



VELE AL VENTO

(SAILS IN THE WIND)

Animation, approx 9 Minutes, Portugal, 2025

Europe, early 20th century. Fishermen set sail in sailing boats for journeys lasting more than six months. Through typical everyday situations, we follow an entire day of life aboard these boats, exploring the fishing techniques they had used for over a hundred years, as well as the legends and tales that lulled them on the high seas. In this short film, the Vele al Vento paintings by the Italian painter Pirós are brought to life through the techniques of cut-outs and 2D computer animation, merging fantasy and reality.

spamflix.com

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Produced by Spamflix, Markus Duffner

International Sales: Prem1ere

Idea and Direction: Markus Duffner

Art: Pirós / @pirosuniverse

Narrator: Ronaldo Bonacchi

Animation: Elmano Diogo, Markus Duffner,
Leonor Faria Henriques, Francisco Parreira, Pedro Ramalho

Layering: Gordeeff, Cláudio Roberto

VFX: Milton Andrés Cruz

Sound Post-Production: Sound Force Studio

Sound Post-Production Coordinator: Margaryta Kulichova

Sound Designer: Johnny Farah

Re-Recording Mixer & Sound Designer: Tarun Madupu

Music: Canzone a Manovella by Vinicio Capossela (Warner Music Italy & Warner
Chappell Music Italiana Srl); Midnight Waltz by Litá

Grading, Rendering and Finalization: Vítor Carvalho

Screening Format: 4K DCP (16:9)

Sound Format: 5.1

Original Language: Italian

Subtitles: English, Portuguese

Runtime: 8'49''

Director's Statement:

Depicting the life of fishermen in the Adriatic Sea at the beginning of the 20th century, based on the paintings of the Italian artist Pirò, was a challenge that the director began in 2017. Markus Duffner, a native of the same region, recognised a familiar universe in Pirós' paintings. In the 20th century and until the 1970s, it was traditional for men from the towns around the port of San Benedetto del Tronto (Marche, Italy) to seek work on fishing boats. It is estimated that between the 1950s and 1960s, around 70% of the men in this region worked at sea. This work took them away from their families for long periods, during which they formed strong bonds with the rest of the crew, with whom they shared a new daily routine.

The port of San Benedetto del Tronto, still very important for commercial fishing, was the most important in Italy in the 19th century and still exerts a strong influence on local

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culture. Although it is still very present in local daily life, documents, literary texts, illustrations or artistic works on the daily lives of the sailors and crews of these vessels are not common.

This short film, in which reality and fantasy merge, depicts 24 hours of the life of sailors on the high seas, showing their fishing techniques, dangers, beliefs and legends, but also moments of conviviality.

Director's Biography:

Born and raised in Italy to a German family, resides in Portugal since 2016. Markus Duffner graduated in Cinema, TV, and Multimedia Production from the University of Bologna (Italy, Master's degree) and in Foreign Languages and Literatures from the University of Urbino (Italy). Always passionate about Cut-Out animation, he has completed several DIY projects in this technique.

He began working in the film industry in 2005, gaining experience in market events at festivals such as Venice, Rome, Cannes, Montecarlo Comedy FF, and at the magazine Le Film Français (founded in 1944). Since 2014, he has worked at the Locarno Film Festival, where he currently holds the position of Director of Locarno Pro. In 2017, he founded Spamflix, an independent animation production company (that also operated as Streaming service until 2023).

He co-produced the animated documentary King Khat by Uri Marantz, which was selected for the Tallinn Film Festival in November 2023.

Vele al Vento, is his first animated short, reflecting his passion for Cut-Out animation developed through various DIY projects.

Narrator Info – [Ronaldo Bonacchi](#):

An actor who has worked extensively in theater, as well as in auteur films by directors such as Gillo Pontecorvo, Luigi Zampa, Giuseppe Bertolucci, Federico Fellini, Bernardo Bertolucci, Roberto Benigni, Manoel de Oliveira, and Teresa Villaverde.

MATERIALS:

- Trailer: <https://nx38585.your-storageshare.de/s/ogj3SEiA3HjRKCo>
- Poster: <https://nx38585.your-storageshare.de/s/cikmAegFckMiyAT>
- Stills: <https://nx38585.your-storageshare.de/s/B4wkcyj7se4RKsr2>
- Screener: <https://vimeo.com/spamflix/vav> Pwd: VaV_2025

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