Length:** 97 min  
**Format:** digital, color, 16 : 9, DCP  
**Language(s):** Bosnian  
**Subtitles:** English

## PRODUCTION SHEET

**Production:** nuprodukce  
**Co-production:** Nefertiti Film with Rai Cinema  
**Producers:** Pavla Janoušková Kubečková, Tomáš Hrubý  
**Co-producers:** Nadia Trevisan, Alberto Fasulo  
**Supported by:** MiC-Direzione Generale Cinema e Audiovisivo, Czech Film Fund, Eurimages, Fondo per l'Audiovisivo del Friuli Venezia Giulia, SIAE and Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia.  
**Co-produced by:** ARTE G.E.I.E., Czech television, Al Jazeera Documentary, FAMU

## CREW

**Written and directed by:** Francesco Montagner  
**Script:** Francesco Montagner in collaboration with Alessandro Padovani  
**DoP:** Prokop Souček  
**Sound:** Daniela Bassani, Marzia Cordò, Adam Levý  
**Editor:** Valentina Cicogna  
**Associated editor:** Klára Tasovská, Jorge Sánchez Calderón  
**With:** Jabir Delić, Uzeir Delić, Usama Delić, Ibro Delić

## PREMIERE

Concorso Cineasti del Presente  
of the 74th Locarno Film Festival (2021)

## SELECTIONS AND AWARDS

WEMW - Film Centre Serbia development award 2018 and HBO Europe Award 2021.  
East Doc Platform – Sheffield Doc/Fest Award 2018.  
EuroDoc 2018  
Dok.Inkubator 2020  
MIA Market – What's next Italy



# LOGLINE

Three young brothers, growing up under the shadow of their father's influence, must each decide: which man do you want to be?







# SYNOPSIS

Jabir, Usama and Useir, are three young Bosnian brothers, born into a family of shepherds. They grew up in the shadow of their father, Ibrahim, a strict, radical Islamist preacher.

When Ibrahim gets sentenced to two years in prison, for war participation and terrorism, the three brothers are suddenly left on their own. The absence of their father's demands and strict commandments, changes their lives drastically.

The brothers explore their newly acquired freedom on the difficult journey to becoming men. Growing up has never felt more intimate or exhausting, as they struggle, fight, and face each other, their own distinct identities developing in front of our eyes.

*Brotherhood* is an intimate exploration of the transition from youth to manhood, the search for identity, finding love and yourself.





# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Brotherhood is a intimate film about three brothers growing up in a religious family of shepherds. In this coming of age story, the feeling of being brothers, the struggle to grow out of their father's influence and the search for a path in life are engaging us emotionally. The fiction-like documentary story reminds us of the difficult, exhausting process of finding our own identity during adolescence.

The brothers Jabir, Usama and Useir had two years to define a path for themselves, to become men once free of the cumbersome influence of their strict father. Two years to shape their own masculinity, to choose their own path before the father Ibrahim would come back and do it for them. In their restless struggle, they argue, wrestle and find each his own escape from a written destiny: school, love and religion give them answers to the questions of life, but as the film progresses it becomes clear that there are major differences between ideals and reality.

The very first of idea of filming Brotherhood came up about five years ago when I saw a short reportage at the Italian TV in which Ibrahim and his three sons were interviewed. I got immediately drawn to the contrast between their peaceful idyllic lifestyle as shepherds and the eminent danger of Ibrahim's radical ideas as a preacher. My second thought was about the boys. I started to question what does it mean to grow up with such a father. The boys reminded me of my youth, also spent in a rural environment, soaked by a feeling of frustration for being stuck and a secret will to run away.

Therefore, I decided to film their adolescence to find an answer to my question. At this point, time became a crucial factor when their dominant father got sentenced to jail for 23 months. 2 year of freedom to self-determine their present and future. Brotherhood follows Jabir, Usama and Useir for a 4-years span of time, starting from before the father got incarcerated and ending at his return home.





# BIOGRAPHY DIRECTOR

Born in Treviso, Italy in 1989, Francesco Montagner studied Directing Documentary at Prague's renowned film school, FAMU, in Czech Republic. In 2014 he directed, shot and produced *Animata resistenza*, his debut feature documentary on the life and work of the renowned Italian animator Simone Massi. The film has been presented at the 71. Venice Film Festival and awarded with the Venice Classics Award for the Best Documentary on Cinema. Francesco currently finished his second feature documentary *Brotherhood* and he is also teaching at FAMU International in Prague.



# FILMOGRAPHY DIRECTOR

*Taurofilia*, (25'), 2019, Experimental/documentary  
*Důležitost každého*, (9'), 2018, Short fiction  
*Animata resistenza*, (62'), 2014, Documentary





# PRODUCERS INFO

**Nutprodukce** is one of the leading production companies on the Czech market, with 14 Czech Lions, and 6 Czech Critics' Awards. Nutprodukce's films have been in competition at major international film festivals. Its position is based on a wealth of experience ranging from documentaries, high end tv series to animated works, and an artistically diverse selection of the best art house Czech cinema. Nutprodukce's reputation stands for both professionalism and nonconformity, best exhibited in its works such as the miniseries *Burning Bush* directed by Agnieszka Holland (11 Czech lions), *Graffiti* (Student Oscar nominee), animated short *Pandas* (Cinéfondation 3rd Prize, Cannes, 2013), original TV series for HBO Europe *Wasteland* (TIFF – Primetime selection, 2016), *Spoor*, also directed by Holland (Silver Bear Alfred Bauer Prize at the 2017 Berlinale, supported by Eurimages) or Sergei Loznitsa's latest film *State Funeral* (Venice Film Festival, 2019).

Characterized by its distinct artistic policy, the company constantly seeks original and innovative slate of audiovisual works from the central Europe. Nutprodukce has also become known for discovering and developing a long-term relationships with new directorial and screenwriting talent, having produced more than 8 first time debuts (mostly documentary).



**Nefertiti Film**, founded by Nadia Trevisan and Alberto Fasulo, is an independent cinematographic and audiovisual production company headquartered in Friuli Venezia Giulia and Rome. Nefertiti operates both nationally and internationally, and strongly favors stories that speak honestly to the hearts of its audience, dedicating particular attention to the discovery of new talents but also involving prominent directors and authors. Nefertiti Film has also been an independent distributor since 2018.

In 2013 *Tir*, by Alberto Fasulo, wins the Marc'Aurelio d'Oro award for best film at Rome International Film Festival. It is then selected in more than thirty international film festivals. In 2015, Nefertiti Film joins the 68th Locarno Festival with the documentary *Genitori (Parents)* by Alberto Fasulo. In 2018 Nefertiti co-produces *History of Love* by Sonja Prosenc, premiered in Official Competition at the 53rd Karlovy Vary IFF, where it gains the Grand Jury Special Mention, and selected as the Slovenian entry for the Best Foreign Language Film at the Academy Awards 2020.

In the same year Nefertiti produces *Menocchio* by Alberto Fasulo: premiered in Official Competition in the 71st Locarno Festival, winner of the Grand Prix du Jury of the Annecy Cinéma Italien 2018, "Film della Critica (critics award)" by SNCCI, Nastro d'Argento for Best Cinematography nominee. In 2021 will be release *Small body*, by Laura Samani (60th Semaine de la Critique – Cannes) and *Brotherhood*, by Francesco Montagner (Cineasti del Presente, 74th Locarno Film Festival).



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