

La Sarraz Pictures

presents



AT THE MATINEE

by **GIANGIACOMO DE STEFANO**

CONTACTS

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CREDITS

Directed & written by	Giangiaco De Stefano
Producer	Alessandro Borrelli
Produced by	La Sarraz Pictures
Associate producer	Sonne Film
With the special participation of	Walter Schreifels
Cinematographer	Andrea Dalpian
Editor	Mattia Biancucci
Original music	Brothermartino & Nico Menci
Animator	Martino Bisson
Sound mixer	Daniele Cutrufo
Sound recordist	Daniele Cutrufo, Andrea Guerrini, Boris Joens

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Country	Italy, 2019
Runtime	85'
Pictures format	Color

FESTIVAL AND PRIZES

BIOGRAFILM FESTIVAL (Bologna, Italia)

- World premiere, 15th June 2019
- Audience Award, Biografilm Art & Music 2019

LOGLINE

At the matinée provides an account, through Walter Schreifels and his music, of what it was like at the CBGB during the 80s.

SYNOPSIS

In 2006 CBGB, the most famous rock club in the world, closed its doors forever. Everybody associated it with bands such as Blondie, The Ramones and Talking Head, but no one remembers that what made it legendary were the hardcore matinées in the 80s. Walter Schreifels, the musician of the most influential hardcore punk bands, tells us a story not only about some kids and their music but of New York and its changes, too.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Hardcore punk began in America, California to be precise, in around 1979 in reaction to British punk. It centred in the scene around Los Angeles. Its best-known group was Black Flag, with whom Henry Rollins also later sang. The genre, based on a simple musical structure and a fast tempo, was often a vehicle for anti-authoritarian lyrics and a general rejection of the rules of the music market.

The hardcore punk that developed over the next few years found young fans in the rest of the United States, mainly in Washington and Boston, cities with a well-heeled white middle class.

In New York, hardcore punk developed in the Lower East Side area and tended to be more underdeveloped and raw compared to the other American scenes. With some exceptions, those who made up the first New York scene (that of 1982) tended to be of working-class origin and living on the margins of society in a violent, street-based context.

From the mid-1980s in New York, the genre evolved, producing the very best bands and becoming the most prolific and highly influential scene in the world.

THE PROTAGONIST



Walter Schreifels

Born in 1969, Schreifels is a guitarist and composer with Gorilla Biscuits, one of the major American hardcore bands of the 1980s. In the 1990s, his band Quicksand signed with a major label and is still considered by many to be highly influential in the alternative rock world. Over the years, Schreifels has continued to play music through various projects as well as produce records and compose songs for others.

THE DIRECTOR



Giangiaco De Stefano

He made his directorial debut in 2006 with "Nel lavoro di Sandra" about the relationship between transsexualism and the world of work. In 2008, in addition to being one of the founders of the Cooperativa Macine Film, he directed "Con la maglia iridata," a documentary about the 1968 world cycling championships. In 2011, in collaboration with La Sarraz Pictures, he produced "Raunch Girl", a finalist for the 2008 Premio Solinas, a major Italian award dedicated to writing.

In 2010 he left Machine Film, and he founded Sonne Film. In 2012 he produced "A casa non si torna", the first web doc ever made by a production company from Emilia Romagna and the second one ever made in Italy (with the collaboration of ilfattoquotidiano.it). Previously, in 2009, with "Quando l'anarchia verrà" he began collaborating with RAI (the Italian state broadcaster) to produce two documentaries, "L'eresia dei Magnacucchi" (2013) and "I mostri di Balsorano" (2013).

In 2013, he produced and directed a 10-part series about vegetarians, "Né carne né pesce" (Gambero Rosso-SKY). In 2014, he produced and directed the miniseries about football "Nel pallone" (Laeffe-Feltrinelli). In 2015, he directed a 10-part series titled "Pianisti" (Classica HD), and in 2016 the series titled "Rotte Indipendenti" (SKY Arte) about Italian independent music. In that same year, he made a documentary about San Mauro Pascoli for Geo/Rai3, and in 2017, divided between producing and directing, he made a miniseries about the dance world "Vai col liscio" (Sky arte), finalist in Nastri d'Argento and, only as a producer, the documentary "La terra dei motori", screened in competition at Biografilm and broadcasted on Rai3 (Doc3). In 2018, he directed "At the matinée", he produced the documentary "Pentcho" and the series "68-pop revolution" (SKY Arte), he was the producer and the director of the series "Alla ricerca del suono" (Classica HD).

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

In 1989 I saw a photo in a magazine. Around a hundred people were entering the famous CBGB. Some of them were looking at the camera. They were the members of the bands that were to play on that Sunday afternoon. I was in Italy, but I wanted to be with those young people posing for the camera in New York.

The matinées were pivotal moments in the New York hardcore scene. These gatherings were a phenomenon that was difficult to interpret without an understanding of the codes and language used within the community.

The documentary discusses this through Walter and his songs. However, **At the matinée** does not only describe the music scene but, by discussing the scene and the people who were part of it, starting with the Lower East Side of the nineteen-eighties, it also talks about what New York has become today. It was in this run-down setting that the phenomenon of the matinées developed in the nineteen-eighties: quite simply, concerts held on Sunday mornings.

Today, not only the Lower East Side but the whole of Manhattan has undergone a complete transformation. It is now less dangerous, and perhaps less interesting.

Going back to the locations of the matinées to meet its protagonists, relive a forgotten and vanished world that was once as influential and exciting as its contemporary rap scene means telling the story of New York, its creativity and fascinating contradictions.

Giangiaco De Stefano

PRODUCTION

La Sarraz Pictures

La Sarraz Pictures is a film production company founded in Turin in 2004 by Alessandro Borrelli. La Sarraz produced three feature films, 15 documentaries and five web platforms. All of them were presented and awarded in prestigious international festivals around the world and distributed in Italy and abroad. La Sarraz Pictures is recognized internationally as a production company of "Quality Cinema", is a member of the ACE and Producers On The Move, thanks to the numerous awards obtained with the cinematographic and documentary works since its foundation.

La Sarraz worked with authors such as Gianluca and Massimiliano De Serio, Sergio Basso, Francesca Balbo, Valentina Pedicini, often producing their debut films and co-producing internationally-recognized authors such as Eugene Green. In the animation field, together with Lorenzo Latrofa, La Sarraz has already produced *Nino&Felix* (2015), *Concetta* (Marta Palazzo, 2016) and *Our Story* (2018).

Sonne Film

Sonne Film is an independent production company, founded in 2010, that develops documentaries for cinema and television.

<http://www.sonnefilm.com/>