



*"We have lingered in the chambers of the sea
By sea-girls wreathed with seaweed red and brown
Till human voices wake us, and we drown".*

(T.S.Eliot, The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock)

This film appeared to us, as it unfolded almost by itself, day after day while shooting, as a mythical fairy-tale about dead sea creatures and the desire to fly: Death and Flight, that cannot be exist without one another.

Like a dream, it is based on a series of interconnected visions, longings and forebodings that could not possibly be reduced to a unity of meaning. As life itself. Or as the sea, which is always changing and yet remains the same, unable to betray its mystery.

More like a visual poem than a narrative film, it is the story of an Equilibrist suspended on the slack rope of existence, her own territory - the thin and always changeable borderland joining all opposites, Sky and Earth, Life and Death, Light and Shadow, Elsewhere and Nowhere.

This film is also about transformation and loss of identity, about the desire to become someone else, or even something else – the screech of a seagull, bleaching bones, a broken dolphin's mouth, dissolving into deep eternity – a meditation on Melancholy and on the

frailty of existence, permeated by the secret whispering of all things shipwrecked and lost. The last step is always the first, in my beginning is my end.







The Last Step of an Acrobat was recently selected for the prestigious "L'EUROPE AUTOUR DE L'EUROPE" Film Festival in Paris (15 March/16 April 2019). The screening will take place on Sunday 17th March at 10 pm at Cinema l'Entrepôt.

BEST EXPERIMENTAL FILM, 14th season of CULT CRITIC MOVIE AWARDS (Calcutta, India)
JEAN-LUC GODARD NOMINATION (September 2019)

BEST EXPERIMENTAL SHORT, Festival de Largos y Cortos, Santiago del Chile (2019)

BEST EDITING and BEST CINEMATOGRAPHER AWARDS at the December 2018 edition of
ROMA PRISMA FILM AWARDS, ITALY

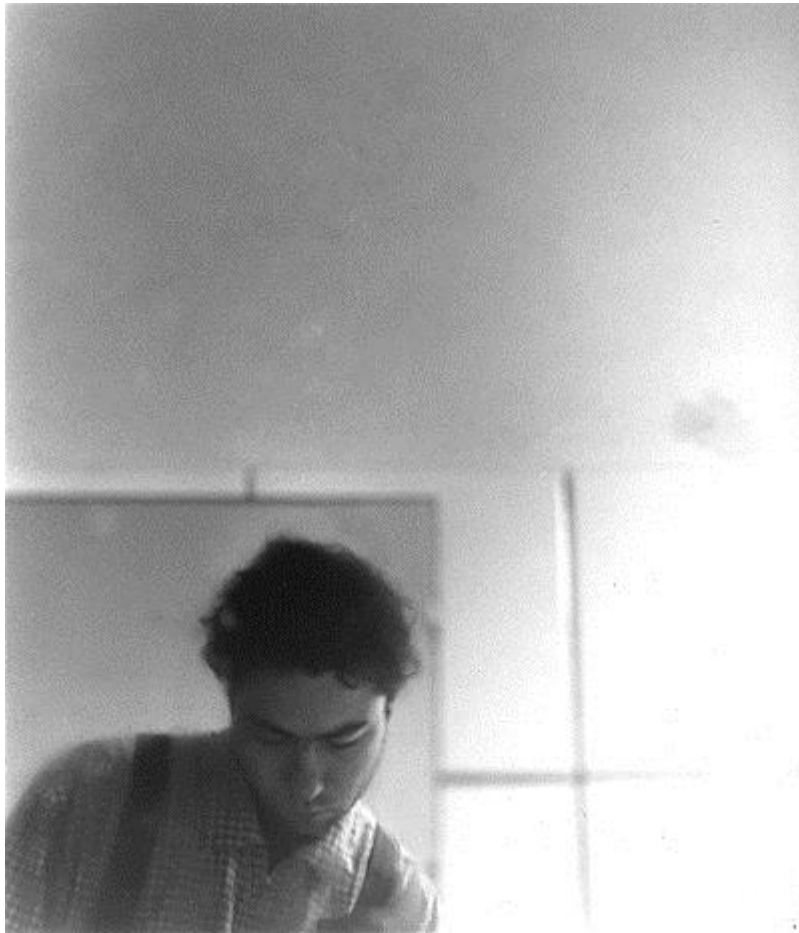
SPECIAL MENTION OF THE JURY, New Renaissance Film Festival Amsterdam (The Netherlands)

HONORABLE MENTION FOR EXPERIMENTAL CINEMA, III International Short Film Festival IL
VARCO (Pescara, Italy),

Also selected for Moscow Shorts IFF 2018 (Russia), Goa Short Film Festival 2018 (India), Esto Es
Para Esto Film Festival (Monterrey, Mexico 2019), Pune Short Film Festival (India, 2019).

