

PRESS  
KIT

A FILM BY **JOZEFIEN VAN DER AELST**  
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A HERMIT'S STORY

# GRAZIANO



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## A HERMIT'S STORY

A FILM BY  
**JOZEFIEN VAN DER AELST**

PRODUCED BY  
**FRED KELEMEN**  
**KINO KOMBAT FILMPRODUCTION**

MESSAGE@KINO-KOMBAT.COM

Graziano is the sole resident of a deserted mountain village. With his blind dog as his loyal companion, Graziano roams the empty streets, serenades in the abandoned church, and embarks on a quest to reunite with his long-lost love, whose name has faded from his memory. His poignant existence is further accentuated by his artistry, as he paints religious spells and political statements on wooden plates, adorning the village walls with his evocative folk art. Amidst the majestic mountains, Graziano's hermetic existence unravels, unveiling a melancholic world.

# LOG LINE





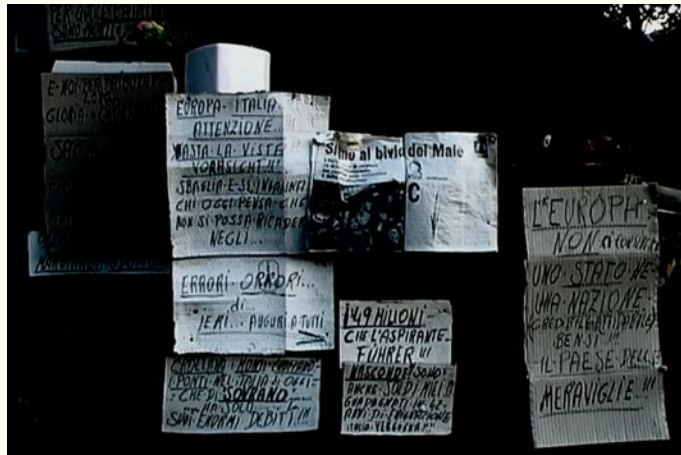
# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

## **GRAZIANO** A HERMIT'S STORY



Traveling to high altitudes, along the sites and sounds of a haunted mountain range with a troubled history, we come to know a solitary man who is living alone in a deserted village where he is acting out the part of a foreboding watchman. However, within his world on top of the mountain, Graziano is not only foreseeing and reflecting on worldly affairs “down there”, he also fights ghosts vandalizing his property and hints at a spiritual reality beyond material living. At his remote mountain sanctuary, the threat of COVID-19 is but a silent specter, juxtaposed against the turmoil unfolding in the world below. Graziano, while physically distant from the virus, remains contemplative. He writes down spiritual spells, political comments and opinions on wood and cardboard and assembles them all over the village. Next to being a painter of signs for his “yard show”, Graziano also adopts the persona of an amorous opera singer and uses the desacralized church as his stage for his hymns to love. In Graziano’s constant search for a long lost love, the film is filled with a melancholic longing. We search with him for the shadow of this woman and her identity. Will he ever be able to give his desire a name? My vision for this film was to craft an immersive experience that transports viewers to this isolated realm. In this speculative film of hermetic life, the camera gazes at Graziano’s folk art environment and delves into his outsider melancholic enclave filled with both desire and rage. The film invites viewers to reflect on the universal human experience of longing and the search for connection, all set against a backdrop of isolation and resilience. It is a cinematic exploration of the power of art, love, and the indomitable human spirit in the face of solitude.





