


MOSTRA INTERNAZIONALE
D'ARTE CINEMATOGRAFICA
LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA 2025
Official Selection



NOISE INSIDE

DON'T CALL ME A ROCK STAR
40 years of rock. Tinnitus hit. He hit back.

COMING SOON

APNEA FILM, NEXO DIGITAL and DNA AUDIOVISIVI present NOISE INSIDE. DON'T CALL ME A ROCK STAR
An APNEA FILM, NEXO DIGITAL and DNA AUDIOVISIVI production thanks to TEG in collaboration with FONDAZIONE FABBRICA EUROPA with the support of PR FESR TOSCANA written by PIERO PELÙ
executive production by APNEA FILM general organizer GABRIELLA MANFRÉ Piero Pelù management VALENTINA PARIGI produced for Apnea Film by CONSUELO MOSCHELLA, for Nexo Digital by FRANCO DI SARRO,
and for DNA Audiovisivi by PIETRO FUCCIO director of photography FRANCESCO FEI editing WALTER MAROCCHI original music PIERO PELÙ directed by FRANCESCO FEI



 NEXO STUDIOS www.nexostudios.it/international



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*Italian rock icon and magnetic frontman who
made music history with the band Litfiba and as a solo artist*

PIERO PELÙ

WORLD PREMIERE

AT THE **82nd VENICE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**
WITH A POWERFUL AND UNIVERSAL STORY OF LIFE

“**NOISE INSIDE DON'T CALL ME A ROCK STAR**”

A FILM DIRECTED BY
FRANCESCO FEI

SUBJECT AND SCREENPLAY BY **PIERO PELÙ**

A raw, poetic journey into the heart and soul of the artist
after the accident that impaired his hearing, giving him loud, continuous tinnitus
that risked reducing his hearing during his concerts and in his everyday life.

**NEXO STUDIOS TO KICK OFF INTERNATIONAL SALES IN VENICE OF THE FILM
THAT WILL FIRST BE RELEASED TO CINEMAS
IN ITALY 10TH, 11TH AND 12TH NOVEMBER**

Press Kit : <https://shorturl.at/H89T1>

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« What you'll be seeing isn't a documentary.
It's not a docufilm or a biopic.
It's not fiction nor is it a news report,
what you're about to see is quite simply a journey.
An off-road journey. »
- **Piero Pelù**

Premiering 'Out of Competition' at the **82nd Venice International Film Festival**, the film **"NOISE INSIDE. DON'T CALL ME A ROCK STAR"** (Italian title: **"Piero Pelù. Rumore Dentro"**), is an intimate chronicle directed by **FRANCESCO FEI** about a crucial chapter in the life of Italian rock icon **PIERO PELÙ**.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Year of production: 2025

Duration: 82 minutes

Genre: documentary film

Language: Italian

SYNOPSIS

In October 2022, during a recording session, a sudden acoustic shock – due to a technical error when changing headphones – **knocked Piero Pelù unconscious, leaving him with permanent damage to his acoustic nerve. Piero has been struggling with this condition, psychologically, ever since.** The accident resulted in having to cancel a tour that had already been scheduled, as well as the risk of having to postpone all the artistic activities to do with Pelù's live music events. **So for Piero the "noise inside" became an opportunity to stop, find himself, rebuild, regenerate and write a new album dedicated to Deserts inside through a full immersion into his inner world:** family, freedom, friends (including Litfiba), travelling and naturally music are the elements with which one of the most important figures on the Italian rock scene was able to rebuild and find his way again. The film is also enhanced by an astonishing selection of material taken from the extensive film and video archive put together by Piero from the start of his musical journey to the present day. Marked by the spiritual journey undertaken by Pelù on the annual gypsy pilgrimage to Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer, in Camargue, in honour of **Saint Sarah the Black, patron saint of travelers** – whose name is tattooed on both the artist's forearms – **"NOISE INSIDE. DON'T CALL ME A ROCK STAR"** becomes a **road movie** as well as a reflection on over forty years living "Off the road", as an intellectually free, libertarian, courageous figure on the Italian artistic, music scene. **Living with severe depression ever since the accident, Pelù found the road to rebirth in music - his lifelong muse. "NOISE INSIDE. DON'T CALL ME A ROCK STAR" is not just a road to self-discovery, but a surprising, boundless journey by an artist who is a free spirit and who, throughout his career, has never made choices out of opportunism.** Piero the rock singer-songwriter, performer, artist, father, grandfather and traveler, manages to bring all these roles together in surprising harmony.

The film also features Pelù's friends and collaborators, such as his family, Litfiba band members, and the friends he sees every day, in unexpected guises.

«I am coming out of this tooth and nail – I have poured my soul out, written new, powerful songs and rediscovered ideas I'd forgotten in my endless archive».

