

# BE KIND

## A Kind Journey Through Diversity

A film by Sabrina Paravicini and Nino Monteleone

«Diversity is like an elephant with a short trunk: it's rare».

These are the words of Nino, a twelve-year-old boy who, at the age of two and a half, was diagnosed with a severe, yet high-functioning form of childhood autism. After he stopped talking and looking his mother in the eyes, his inner isolation threatened his ability to interact with others and with the rest of the world more and more every day.

Today, Nino is the protagonist, the “heart” of a film that deals with not only those with whom he shares his “particularity”, but with all those who, in one way or another, are different. They are different because they are marginalized, different because they belong to a minority, different because of their sexual orientation, different because they belong to a different ethnic group, religion, culture than that of the country in which they live.

*BE KIND* is a self-produced, almost family-made film, which arose from Sabrina Paravicini's desire to give her son a special gift. Over the months and over the course of its production, this gift eventually turned into an actual film: a journey across the world of *diversity* through the young “director's” eyes of **a boy who is “different”**. *Diversity* intended not as a difference, but as a richness within a vast, varied world. The film was born from a question his mother asked him: «Would you like to tell your story?» He accepted. His mother, actress and director Sabrina Paravicini, accompanies him on a physical, but above all emotional journey, where each stop offers the chance to meet people who share their personal stories and experiences.

Nino becomes a sort of Virgil who leads us through the world of human variety, where we meet men and women who allow us to participate in their lives. They teach us that the only way to truly connect with others is through kindness, the only tool that allows us to actually listen to others without a condescending attitude motivated by mere curiosity, rather by the true desire to learn about situations that are new to us.

The presence of writer **Roberto Saviano** (a good conversation between Nino and Roberto on Epicurus' theory of happiness), actor **Fortunato Cerlino** (which helps a young actor in the autistic spectrum to play a Taxi Driver scene) and astronaut **Samanta Cristoforetti** (that tells Nino the importance of being different) alternate with that of many other individuals and experiences that together create a beautiful story with a happy ending: a story that talks about overcoming limits, about hope, experimentation, kindness, and happiness as a possibility for everyone. Because in the end, we are all different from one another. And that is precisely what makes living so pleasant and so pleasantly surprising.

Be Kind was screened in competition at the 64th edition of the Taormina Film Fest and received a special mention from the jury: "For the extraordinary commitment and talent in creating a dimension of dignity and understanding, in other words love, for those who are different".

The project is supported by Gucci, which has always been active in raising awareness of issues such as diversity inclusion, and will be part of *Gucci Equilibrium*: not just a program, but an actual platform whose objective today is to talk about how sustainability strategies and projects can be integrated, inspired by a “Culture of Purpose”.

Part of the film will be visible in Italy on *Gucci Equilibrium* in the section People, Journey of Humanity, Local Initiatives.

*"The dream of Nino, the little director with Asperger, is reality: here is the film that wins with kindness"* **La Stampa**

*"Be kind, a gentle journey into diversity: where you discover a world where happiness is possible for everyone"* **Il Fatto Quotidiano**

*"Through a series of meetings and conversations between Nino and other people as the writer Roberto Saviano, Be Kind teaches that kindness is the only way to be in relationship with others"* **Vogue**

**Sabrina Paravicini** is the director of BE KIND. Author, director, and actress. She has worked with Maurizio Nichetti, Mario Monicelli, Gianluca Tavarelli, Carlo Lizzani. For years, she interpreted the role of Jessica, one of the stars of the well-known series "Un medico in famiglia" on Rai Uno. She has published fiction novels with Baldini & Castoldi, Feltrinelli, and Rizzoli.

**Nino Monteleone** is the co-director of BE KIND. He is twelve years old and has Asperger's syndrome. His dream is to meet director Tim Burton and give him a copy of his short novel.

**Lorenzo Messia** was in charge of photography, filming, and editing for BE KIND. Born in Rome in 1989, in 2013 he was in charge of photography and editing for the documentary "Medea dalla Cassia a New York". He then worked as director of photography and editor of the documentary "Acuda", on the incredible experience of a group of people in a maximum security prison in Northern Brazil.

**Piero Salvatori**, born in Rome in 1969, is a pianist, cellist, and composer. He is a Yamaha Artist since 2016 with his new CD "Flyaway", released by Sony Music. In 2013, he wrote the music for Roberto Bolle's solo in the show "Bolle and Friends". He has collaborated with important Italian Orchestras and artists such as Stefano Bollani, Uri Caine, Paolo Fresu, Arnaldo Foà, Ugo Pagliai, Michele Serra, Claudio Baglioni, Gino Paoli, Renato Zero, and Ornella Vanoni with whom he is currently on tour.

**Helen Nonini**, Executive and Strategy Producer, finalized the production of the film. As a brand advisor and strategic consultant, Helen has always supported companies in optimizing their strategies in order to successfully face both present and future changes. She began her career in the world of finance, and then went on to fundraising and non-profit sectors, eventually becoming a consultant in the world of luxury. Since 2017, she has been one of the faces of the Pomellato brand for the *Pomellato for Women* advertising campaign.

## **DATA**

GENRE: DOCUFILM

TIMING: 85'

COLOUR

SHOOTING FORMAT: DIGITAL

SCREEN RATIO: 1:85

AUDIO FORMAT: DOLBY n5.1

DIRECTOR: SABRINA PARAVICINI NINO MONTELEONE

DOP AND EDITING: LORENZO MESSIA

**CAST:**

Nino Monteleone, Sabrina Paravicini, Roberto Saviano, Fortunato Cerlino, Samantha Cristoforetti, Helen Nonini, Iacopo Melio, Giulia Vaninetti, Fabiola Peregalli, Giulia Bertini, Valerio Arancio Febbo, Giovanni Caso, Alessio Paravicini, Francesca Sofia e Bea, Gilda Cascelli e Sofia Calcagni, Diego Melis, I bambini della prima F elementare Pistelli, Sara El Debuch, Jonis e Mila Bascir, Laura Boerci, Gianluca Pinto, Brunella Maiolini, Francesca Biscetti, Roberta di Scipio, Matteo Palamara, Flaminia Pricolo, Giulia Giovannelli, Danilo Buonsenso, Marco Cherubini, Alessandro Paleri, Erich Kustatscher, Silvia Gilardoni, Giulia Ronconi, Umberto Fortunato