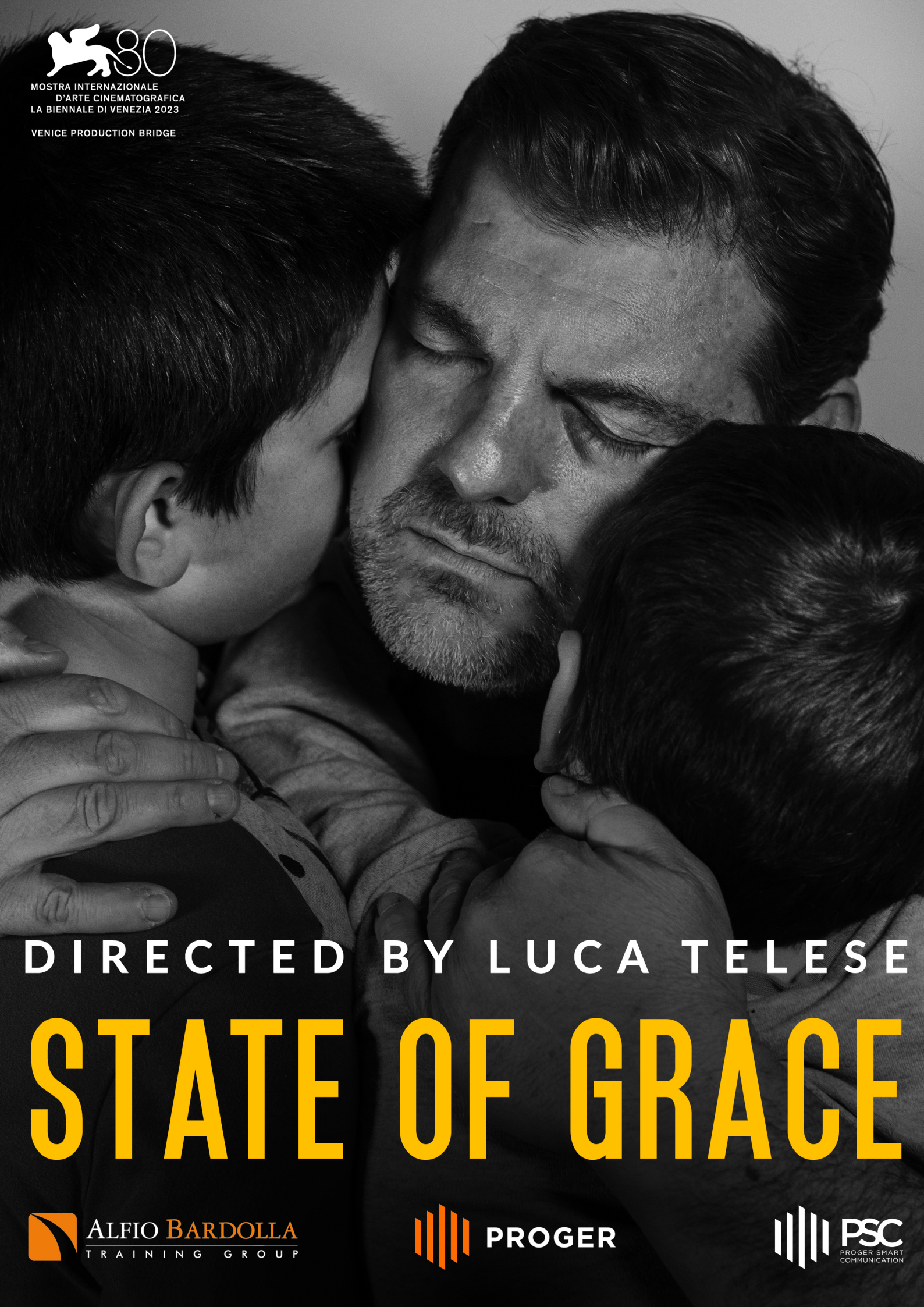




MOSTRA INTERNAZIONALE
D'ARTE CINEMATOGRAFICA
LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA 2023

VENICE PRODUCTION BRIDGE



DIRECTED BY LUCA TELESE

STATE OF GRACE



ALFIO BARDOLLA
TRAINING GROUP



PROGER



PSC
PROGER SMART
COMMUNICATION

STATE OF GRACE

DIRECTED BY
LUCA TELESE

PRODUCTION



DISTRIBUTION



DIGITAL
DISTRIBUTION
BY DIGITAL IDENTITY

YEAR: 2023

DURATION: 120 MINUTES

FORMAT: 4K COLOR

BASED ON A TRUE STORY

SYNOPSIS

What must a man do to prove his innocence?