# AWARDS

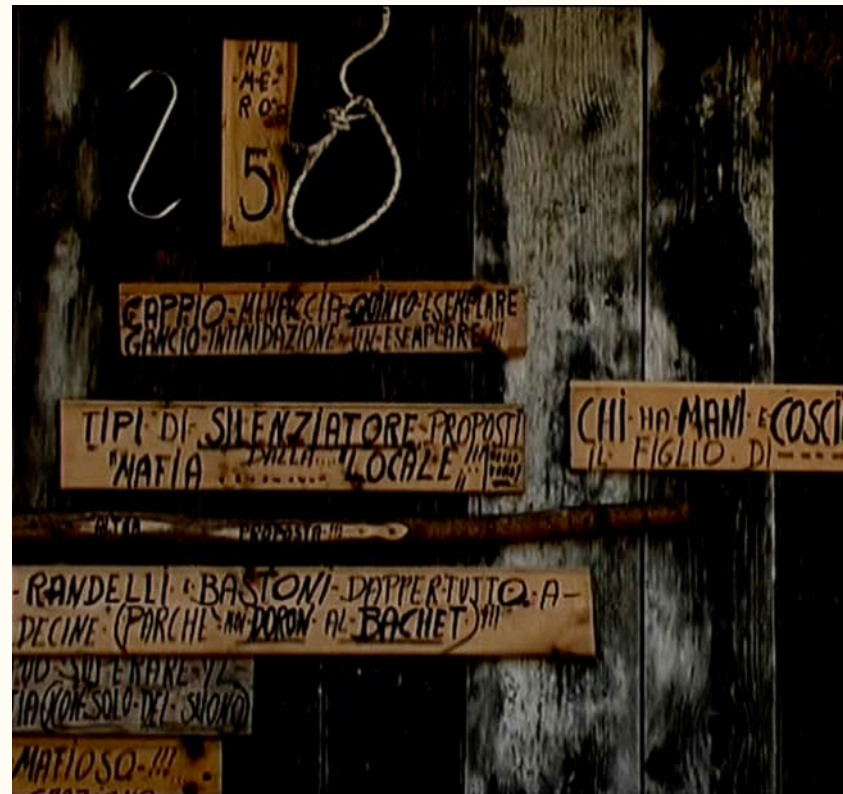
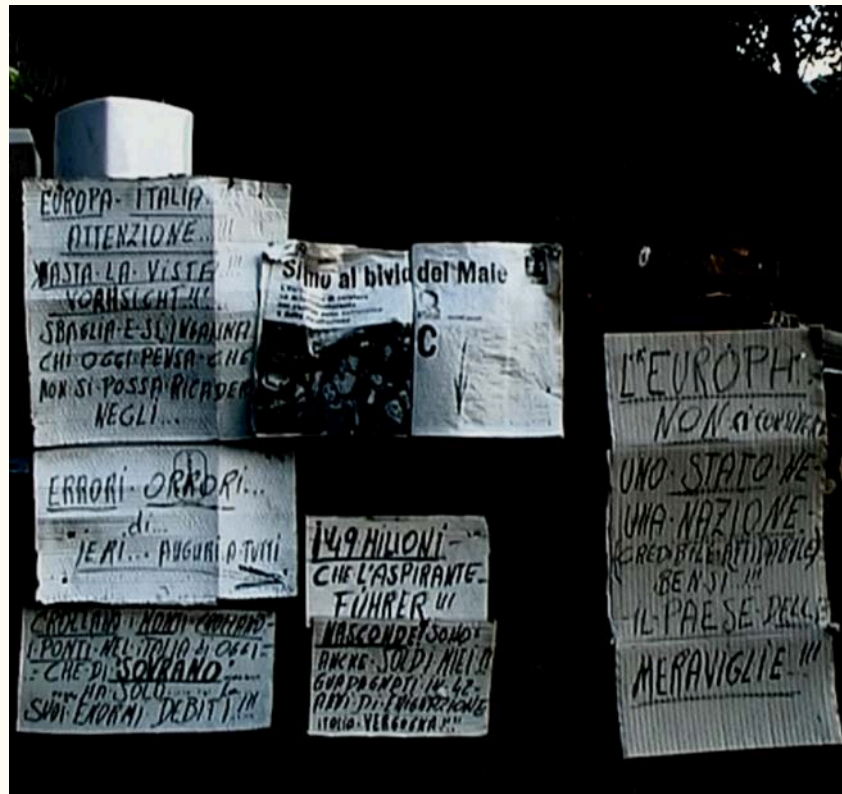
*Winner Best Medium and Feature Film at Cinalfama Lisbon Screening and Awards,  
Winner Prix Present Special Mention at L'Europe autour de l'Europe (Paris),  
Selected at Beijing International Short Film Festival, FLiMM Festival Libre du  
Moyen-Métrage Paris, Elevation Film Festival UK*



# CRITIQUES

"It is a glorious love film poem. I was impressed by the images and the camera in winter. For me it shows the beauty of sadness, that all creative people bear with them. What courage and strong spirit he has... and in the end, the name of love, Veronika... I like that his emotions are more present at the film than he, himself. The concept is more like an art video, but keeping the rhythm of a creative documentary. It was a pleasure for me watching it."

