

WORLD

A Family Cinema

photo by Fiorella Baldisserri





Mutonia (RN), Italy. Leila is sitting on her mother, Francesca Truzzi's lap, while Zaira flips through books in the living room of their home, a refrigerated truck container transformed and renovated by Davide Bortot, the girls' father. The house is equipped with bedrooms, a kitchen, and a bathroom, with solar panels providing the energy for everyday life. A friend of the girls is visiting.

A nomadic family with a passion for cinema and travelling

In 2009, Davide Bortot and Francesca Truzzi made an extraordinary lifestyle choice: they bought a truck and turned it into a mobile home, with the intention not only of living in it, but of traveling the world and screening films. They equipped their mobile home with solar panels and fitted it with all the necessary equipment to create a cinema under the stars wherever they went.

Since then, they have travelled and screened feature films in remote places, from Africa to Asia. During this time, the family has been enriched by the arrival of two daughters, Zaira in 2018 and Leila in 2020. Unfortunately, the Covid pandemic interrupted their international travels, but not their lifestyle and screening activities. They thus started a series of collaborations

with local Italian authorities, creating film festivals and film-related cultural events, mainly in Italy's Trentino, Veneto and Emilia Romagna regions. Their project changed its name from 'Le Cinema du desert' to 'Cinema solare itinerante' (the traveling solar cinema) and today, their life mainly revolves around Mutonia (near Rimini), where they are raising their daughters, who have started going to school. But they haven't given up the idea of resuming their long journeys: they will soon travel to Angola, where, with a new vehicle built on site, they will screen films in some of the country's villages. They then plan to recover their truck, which was stranded in Ivory Coast during the Covid pandemic, before moving on to Senegal for a series of new screenings.

Sant'Arcangelo di Romagna (RN), Italy. The popcorn machine from Le Cinema du Desert is ready on a table in the park, where soon the audience will attend a film screening as part of the Festival sponsored by the municipality and with free admission.





Keiruan, Tunisia. The entire family of Le Cinema Du Desert travels along the roads of Tunisia in their truck converted into a mobile home. The cabin is divided into spaces for driving, relaxation, and work. Zaira and Laila play while Davide drives, and Francesca plans the routes. The screenings are carried out in collaboration with local organizations.



San Vito (RN),Italy. As part of the "Frazioncine" event, sponsored by the Municipality of Sant'Arcangelo di Romagna, the itinerant solar cinema Le Cinema du Desert screens a film in front of a diverse audience in the church's parish field. The illuminated bell tower creates an evocative and engaging atmosphere.



San Vito (RN), Italy. Francesca Truzzi, along with her daughter Zaira, is setting up the booth for the film screening evening as part of the Frazioncine festival, organized with the support of the Pro Loco of Sant'Arcangelo. Those who wish to enjoy the popcorn can independently decide the value to assign to the bag they receive.



San Lorenzo In Banale (TN), Italy. An evening among friends and collaborators. Davide Bortot plays the ukulele in an impromptu band, while the fire behind them warms the atmosphere. The music creates a pleasant sense of togetherness.

Mongolia. Awakening in the
Mongolian steppe between
Moron and Lake Khovsgol.
Photo by Davide Bortot





San Michele (RN), Italia. A beam of light projected creates a captivating stardust effect. A diverse audience watches a film broadcast by Davide Bortot and Francesca Truzzi, the creators of Le Cinema du Desert, who, by participating in national grants, raise funds for free-entry film nights in small Italian village festivals.



San Lorenzo In Banale (TN), Italy. At the educational farm, Le Cinema Du Desert projects a film and asks the audience to listen to it with the headphones they provide, offering an engaging and immersive experience while, above all, avoiding noise that could disturb nature and its inhabitants.



Sant'Arcangelo di Romagna (RN), Italia. On the last day of nursery before the summer holidays, parents come to pick up their children and the bed linens that will need to be returned in order and washed in September, at the beginning of the new year. Laila is in Francesca's arms, and Davide is behind them.