Piero Pelù

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

In 1997 I made my debut as a video director with 'Regina di Cuori' by Litfiba. Meeting Piero Pelù, which had never happened before despite the fact that we were both from Florence, really left its mark on me: it was the beginning of a long creative period in the world of videoclips, but above all the moment when I had the distinct impression that I was dealing with the most genuine rockstar in Italy. In front of the camera Piero was and is magnetic and unyielding. Since then, I have always believed that his charisma goes beyond the realm of music: Pelù is an artist with a strong, free-spirited, anti-conformist personality, who speaks to audiences using no filters and making no compromises. When I was asked to direct this documentary, I immediately felt the need – just like Piero – to do something different from the usual music biopics: make a real film, intimate, and to the point. Over the last few years, I have gained significant experience in the field of observational documentaries, and I chose to adopt a streamlined, immersive approach in this case too: I often did the shooting on my own, the aim being to capture the spontaneity of everyday moments, avoiding narrative superstructures or reconstructions. The result is a story experienced from the inside, in which the public side of the musician intertwines with the private persona of the man, the father and the friend. The central theme of the film is the trip to Camargue, during the gypsy festival in honour of Saint Sarah. A physical as well as symbolic journey in Piero's camper van, travelling through evocative landscapes and experiencing moments of reflection, intertwined with mostly unreleased archive material and a stream of consciousness narrated by his voiceover—the real, binding force of the film. What we were looking for was a balance between spontaneity and cinematic construction, between intimacy and visual power. To create a portrait not to celebrate, but to tell a story; not to idealize, but to be revealing. Because this is what Piero Pelù continues to be today: an authentic, lively, indomitable artist.

Francesco Fei

FRANCESCO FEI

Francesco Fei established himself as a director by making numerous video clips for some of the most renowned musicians in Italy, including **Franco Battiato, Litfiba, Ligabue, Verdena, Bluvertigo, Carmen Consoli** and many more. His first feature film, **"Onde" (Waves)**, was selected at the **Rotterdam Film Festival** and other major international film festivals such as **San Francisco, Rio de Janeiro, Karlovy Vary**. The film won the **Jury Prize** at the **Festival du Film Italien de Villerupt**. In 2016 he directed and produced the docu-fiction film with **Filippo Timi**, entitled **"Segantini. Back to nature"**, which was selected at the **Biografilm Festival**, and won the **Audience Award**. In 2018 his documentary **"La Regina di Casetta" (The Queen of Casetta)** won **Best Italian Film Award** at the **Festival dei Popoli** and the **Genziana d'Oro** at the **Trento Film Festival**. In 2019 the documentary **"Dentro Caravaggio"**, distributed by **Nexo Studios** to over **400 cinemas in Italy**, received a **nomination at the Nastri d'Argento Awards** for best Documentary. His second, full-length feature film, **"Mi chiedo quando ti mancherò"**, was presented at **Alice nella Città** during the **2019 Rome Film Festival**. The documentary **"La via incantata" (The Enchanted Way)**, a **Sky Original** production based on the book of the same title by **Marco Albino Ferrari**, won **Best Film Award** at the **Sestriere Film Festival** in 2022. In 2023 his documentary **"X sempre assenti"**, on the rock band **Verdena**, took part in the **Biografilm Festival**. In 2024 at the **Festa del Cinema di Roma** he presented **"Painting the soul of the 20th century. Pellizza da Volpedo"**, released in cinemas at the beginning of 2025.

PIERO PELÙ

A rocker at heart ever since childhood, Piero Pelù was born in 1962, and bought his first guitar when he was eight years old.

In the Seventies he lived through the Punk era like it was a religion, and in the basement of his house he formed his first band – the **Mugnions** – and then spent a brief period of time in Paris experiencing music in the company of street acrobats and artists.

The 8th December **1980** was the day the band **Litfiba** made their debut, having seen the light in that famous basement in Via Bardi 32 in Florence. This was the start of a long journey on the Italian underground scene as well as experimenting abroad.

In **1985** they released their first album titled **Desaparecido** followed by **17 re** in **1986**. In September that same year Pelù was on the committee *La musica contro il silenzio* (*Music against Silence*), and organized a big new wave concert in Palermo against the Mafia to mark the anniversary of the assassination of Dalla Chiesa. In **1988** the band released **Litfiba 3**, the third album of brand new tracks and the last in the final chapter of the **Trilogia del Potere** (**Trilogy of Power**), and they performed live on stage at the **S.O.S. Racism in Paris event with Bruce Springsteen and Ziggy Marley to an audience of 200,000**.

That same year Pelù worked with Teresa De Sio on the suite **La storia vera di Lupita Mendera**, (*The True Story of Lupita Mendera*) part of the **Cinderella Suite**, the album produced by **Brian Eno and Peter Brooks**, and wrote his first song for another artist, *Sogni d'oro* for the album *Senza rumore* by Moda. In **1989** came the opera **Giovanni Sebastiano** by Dino Negri, at the Teatro Comunale in Florence starring Armando Testa.