The film will be screened in the next few months at Vastlab Experimental Film Festival (Los
Angeles, USA) and at the "Les Rimbaud du Cinéma Film Festival" of Charleville (France, October
2019).

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY



Cesare Bedogné is an Italian photographer, film-maker and writer. He graduated *cum laude* in Mathematics, with a thesis on Minkovski Space-Time, the geometrical theory at the basis of Einstein's Special Theory of Relativity. In the course of his studies he also deepened his interest for the visual arts, with particular attention to cinema and photography. In the 90's he set up his first darkroom in the Netherlands, where he had joined his girl-friend Monique. In those years, *"in the aim to capture the gaze in its pure state"*ⁱ, he concentrated on his Innerscapes project, focusing on *"the strange moments when interior and exterior, the eye and the things looked at, seem to dissolve one in another"*. After the loss of Monique, due to leukemia (1998), Cesare Bedogné returned to Italy and started working on the "Broken Images" series in a deserted TB Sanatorium in the Italian Alps, where – in his own words - he recognised his *"personal landscape of desolation, stilled in a frozen twilight: the mysterious bareness where the soul, alone, returns to itself"*.

Starting from the late '90's his photographs have been exhibited, solo and in group shows, in several art galleries and museums worldwide.

In 2007 Cesare Bedogné moved to Greece, where also writing became one of his main means of expression. He published to date four collections of poems and short stories. His first, autobiographical novel "Oltre l'Azzurro" ("Beyond the Blue", a recollection of his

Dutch years) and the author's photographs, were at the basis of the film "Story for an empty theatre", which Cesare Bedogné co-directed in 2016, together with the Russian filmmaker Alexandr Balagura. This film was selected to date for over thirty international film festivals and won several awards, both as Best Documentary Film and Best Experimental Film (as for instance in the New Renaissance Film Festival of Amsterdam).

After this first filmic experience, Cesare Bedogné devoted himself almost entirely to film-making. In 2017 he shot in Lesvos his second film project, "Maria's Silence", which was also screened in several international film festival and was awarded numerous prizes. In particular, this work won the Best Avant- Garde Film Award in the Concrete Dream Festival of Los Angeles ("Philippe Mora Award") and the Best Feature Narrative Award in the AMIIWorkFest of Vilnius (Lithuania). This film was also the Best Experimental Film in the 4th edition of the European Cinematography Awards (Amsterdam 2019), the Best Director Award (Experimental) in the New York Aphrodite Film Awards, the Best Experimental Film Award in FICCSUR Valparaiso (Chile) and many other IFF. This film was also screened in the renowned "One Shot" film festival of Yerevan, organized by the Armenian Centre for Contemporary Experimental Arts, in the 69th edition of the Montecatini Short Film Festival (Italy), in Bideodromo Bilbao Experimental Film and Video Festival (Fundación BilbaoArte Fundazioa, Spain), in the Cinemistica Film Festival of Granada, and was recently screened at the Italian Cultural Institute of Athens, Greece, in the context of a retrospective exhibition of the artist and of the presentation of his book "Nessuno/Kanenas" (translated in Greek by Anna Papastavrou). Cesare Bedogné recently finished editing his third movie project, entitled "The Last Step of an Acrobat", also shot in western Lesvos' barren edge, which won the Best Experimental Film Award at the 14th season of the Cult Critic Movie Awards (Calcutta, India) and was recently screened (March 2019) in the prestigious "L'EUROPE AUTOUR DE L'EUROPE" Film Festival in Paris.

Further information is available at the artist's web-site:

www.cesarebedogne.com



CREDITS (THE LAST STEP OF AN ACROBAT)

Directed by CESARE BEDOGNE'

Storyline by CESARE BEDOGNE'

With MARIA FREPOLI

Photography and Editing by CESARE BEDOGNE'

Music by ARGHISTY (Armenian Duduk)

Running time: 29.10 minutes

Filmed on the island of Lesbos (Greece) in the period January-August 2018.

Editing completed in September 2018.

ⁱ From an Interview published on "Cesare Bedogné", Creval Foundation Catalogue, 2009