The case of **Ambrogio Crespi** is much more than a court case; is the disturbing answer to this question.

A journey where the paradox turns into reality, where the nightmare becomes the concreteness of the bars, where fear becomes the stale air of a cell. Between trials, prison and the pardon granted by the President of the Republic, a story emerges so incredible that seems to be the fruit of a writer's imagination.

**THIS IS THE STORY OF A JOURNEY.
A JOURNEY THROUGH THE LIMBO OF
ITALIAN JUSTICE.**



SUBJECT

Can an absurd accusation, never supported by any evidence but only by suggestions, land you in prison?

Can you be accused of being close to “Ndrangheta” families if you have pursued a career in the name of legality?

The case of Ambrogio Crespi is much more than a Court case; it's the answer to these unthinkable questions. It's the paradox that becomes reality.

Accused of external complicity in a mafia association, he is arrested and tried for having provided votes from mafia circles to a Lombard councilor...he's never seen, never ever met.

Although it seemed clear even to the experts themselves that Ambrogio Crespi was unrelated to the accusations, the first instance ended with an incredible 12-year sentence, double the request of the PM himself.

A sentence that, just like a guillotine, falls on Ambrogio's life and his entire family.

His young children, Luca and Andrea, risk growing up without their father and being able to see him only in an interview room of a maximum security prison, where the weight of an unjust conviction affects the man more than the time that passes away.

Despite the fear, the family continues to fight.

In the second instance, the Court of Appeal reduced the years to six. There is hope, perhaps step by step a door might open towards absolution. This is the only idea that the family has and that idealizes anyone who reads the trial documents.

But instead, the Supreme Court of Cassation, despite the PG having requested the annulment with postponement, confirmed the six-year prison sentence. On 11th March 2021 Ambrogio Crespi entered prison, turning himself in even before the execution order was issued.

Those who stand at his side do not stop fighting, the children, still very young, are protected with a white lie that their mother tells them with great pain and love: "Your father is a secret agent and has been called to participate in a secret mission: he's in a bunker. His task is to make peace between two peoples who are fighting each other, but don't worry, he will return home and we will do everything to ensure he returns as soon as possible".

Everything is done to keep them out of all this pain, in the hope that they can hug their father again as soon as possible. Remote conversations begin, due to Covid, video calls with the children are a heartache for both parents, the children continually ask "Dad, did you make it? Are the two peoples ready for peace?" So, with an incredible narration, a story is brought forward that is just as incredible as the experience of this family, but which offers a caress to the hearts of two little ones completely distant from what is really happening

Immediately the family together with a pool of lawyers began to write a Request for Pardon addressed to the President of the Republic, because at that moment, that was the only way to try to see the light at the end of the tunnel. And finally, in less than two months, the request was deposited at the Court of Milan, at the Ministry of Justice and at the Quirinale.

But not only that, something very rare in our country happens: waiting for that fateful response from the President of the Republic earns him "the deferment of his sentence".

Ambrogio leaves prison on 23rd June 2021, awaiting a response which will hopefully arrive by 9th September, otherwise those doors that had just opened to let him out would have reopened to let him back in.

On September 2nd 2021, at 8.30 pm, the presidential decree of Partial Grace is issued, which certainly does not restore everything that has been lost, but allows Ambrogio to stay with his family and never return within those 4 walls that held him prisoner from his existence.

But obviously, it doesn't end here...

A case like this doesn't leave the most attentive unimpressed.

If you are a journalist it's impossible not to be interested, then if you have also worked with Ambrogio Crespi on television programs, live events and if you have even traveled around Italy with him by car for hours and hours, the need to tell this story becomes urgent.

Luca Telese wants to go through it till the end, he wants to try to understand what happened, because this seems like a never lived story, so incredible that it seems to be the figment of someone's creativity.

He will begin a journey by car where the distance from one stop to another allows him to put the dots together, he wants to hear in person the testimonies of those who have lived this story in one way or another, getting lost in the “dark cave” of bad justice.

A story that will take us into the peaceful and daily resistance that the family, the committee in his name, radio and television programs and associations did not for Ambrogio Crespi, but for what the latter's case means.

“Ambrogio's arrest has created dismay in public opinion” says the Judge who sets him free pending the President's pardon. And Luca wants to tell this dismay.

In addition to the symbolic aspect of the story, we will deepen to bring to light all the emotions that an unjustly imprisoned man feels. Distress and loneliness go hand in hand with courage and strength, necessary, but not taken for granted, to overcome the unthinkable.

The death threats received by Ambrogio for his work as a social director and as well as for his battles against organized crime within prison, are just the “tip of an iceberg” that is emerging imposingly from the judicial system of our country.

