

WE WEREN'T GIVEN ANYTHING FOR FREE

The story of an Italian partisan



Annita Malavasi was just 22 when the Germans occupied Italy, their former allies, in 1943. As a partisan in the Italian resistance named "Laila", she moved throughout the Apennines with and between fighting units, delivering information, transporting weapons, and taking part in battles. She spent over a year in the Apennines, fighting against the German occupation. At the same time, she had to assert herself against the men of the mountain villages.

By the end of the war, Laila had risen among the ranks to become one of the few female commanders in the Italian resistance.



Annita "Laila" Malavasi during an Interview

*„The first thing that the commander said to me was,
‘You’re neither man nor woman, but a partisan.
You have the same rights and duties as everybody.’“*

This film chronicles the story of a lifelong struggle for emancipation that began with the battle for Italy’s liberation from fascism. Laila and her two comrades, Gina "Sonia" Moncigoli and Pierina "Iva" Bonilauri talk about their time in the Resistenza and what it meant to them and many other women.



Pierina "Iva" Bonilauri with her medals, decorations and awards.

With

First sergeant Annita "Laila" Malavasi, * 21.05.1921; † 27.11.2011
Intelligence Corps Commander, 144th Garibaldi Battalion

First sergeant Pierina "Iva" Bonilauri, * 16.05.1918; † 14.09.2011
Vice Commandant of the Partisan Prison, 144th Garibaldi Battalion

Second lieutenant Gina "Sonia" Moncigoli, * 01.06.1923; † 06.11.2011
Responsible for provisions for the City Guerrilla Battalion 37



Annita "Laila" Malavasi and Gina "Sonia" Moncigoli

WE WEREN'T GIVEN ANYTHING FOR FREE

Documentary, Germany/Italy 2014
Italian with subtitles (English and German)
58 minutes | PAL | color | 16:9 | stereo

TEAM

Script and Direction Eric Esser
Cinematography Caro Krugmann
Sound recording Caro Krugmann
Editing Luca Reale
Production Eric Esser

Assistant editor Rosa Giulio
Sound design Michael Scheunemann
Sound mixing Michael Scheunemann
Color correction Caro Krugmann
Translator Heike Herzog
Dramaturgical coaching Patrizia Fürst

DIRECTOR



Eric Esser, born in 1975 in Germany, made his first short film in 2003. Upon completion of his studies in media informatics (majoring in "media studies"), he worked for the WZB Berlin Social Research Center.

In 2005 he began his studies at the Filmarche Berlin, a self-governed film school where he majored in directing and documentary film making. He is currently a member of the Filmarche Elders' Council and engaged in the AG DOK, a working group for documentary film making.

Eric Esser lives and works on Berlin.

FILMOGRAPHY

- 2003 BUNS (trash, 5'')
- 2004 NOVEMBER (trash, 5'')
- 2006 CEVAPCICI (Co-Director, doc., 10'')
- 2006 DAWN OF THE DORKS (trash, 22'')
- 2009 CHAJA & MIMI (doc, 10'')
- 2014 WE WEREN'T GIVEN ANYTHING FOR FREE (doc, 58'')
- 2014 ROTATION (doc., 81'')

CONTACT:

Eric Esser
MakeShiftMovies
Lausitzer Strasse 10
10999 Berlin

eric.esser@makeshiftmovies.info
<http://makeshiftmovies.info>
+49-179-7184684

funded by

Hans Böckler
Stiftung 