The live album **Pirata**, released in November **1989**, marked the end of the old Litfiba era and the start of a more Rock period.

Pelù was involved in many, diverse projects in the Nineties as well: in **1991** he performed in **Sarajevo at the Concert for Peace with the Nomadi**, and in 1993, with his friend, photographer Alex Majoli, he produced a book containing ninety-nine photos of **Colpo di coda** and in **1995** the ninety-minute videostory that was part of the live cd **Lacio Drom**. Also, in 1995 Pelù took part, along with other artists, in the tv spot for HIV prevention promoted by the Ministry of Health. In **1996** he sang with **Luciano Pavarotti for War Child** and wrote the introduction to **Questo amore**, a book of poems by Jacques Prévert, published by Salani. In **1998** he sang a duet with **Mina**, the song **Stay**, on the album *Olio*, which was called that after Piero gave her some oil as a gift, from the place where he was born.

In **1997** Pelù started the **Sierra Leone** project in order to build hospitals needed in that country, together with the De Murialdo Missionaries and Emergency.

During that decade he released albums with **Litfiba** comprising **Tetralogia degli elementi: El Diablo** in **1991** (fire), **Terremoto** (*Earthquake*) in **1993** (earth), **Spirito** in **1995** (air), **Mondi sommersi** (*Underwater Worlds*) in **1997** (water) and in **1999** **Infinito** (symbolizing time, the fifth element).

1999 was the year he began his career as a solo artist, backed by a group of musicians called **Supercombo**.

That same year Pelù recorded **Il mio nome è mai più** (*My name is never again*) with **Ligabue and Jovanotti as a charity single for Emergency** and as a protest against the bombings on Belgrade. The proceeds from the sale of the single (over 500 thousand copies) went to the building of two hospitals.

In **2000** Pelù published his autobiography **Perfetto difettoso** (*Perfectly Faulty*) and his first single as a solo artist **Pugni chiusi** (*Clenched Fists*), the cover of a song by the band i Ribelli and the b-side of the single **Io ci sarò** (*I'll be there*), the first taken from his first record as a solo artist **Né buoni né cattivi** (*neither good nor bad*) released in April **2000**. The record debuted live onstage at the **'Heineken Jammin' Festival 2000** in Imola, with Pelù as headliner; the summer continued with **Circo Pelù**, (Pelù Circus) a long tour of over fifty dates.

In **2001** he was a super special guest at the **Sanremo Festival** and in May that same year he performed on stage at the **Primo Maggio Concert in Rome**.

In September **2002**, for the first time live on stage at the **MTV Day in Bologna**, Pelù presented the single **Bene bene male male** (*Good good bad bad*) from the album **U.D.S. L'Uomo Della Strada** (*The Common Man*), the second chapter in the **Trilogia dei sopravvissuti** (*The Survivors' Trilogy*) released the following month. The album saw the participation of an impressive cast of artists, including Indonesian singer **Anggun** performing the duet **Amore immaginato** (*Imaginary Love*), as well as **Roy Paci** and **Boosta**.

In **2004** he released his third solo album **Soggetti smarriti** (*Lost Persons*), preceded by the single **Prendimi così** (*Take me as I am*), characterized by the fusion between his natural rock power and melody. The release of the album was followed by a tour in 2004 and 2005 performing on stage in Italy, France and Switzerland.

On 2nd July **2005** Pelù took part in **LIVE8** in Rome and in October a collection was released entitled **Presente** containing the new tracks **Nel mio mondo** (*In My World*) and **Presente** (*Present*).

In **2006** he released his fourth album **In faccia** (*In Your Face*), preceded by the single **Tribù** (*Tribe*) presented for the first time on stage at the Concerto del Primo Maggio (1st May Concert) in Rome, supported by a long concert tour.

In **2007** Pelù was the first Italian artist to record a concert for the iconic **MTV Storytellers** programme on VH1/MTV at the Conservatory of Music in Milan.

His fifth solo studio album, **Fenomeni** (*Phenomena*), was released in **2008**. It was more rock and conveyed a strong need to communicate. It was followed by a lengthy tour of Italy with a set that was multifaceted, and merged music with theatre.

2009 was the year of the **Acquasantissima** (Holy Holy Water) project, in which Pelù collaborated with the Gypsy quintet Acquaragia Drom for a multimedia show which was engaging for the audience, who were taken, by the hand, on a journey through the modern and the fascinatingly traditional. In December 2009 a reunion between Piero Pelù and Ghigo Renzulli was announced and so the Litfiba adventure took off again with a tour that kept them on the road through 2010 and 2011.

