

## **The Girl in the Fog / La ragazza nella nebbia (2017) Carrisi**

P Michell, 2020

Atmosphere ...

Cluedo Italiano!

*“A fisherman who only catches one fish ...”*

*Set in a mountain village in the Dolemites. The daughter of a religious couple suddenly disappears. Nobody has seen anything. What happened. Detective Vogel arrives with some questionable tactics including a full media onslaught begins. Is the case connected to a series of other missing women? A film where much is hidden ...*

This film and its creative crew represent the ‘Nuovo’ Italian Cinema direction coming from TV / theatre backgrounds, well steeped in cinema history. This is a Neo-Noir – modern Film Noir.

### **Creative Personnel:**

Doanto Carrisi – director, script, book. (2 credits)

His first film. Next film was Into the Labyrinth (2019) which was I think less successful. Prolific writer – six published books. Girl in a Fog was very successful – sold 3 million copies in Italy.

Federico Masiero - Cinematographer (25 credits)

Filmed most of comic director Alessandro Genovesi’s films.

Vito lo Re - Music (4 credits)

Interview with him:

*I’ve been working with the director Donato Carrisi since the very beginning of both our careers. We did many works together: theatre, musicals, radio, TV shows, songs and eventually cinema.*

*... I just said I am in no way a dictator; well, Donato is! But that’s definitively a compliment to him. He perfectly knows the effect he wants to arrive at, and I write again and again the cues, until he’s satisfied. In our first movie (Girl in a Fog) I wrote the very first cue 14 times; I’m not talking of 14 version of the same cue: I’m talking of 14 different cues! Luckily, I compose very fast and probably this is one of the skills a movie score composer is supposed to have.*

<https://jonman492000.wordpress.com/2020/02/09/in-conversation-with-composer-vito-lo-re/>

Tony Servillo – Agent Vogel. (47 credits)

Seemingly natural appearing actor – very popular with casting directors..

Multi talented – theatre director – directing opera productions in Naples and Lisbon inc *Fidelio, Boris Godunov*. Acted in Sorrentino’s Great Beauty (2013) – where he was selected as best actor European Film Awards. Other roles inc Loro – where he played Silvio Belasconi. Dabbles in screenwriting.

Is currently in production on ‘The Hand of God’ set on Stromboli (volcano) island, linked to the story of footballer Maradona in his fourth film for Sorrentino.

Made his 50 million dollar fortune with *The Great Beauty*, *Il Divo*, *One Man UP*.

Alesso Boni – Prof Loris Martini – actor (66 credits)

The accused teacher.

Alternates between TV and film work.

Fra Dolcino in *Name of Rose* TV series. Heathcliff in *Wuthering Heights* (2004).

Veteran actors Jean Reno and Greta Scacchi are in smallish, but interesting roles.

### Reviews:

From 'Into the Labyrinth' by [mjfhhh](#) 25 March 2020, still relevant to this film.

Writers rarely makes good directors. Carrisi is an exception. Choosing carefully his colour pallet he nods to the "giallo" sub-genre of the 80s and draws inspiration from the likes of Dario Argento (*Suspiria*). The whole movie feels like a dream-like sequence, although it is more procedural crime fiction than anything else.

### Brilliant!

DimitrisPassas-TapTheLine 26 July 2018

What a great film! "*La Ragazza Nella Nebbia*" has all the elements that guarantee genuine quality entertainment, the acting is terrific, the plot is ingenious and the dialogue is top notch. Toni Servillo delivers once again an unforgettable performance in this Italian crime/thriller, while the director, who is also the screenwriter, Donato Carrisi makes an impressive debut in the film industry. This is not the typical Hollywood crime/noir film carrying all the cliches of the genre, but a meticulous character study and social commentary on the interrelationship between the judicial system and mass media. As the protagonist inspector Vogel states: "Justice doesn't boost ratings. Nobody cares about justice". This is a movie that demands the viewer's full attention and the reward is a brilliant finale which concludes the story of a missing teenage girl in a small Italian rural town. This film is recommended to all cinema lovers and not just those who are fond of crime/suspense stories. Make sure not to miss this Mediterranean gem!

Camillo De Marco (Oct, 2017) – Film Italy

Following his incredible success, with three million copies of his novels sold worldwide, making him one of the most beloved thriller authors in Italy, **Donato Carrisi** has launched his directorial career with *The Girl in the Fog* [+], with 400 copies due to be released in Italian cinemas today with Medusa, after its premiere at Rome Film Fest. Carrisi has developed a fairly free adaptation of his latest best-selling novel of the same name, and it appears as though he got slightly carried away with the bewitching process of directing. *The Girl in the Fog* brings together a lot of noir imagery from the past 20 years, drawing from TV series, the **Coen brothers**, and much more recently *The Snowman* [+] by **Tomas Alfredson**, adapted from **Jo Nesbø**'s novel – another European master of crime fiction. The film – produced by Colorado and already sold by Studiocanal in Spain, Germany, France – includes all the necessary ingredients for a perfect postmodern Euro-thriller: a small community in the mountains, a lost girl, religious extremism, suspicious suspects, local useless police officers

(with *Fargo*-esque fur hats), a self-righteous detective, an unscrupulous lawyer, a soulless journalist and a small nerdy boy with little propensity to socialise. Visually we see the addition of a few smartphone photos and some grainy videos, some 80s and 90s set design, hazy photography with vertical anamorphosis, and a piano, violin and flute soundtrack.

The film opens with a meeting between the psychiatrist (**Jean Reno**) of a mountain village, Avechot, and police officer Vogel (**Toni Servillo**), famous for his inquiries and love of television appearances. Then there's a flashback: young Anna Lou Kastner, daughter of parents belonging to a fraternity of religious fanatics, leaves home two days before Christmas and disappears into the fog, allegedly abducted by a maniac assassin. Vogel arrives to investigate along with the television troupe, including hyenic journalist Stella Honer (**Galatea Ranzi**). The first to be suspected is a mischievous kid, which then points the investigation towards a charming but well-behaved high school teacher (**Alessio Boni**).

TV-writer Donato Carrisi seems to have committed the same crime as some of his characters: vanity. Although he seems to be playing with his own role as writer-director, he never goes too far with the violence and gloom; on the contrary, he veers towards fairy-tale territory. We're presented with shots of a small papier-mâché model town, mimicking crime TV series, but also children's fairy-tale pop-up books. By scattering the film with judgements here and there, ("it's the bad guy who creates the story," "evil is the true drive behind every story," and above all "the first rule of a great novelist is to copy other people") Carrisi discovers his filmmaking game. He seems less interested in making the audience jump and more concerned with pointing out the aberration of a media system that can squeeze the life out of an innocent person. It's a shame we seem to end up in an infinite series of quasi-finales that have the potential to tire out even the hard-core fans of his original books.