



Synopsis

In this dark comedy we follow a young woman who has secluded herself in her palatial estate from any human interaction. When she hires a handyman in the hopes of relieving her lack of companionship, she finds herself overwhelmed with attachment to this man which quickly snowballs when he attempts to leave the estate.

Director's Statement

To make a film it takes a team, this film had a team of two. The reason Solitaire was created by only two people was our craving to tell a story in a way that would challenge us as filmmakers.

This is the first time anyone has shot a film at the Italian Embassy in Brazil. The opportunity was too good to pass up, so Wayland Bell and myself packed our bags and went to Brazil. The story was created in the moment, inspired by the Embassy and shot without a crew.

The Embassy is famous for its renowned engineer Pier Luigi Nervi. In his time, he was the rockstar of architecture, creating works all over the world, such as the Papal Audience Hall in the Vatican and the UNESCO headquarters in Paris. The structure Nervi had created is a magical but also dark and lonely place, we wanted it to overwhelm the story, therefore becoming a character itself. What would happen to someone who lived completely isolated in this empty mansion? We took that idea and exaggerated it.

Solitaire is dark comedy about a young woman that has shut herself in her mansion from all human interaction. She welcomes into her house a young man who wishes to work on her property as a groundskeeper. This man is the perfect excuse for her to have some companionship. She quickly becomes overly attached to him and the story takes a surreal magical turn when he tries to leave the estate.

I wanted the film to have a suspenseful tone, full of funny and awkward moments. I hope the viewer enjoys these fun moments in a film about friendship and loneliness.

- Paola Bernardini

Director's Biography

Paola Bernardini



Paola is an Italian Director and Producer based in New York. She holds a BFA in Film from the School of Visual Arts. During her stay in New York she obtained experience in film, commercial and theater productions.

Paola was awarded numerous awards including one from the New York Women in Film and Television, screened at over 20 film festivals and received an international distribution deal for her Italian short film "Citta' dei Sogni" (City of Dreams).

She is fluent in Italian, French and English and will continue her filmmaking journey around the world.

Wayland Bell



Wayland Bell is a New York based cinematographer. A 2014 graduate of School of Visual Art NYC, he was the first 2-time winner of Best Cinematography in the history of SVA's Dusty Film Festival.

As a director of photography, he has worked on everything from feature films, music videos, commercials, motorsports, live events, and documentaries. With more than a decade of filmmaking experience, Wayland's dedication to craft and his unique eye have taken him on projects across the United States and as far as the Siberian Tundra.

He is at home behind a camera, and is always looking for the next shot.

Cast & Crew

Paola Bernardini & Wayland Bell	-	Director Producer Lead Actor
Jesse James Malings & Wayland Bell	-	Post Production Sound Design and Color

All other credits are attributed as Special Thanks:

The Embassy of Italy in Brasilia, Brazil

Antonio Bernardini

Ornella Frisario

Joan Brooker

Bob Cotter

Phil Schloss

Arathi Jayaram

Valdete Lopes Da Costa

Hema Nazareth