But also the solidarity received from the inmates themselves, even for important crimes, that the prison has seen grow...

The film doesn't aim to make an expose but wants to be a training film. Hoping that Ambrogio might be the last person to go through this.





LUCA TELESE

DIRECTOR

Luca Telese is an Italian journalist, essayist, television author, anchorman, radio host and commentator.

He began his journalistic career for the printed press by collaborating, over the years, with *Il Giornale*, *Il Fatto Quotidiano*, *Pubblico Giornale* and *La Verità* and today collaborates with TPI. He was a television writer for both Rai and Mediaset.

He hosted *Matrix*, *Terza Repubblica* and *Bianco e Nero* and is today one of the most important faces of La7, which sees him hosting various current affairs programmes. He has published several books that vary in theme: from politics to history through current affairs.



AMBROGIO CRESPI

SCREENWRITER

Ambrogio Crespi is an award-winning director, specialized in documentaries, expert in communication, digital marketing, author of commercials and documentaries.

During his career he has developed several film, television and theater projects, and has collaborated in the production of several commercials for the main Italian and international Companies.

As far as documentaries, he boasts several important titles: "Enzo Tortora, una ferita Italiana" with which he won the SIFF - Salento International Film Festival in 2014. "Captain Ultimo, le ali del Falco", "Malaterra" with Gigi D'Alessio and "Giorgia Vive", all awarded at the Taormina Film Festival, "Spes Contra Spem, liberi dentro" screened at the Venice International Film Festival, and at the Rome Film Festival.

"Terra Mia, non è un paese per santi" winner of the Salerno International Film Festival with special mention at the Reggio Calabria Film Fest and "Federica" also awarded at the Salerno Film Festival and presented at the San Benedetto International Film. Author of "Le 7 giornate di Bergamo" which participated at the Venice International Film Festival.



WITH



EDI RAMA

Prime Minister Of Albania



PETER GOMEZ

Director IIFattoQuotidiano.it



GIAN MARCO CHIOCCI

Director TG1



SANDRO GOZI

Member Of The European Parliament
Of The Renew Europe Group
Promoted By President Macron



FRANCESCO STORACE

Politician and Journalist



With A Special Appearance
By:

LORENZO FLAHERTY

In the Role of
Public Minister



CAPTAIN ULTIMO
Sergio De Caprio



SERGIO D'ELIA
Secretary Of "Nessuno Tocchi Caino"



GIOVANNA DI ROSA
President Of The Surveillance Court
Of Milan



MARCELLO ELIA
Lawyer



MARCO DEL FREO
Journalist and Author of the book
"Il Caso Crespi"



LUCA CRESPI
Son of Ambrogio Crespi



HELENE PACITTO
Wife of Ambrogio Crespi



ANDREA CRESPI
Son of Ambrogio Crespi



GIACINTO SICILIANO

Director Of House of Detention San Vittore Milano



SILVIO DI GREGORIO

Director Of House of Detention Opera Milano



ALESSANDRO ARRIGHI

Vice President of the committee
"Nessuno tocchi Caino"
for Ambrogio Crespi



ANDREA NICOLOSI

Lawyer signatory of the Grace
for Ambrogio Crespi



MARIA BRUCALE

Lawyer



MARCO LOMBARDI

AD Proger S.p.A.



ALFIO BARDOLLA

President and AD ABTG S.P.A.



PRODUCTION

Proger Smart Communication

Proger Smart Communication was born from the perimeter of one of the most important Italian engineering companies *Proger S.p.A.*, where creativity and planning are an attractive element world wide.

Focused on new languages and technologies, inspired by Warhol's "Factory", PSC is a center of creativity and development in a historical phase that has changed the world in which we live.

Through the production company, they set themselves a goal: Telling stories.

To do this they rely on a group of competent and committed people with passion and dedication to find the right words to give voice to the story.

The world of audiovisual communication is complex and branches out widely, creating new opportunities or realities that we all know by now.

Their projects have traveled across the country hosted by the best festivals in the sector, they have been seen by millions of Italians in their living rooms or on a screen during an event hosting hundreds of people.

Alfio Bardolla Training Group

Alfio Bardolla Training Group SPA is a personal financial training company present in Italy and Spain of which Alfio Bardolla is the founder and master trainer.

The company is listed on the AIM Italia - Alternative capital market of the Italian Stock Exchange.

Through seminars, products and courses, it teaches how to develop strategies and methods to create and manage one's financial assets, training over 43,000 people.

Alfio Bardolla has also founded 30 companies in the last 20 years, operating in various sectors both in Italy and Europe.