- Gena Teodosievska (journalist, film critic, visual art theoretician, member of Fipresci, commissioning editor of MKRTV)





# CREDITS

WRITER, DIRECTOR, CO-PRODUCER, EDITOR, COLORIST  
**Jozefien Van der Aelst**

CINEMATOGRAPHER, SOUND RECORDIST  
**Edoardo Scussel**

MUSIC  
**Akira Rabelais**

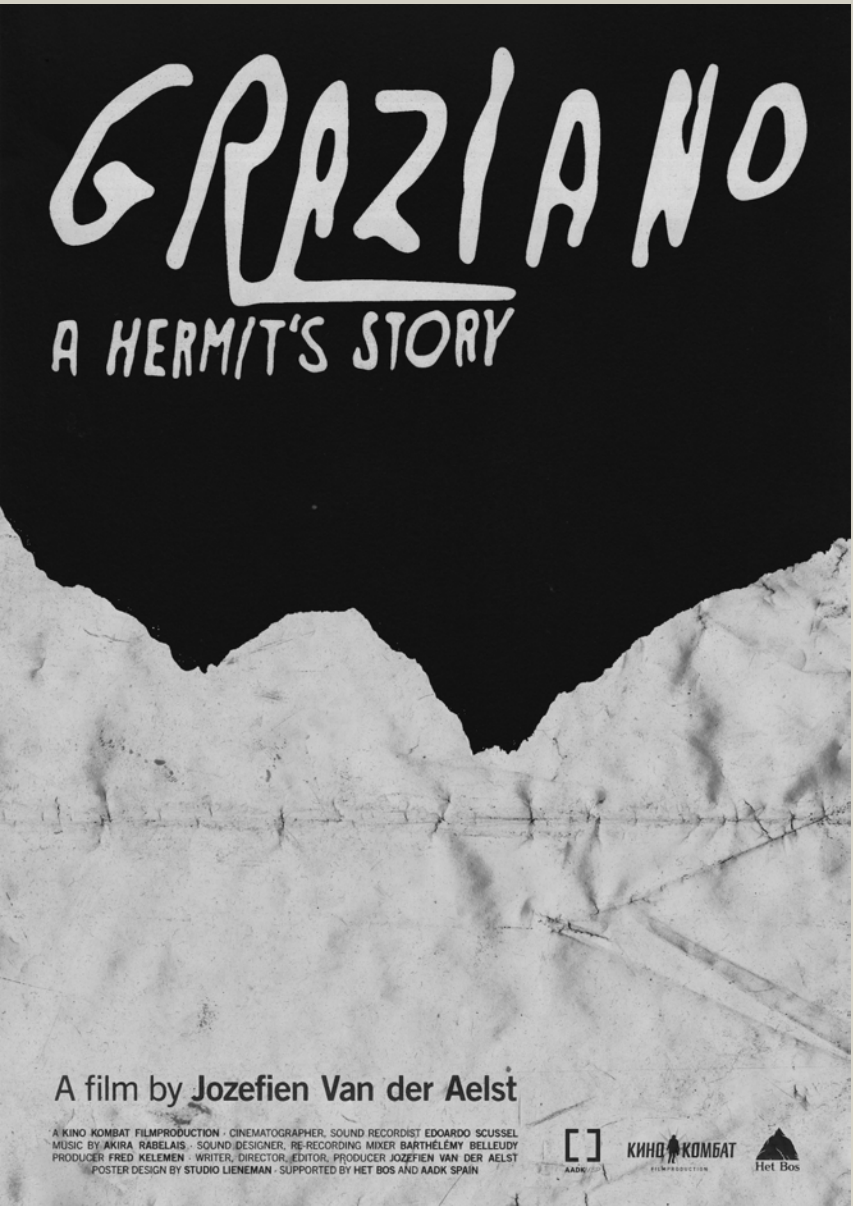
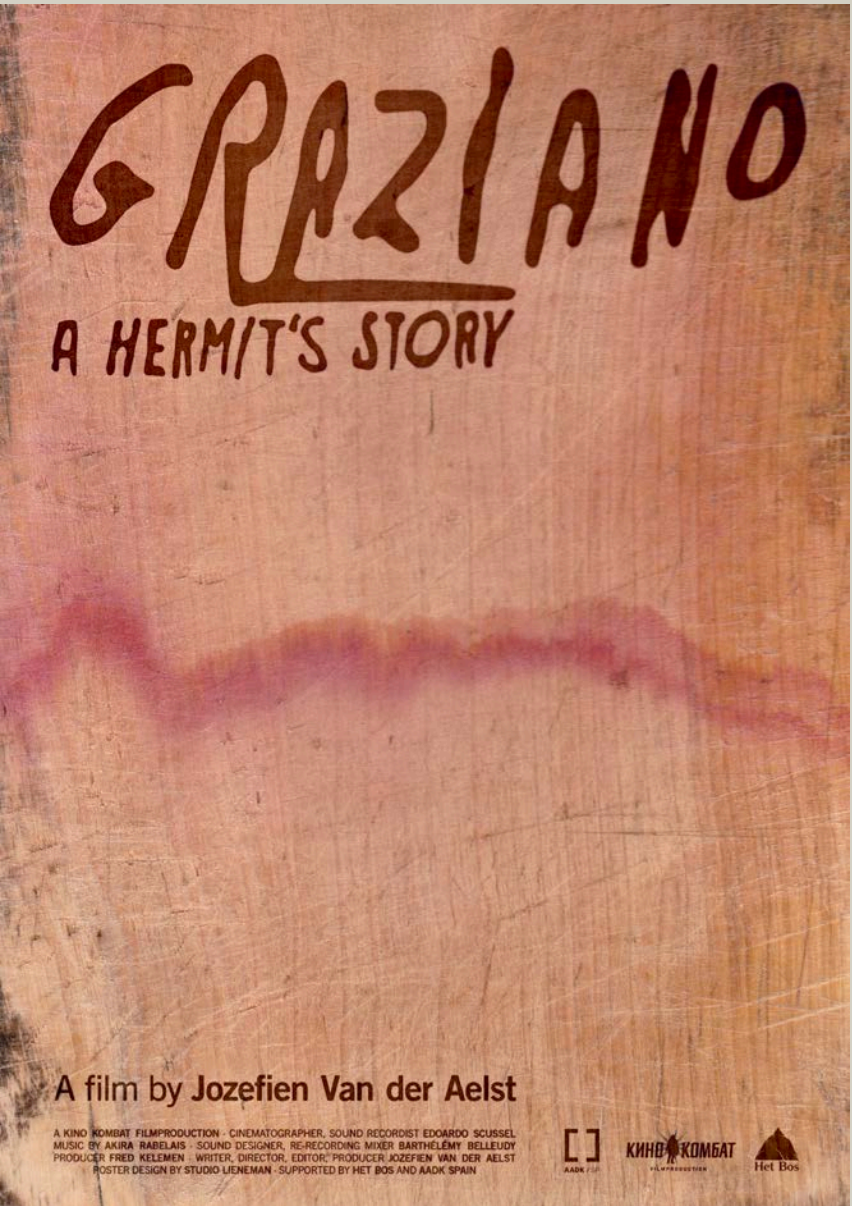
SOUND DESIGNER, RE-RECORDING MIXER  
**Barthélémy Belleudy**

CO-PRODUCER  
**Fred Kelemen / KINO KOMBAT Filmproduction**

A **Belgian/German** Production  
shot in the Dolomites in Italy  
spoken in an Italian vanishing dialect (Zoldo)  
& German

With the support of

**Het Bos**  
**AADK Spain**



## JOZEFIEN VAN DER AELST

<https://jozefienvanderaelst.com/>



Jozefien Van der Aelst is a film director and writer working in Berlin and Antwerp. In her hybrid worlds, often on the brink of collapse, she explores the relationship between humans and nature, encompassing themes such as emergence, spatial narrativity, cartography, traditions, landscape, grassroots religion, catastrophe, and ecology. She holds an MA in Philosophy and a BA in Theatre, Film & Literature Studies, and later enrolled at the German Film and Television Academy (DFFB) in Berlin as a film director.



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