There was still room for Pelù's solo projects and in **2011** he covered songs by great artists and songwriters – such as Philip Glass, Paul Simon, Gavin Bryars, Jacob TV, David Lang – and his own songs with the English artist Philip Jeck and the PMCE.

January **2012** saw the release of **Grande Nazione** (*Great Nation*), an album of brand new tracks by Litfiba, followed by a nationwide tour of Italy.

From March **2013** Pelù was one of the coaches on the first edition of the talent show **The Voice of Italy** on Rai2. In September Litfiba announced that they were taking a break to spend time working on solo projects. Two months later Pelù was back with a collection of brand new songs, an album called **IDENTIKIT**, characterizing his career as a solo artist since 1999.

In March **2014** Pelù was again one of the coaches on the talent show The Voice of Italy and in April he went back on the road with his **ROCK.IDENTIKIT** tour, a real “rock fiesta”. Pelù once again took part in the Primo Maggio Concert in Rome and published his second **autobiography Identikit di un ribelle** (Identikit of a Rebel) which won the Lunezia Menzione Special Prize. In 2015 he was once again a coach for ‘The Voice of Italy’ talent show on channel Rai2. In October **2016** he released **L'impossibile**, the new Litfiba single ahead of the album **Eutopia** which completed the **Trilogia degli stati** begun in 2010. In 2018 Pelù was once again a guest at the Sanremo Song Festival and performed a duet with Claudio Baglioni, a tribute to the songwriter Mogol and the singer Battisti with *Il tempo di morire* (*Time to Die*). That same year he went back on the road, solo, accompanied by the Bandidos for a **Warm up Tour** which won a **2018 Rockol Award** as best live by an Italian artist. October **2019** saw the release of the single **Picnic all'inferno (Picnic in Hell)** dedicated to the environmental activist Greta Thunberg, followed by a 6 date tour.

In **2020** Piero Pelù for the first time took part in the Sanremo Song Festival as a competing artist with the song **Gigante**, (Giant) and came fifth – winning a Gold certificate – as well as being one of the tracks on the brand new album **Pugili Fragili** (*Fragile Boxers*). At the beginning of **2021** Pelù had his autobiography published **Spacca l'infinito: Il romanzo di una vita** (*Breaking Infinity: the story of a life*) and in the month of September in Trapani the show *Piero e il lupo* (*Peter and the Wolf*) was staged, a concert with a voice narrating the story of Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*, in which Pelù recites the words by the Russian composer, with the Orchestra Sinfonica Siciliana directed by Gianna Fratta. In March **2022** the film **I Cassamortari** (*the Coffin-makers*) by Claudio Amendola was released where Pelù played the part of a rockstar and wrote the soundtrack with the producer and multi-instrumentalist Valerio Carboni. April saw the start of **L'Ultimo Girone**, the tour which marked the final chapter of the forty-two-year history of Litfiba. The tour sold out in clubs during the spring, and continued into the summer in the country's most prestigious festivals and events, ending on **December 22, 2022**, with a packed concert event at the Mediolanum Forum in Milan, with fans coming from all over Italy for the last chance to see the band on stage.

In February, when he took part in the Italian Song Festival, where he performed on stage at Piazza Colombo, he announced his return to the stage, this time as a solo artist alongside his band, Bandidos, on the ESTREMO LIVE TOUR 2023.

On 21st April 2023 **Musica libera** (*Free Music*) was released, a new song which saw PIERO PELU collaborating for the very first time with international reggae star **ALBOROSIE**.

Upon first listening to the song, we could be surprised by Piero's foray into the world of reggae, but the multifaceted career of the author, singer-songwriter, actor, and true showman demonstrates how much Pelù loves to push boundaries and is always looking for something new to explore, whether it be music, literature, cinema, theatre, or art. Pelù took the stage at the **1st May Concert in Rome**, wearing a t-shirt dedicated to the President of the Italian Republic, a commitment that has always distinguished him as a supporter of workers.

30th June 2023 is a date the rocker from Florence will never forget. Due to an acoustic shock that happened in a recording studio, Pelù has had to cope with the effects of severe tinnitus, which forced him to take a long break and cancel his tour. A period of great personal difficulty began for him, involving treatment and reconstruction which encouraged him to start writing again and working on a new album, set for release in April 2024.

The album was called “**DESERTI**” and was released on **7th June 2024**, preceded by the tracks “**NOVICHOK**” (which Piero presented to a group of fans during a special event he called Speakeasy in a place that is of great importance to him, namely the basement in Via De' Bardi in Florence where Litfiba took their first steps and where he hadn't performed since the end of 1988) and “**MALEDETTO CUORE**” (*Damn Heart*), the single released digitally and to radio on 26th April.

“**DESERTI**” is the second chapter in the **TRILOGIA DEL DISAGIO** (*Trilogy of Discomfort*), which began in 2020 with the release of the album “**Pugilifragili**” (*Fragile Boxers*).