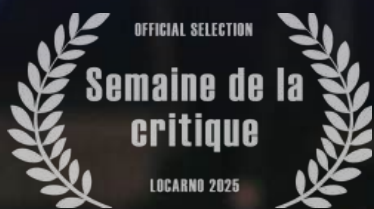


SHE



A film by Parsifal Reparato

Produced by AntropicA - Les Films de l'œil sauvage - P.F.A. Films - Luce Cinecittà



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Technical sheet

Original title : SHE

Running time : 75 min, 52 min version
available

Language : Vietnamese

Subtitles : English, French, Italian

Production : AntropicA (Italy)- Les Films de
l'œil sauvage (France) - PFA Films (Italy) -
Luce Cinecittà (Italy)

Associate producer : Little Big Story

International Sales : CAT&Docs

Director : Parsifal Reparato

Authors & Treatment : Michela Cerimele, Emma Ferulano,
Parsifal Reparato

Directors of photography : Lorenzo Casadio Vannucci,
Parsifal Reparato

Sound : Hoàng Thu Thủy

Editing : Alice Roffinengo, Armando Duccio Ventriglia

Color: Sebastiano Greco

Sound editing : Cyprien Vidal

Mixing : Elory Humez

Music : François Giesberger



Synopsis

She is a choral narrative about some of the 80,000 workers in one of the largest electronic industrial plants based in Vietnam. Eighty per cent of the basic workforce are women who have agreed to work 12-hour shifts, day and night. The bodies of the workers are revealed bit by bit, maintaining the necessary anonymity that guarantees the freedom to denounce the harshness of the imposed working conditions.

She is a mother, daughter, wife, single person, migrant and settler at the same time. Each protagonist is different. However, they are all connected in the exploitation they are subjected to every day, unable to realise their dreams due to relentless exploitation.



Director's note

An industrial suburb and a village in the mountains of northern Vietnam became the centre of my life. The dream of bringing the stories of women workers to the big screen - women whose delicacy of everyday gestures transforms private desperation into a public issue - came true in 2021 when I settled in the heart of global electronic production. She becomes a tool of awareness and empowerment in the hands of courageous women workers.

The film is narrated by women living and working in one of the largest industrial parks hosting major electronics factories. Creating ongoing relationships over four years with the female workers who made themselves available, not without sacrifice, was the most exhausting part of my work but made possible a choral film that brings their voices together. Out of the thousands we attempted to interview, those in *She* were the bravest, going beyond the threats imposed by multinationals. Thanks to this ethnographic method, we built unique relationships.

My obsession was to bring together the alienating rhythm of factory work and the desperate preservation of humanity, dreams and ambitions of women with little alternative to this exhausting life. Bringing this story of oppression to the West pushed me to research, observe, weave voices and stories, against a backdrop of pressures from multinational companies, exerted both on the workers and on local authorities.

The narrative explores the grip in which the protagonists are locked, between production and reproduction, through stories that take shape within the intimacy of houses and dormitories. The structure is guided by their words and the need to preserve their anonymity. Tu is the only worker whose face is shown as she left factory work the year before; She creates the film's structure. She's life is also narrated through two secondary characters: Mai Hien, a former worker who freed herself and Dat, a landlord enjoying privileges made possible by the factory.

This dictated a style of cinematography reflecting the grim reality inside small apartments, where daily gestures help define the bodies behind the narratives. The documentary consists of three levels: 1) the industrial suburb; 2) the family of She in a mountain village; 3) a secret performative workshop where workers re-enact what happens in the factory over 12 hours.

The uniforms in the workshop guarantee anonymity and dictate the stylistic concept: the surreal black space and symbolic factory references denounce the impossibility of showing what happens on the assembly line. Censorship imposed by multinationals becomes a creative tool to give voice and visibility to women who work, exhaust themselves, get injured and sometimes die, oppressed by over-productivity.

The effort to protect workers' anonymity required considerable organisation. But the workshop was the best way to find a starting point to change things, by listening and understanding the words, gestures and bodies of the women.

The film invites reflection on the sustainability of a patriarchal production model, producing wealth for some but severely affecting the physical and social health of many others. The film is the result of extended research in Vietnam, conducted in partnership with the University of Naples L'Orientale, the Institute of Regional Sustainable Development, Vietnamese Academy of Social Sciences (VASS) and the Vietnamese trade union, VGCL.



Biography

Parsifal Reparato is an Italian director, producer, anthropologist and journalist. His work combines ethnographic research and a refined cinematic language focused on social justice, labour rights, biodiversity and mental health. For over 12 years, he has been conducting research and working as filmmaker across Southeast Asia, focusing on labour-related issues in collaboration with universities, research institutions and workers' rights organisations.

After graduating in Anthropology, he gained a scholarship to study at Cinema at Escuela Nacional de Realización y Experimentación Cinematográfica in Buenos Aires and trained as an executive producer in Rome.

He is founder of the production company AntropicA and of the Ethnographic Filmmaking Lab, established in 2020 to support young filmmakers and develop documentary projects.

His 2017 film “Nimble Fingers” was among the most awarded Italian documentaries of its year. With “She”, Parsifal won the Premio Solinas and several awards at Sunny Side of the Doc in 2022 during its development phase.

Parsifal has also collaborated on international documentary projects and published essays on second-generation immigrants in Rome, Manding community integration in Naples and illness experiences in Cuban Santería.



FILMOGRAPHY

2011 – Mas allá de la Santería

2015 – Rezeki (Co-Director)

2017 – Nimble fingers

2020 – The town crier

International Sales

CAT&Docs

info@catndocs.com

Italian distribution

AntropicaA - antropicafilm@gmail.com

PFA Films - pfafilms@gmail.com

French distribution

Les Films de l'œil sauvage

diffusion@oeilsauvage.com