Mauritania. Overnight stop, with film screening, in the Sahara desert between Kiffa and Ayun. That day, Davide and Francesca's truck lost its wheels in the desert, and the repair took several days. The photo was taken on the first evening when they decided to tackle the problem first by watching a film together with a nomad family camped nearby. Photo by Davide Bortot





Kairouan, Tunisia. Marco Folignati suggests to Davide some villages to bring the cinema to, as Tunisia is his country of residence. Marco was a rally driver in the Paris-Dakar rally in 1982 and 1983. Both are members of the NGO "Bambini nel Deserto," an organization that carries out projects to improve the living conditions of children and their families in the countries where they live.



San Lorenzo In Banale (TN), Italy. Francesca Truzzi is grilling meat for a dinner with friends at the educational farm, where they screened a film the previous evening as part of the "Sustainable Objective" project. Leila stays close to her mother and waits for dinner.



Lavarone Forte Belvedere-Gschwent (TN), Italy. Le Cinema du Desert participates in a summer film festival called "Whispers at Altitude." The screening is powered by solar energy, and the audio is transmitted through headphones to avoid disturbing the animals. Spectators can enjoy the film while sitting on a blanket in the silence of the night.



Viserba (RN), Italy. At Scuola Media Fermi, Le Cinema du Desert participates in one of the Erasmus Plus projects, involving four European countries, including Italy. On this occasion, Davide Bortot assists and teaches a group of students how to create an animated film starting from the storytelling phase.



Mutonia (RN), Italy. Francesca Truzzi and Davide Bortot, the creators of Le Cinema du Desert, are getting ready for a quick lunch in their mobile home in Mutonia. Davide transformed a truck container, equipping it with bedrooms, a bathroom, and a kitchen. The home is powered by solar panels.



Lavarone Forte Belvedere-Gschwent (TN), Italy. Le Cinema du Desert takes part in a zero-impact summer film festival called "Whispers in the Valley." This time, they use a smaller solar-powered cinema truck to reach the clearing in the Cimbric Alps.

San Lorenzo In Banale (TN), Italy. Davide Bortot projects a map and illustrates the countries visited by Le Cinema du Desert in the years before the pandemic. The children sitting in the front row have their headphones ready to listen to the movie that will be screened shortly. Using headphones you avoid disturbing the mountain environment and the animals that inhabit it.





Rumo Val di Non (TN), Italy, inside the Maso Verde space, in collaboration with the Pro Loco, Le Cinema du Desert evening is being set up as part of the "Cinema under the Stars - Rumori e Visioni" event. The assembly of the screen, which was transported with the solar-powered truck, is taking place, and pallets are being positioned for the audience to sit on.



San Lorenzo In Banale (TN), Italy. Davide is about to start a film screening among friends. It's a pleasant and relaxing evening, with some of them lying on the ground, resting their heads on cushions and using blankets to shield themselves from the typical summer mountain humidity.



Sant'Arcangelo di Romagna (RN), Italy. On the last day of preschool before the summer break, Francesca holds Leila in her arms while Zaira is about to get into their car, where a fellow preschoolmate awaits her to go back home to Mutonia together.



San Lorenzo In Banale (TN), Italy. An evening screening is being prepared at an educational farm where animals roam freely in the surrounding environment. A curious ostrich is wandering in the courtyard. This blend of cinema and nature offers a unique experience in which spectators share the space with animals.



Rovereto (TN), Italy. Chairs have been set up on the Quartiere Sacco Bridge in Rovereto, where shortly the audience will sit down to watch the film screening organized by Le Cinema du Desert as part of the "Storie di Terra e Acqua" film festival. Davide Bardot is ensuring that the view is excellent from every point.

Mutonia (RN), Italy. Leila, the youngest daughter of Francesca and Davide, founders of Le Cinema du Desert left her garden shoes on the grass at the end of a day of play.





Mutonia (RN), Italy. Francesca Truzzi and Davide Bortot play with their daughters Leila and Zaira, along with Francesco, their playmate. Moments of family relaxation.



Kairouan, Tunisia. Traveling along the roads of Tunisia with their mobile home truck, the family of Le Cinema du Desert crosses various territories, stopping in small towns to screen films. The organization collaborates with local institutions and associations to promote environmental sustainability and culture.

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