

FERZAN OZPETEK

Born in Istanbul in 1959, Ferzan Ozpetek moved to Italy in 1976 to study History Of Cinema at the Rome University. Ozpetek, Turkish-Italian, attended courses of History of Art and Costume and Stage Direction at the National Drama Academy.

He then experienced with the Living Theater led by Julian Beck.
He started his career as his First Assistant to famous filmmaker-comedian Massimo Troisi, then continued for many others important Italian directors.

His first film **IL BAGNO TURCO** (The Turkish Bath) was selected by the prestigious Quinzaine Des Réalisateurs at Cannes '97 , where it received a stunning acclaim by both film critic and public audience.

Among other countries THE TURKISH BATH had a successful theatrical release in the USA.

His second film **HAREM SUARÉ** is a drama the love between the Sultan's Favorite and her Eunuch during the fall of the Turkish Empire. It was selected at 1999 Cannes Film Festival at Un Certain Regard section

It was then invited in several international film festivals such as London and Toronto.

In 2001 his sentimental comedy **LE FATE IGNORANTI** (His Secret Life) was the most important movie of the season and thanks to critical claim and top box office Ozpetek got notice on the international scene also gaining several prominent awards:

- **4 Nastri d'Argento:** (Best Producer, Best Film Subject, Best Actress, Best Actor)
- **3 Globi d'Oro** (Best Director, Best Actress, Best Actor)
- **2002 New York Gay and Lesbian Film Festival** : Best Feature

In 2003 **LA FINESTRA DI FRONTE** (Facing Window) represents another great success which was sold worldwide. Sony Classic was its US Distributor.

Among the prizes:

- **5 David di Donatello**
- **3 Nastri d'Argento**
- **4 Ciak d'Oro**
- **5 Globi d'Oro**
- **3 Karlovy Vary International Film Festival**
- **2 Seattle Film Festival**

With **CUORE SACRO** (Sacred Heart) in 2005 Ozpetek generated a large controversial debate in the public opinion. It got several awards:

- **2 David Di Donatello**
- **Globo D'Oro** by the foreign Press in Italy

In 2006 **SATURNO CONTRO** starring again Stefano Accorsi and Margherita Buy.

UN GIORNO PERFETTO (A Perfect Day, 2008) , based on Melania Mazzucco's novel, was in competition at Venice Film Festival.

In the same year the prestigious **Museum of Modern Art** of New York dedicated an extraordinary retrospective to his complete work. Before him, only a few Italian directors – such as Roberto Rossellini, Giuseppe De Santis, Gianni Amelio - had the privilege of a personal temporary exhibition.

2010 is the year of **MINE VAGANTI** (Loose Cannons). The movie is another blockbuster in Italy and distributed worldwide.

Among the most important awards:

- **Tribeca Film Festival**, the Jury Special Award
- **2 David Di Donatello**
- **5 Nastri D'Argento**
- **4 Globi D'Oro**
- **4 Ciak D'Oro**

His 9th film **MAGNIFICA PRESENZA** (Magnificent Presence) in 2011 has been awarded with:

- **2 Nastri D'Argento**
- **Greatest Audience Award** at the Moscow International Film Festival
- **4 Globi D'Oro**

A new touch of artistic vitality arrives in 2011 with Ozpetek's direction of Giuseppe Verdi's **AIDA** for the Florence Music Season. It is a really stunning success replied the following year with *la mise en scène* of another Verdi's classic composition **LA TRAVIATA** at Naples Teatro San Carlo with one more recital at Bari Petruzzelli Theater. An amazing success, all the dates sold out.

In 2013 he is back to direct **ALLACCIATE LE CINTURE** (Fasten your seatbelts), gaining:

- **3 Nastri d'Argento**
- **Globo d'Oro**
- **Ciak d'Oro**

In 2013 he wrote his first novel edited by Mondadori , **ROSSO ISTANBUL**, which was a longseller on both the charts of Italy and Turkey. It is a powerful declaration of love to his hometown Istanbul, his roots, his mother, where reality intertwines with fictional description. Two years later Ozpetek has realized the **film** "Istanbul Red" based on his novel, starring Halit Egenç, Nejat Isler, Mehmet Gunsur.

The film has been awarded with:

- **Ciak d'oro** Nomination for the best soundtrack to Giuliano Taviani and Carmelo Travia
- **3 nomination Nastro d'Argento** (best direction, best soundtrack, best photography)

In 2015 Ozpetek writes his second novel "**SEI LA MIA VITA**" (You're My Life) edited by Mondadori again, in which in telling a melting love story he reveals the underhand work of his movies.

In 2017 he directs “**NAPOLI VELATA**” (Naples in Veins), a thriller entirely set in an enchanting Naples. Starring Giovanna Mezzogiorno, Alessandro Borghi, Anna Bonaiuto, Peppe Barra, Luisa Ranieri, Maria Pia Calzone, Lina Sastri and Isabella Ferrari. The film has received 11 nominations and won 3 David Di Donatello Awards 2018 edition (best Director of photography, best Soundtrack , best Scenography).

The same year Ozpetek has also produced the Turkish remake of the acclaimed Italian film directed by Paolo Genovese “**PERFETTI SCONOSCIUTI**” (Perfect Strangers).

In 2018 Ozpetek has been called by the Biennale d’Arte of Art of Venice to realize a video installation for the Venice Pavillon, “**VENETIKA**”, a tribute to the beauty of Venice represented by Kasia Smutniak whose face is immersed in the water of the city.

The following year the video installation has been presented at the *Campari Floating Cinema* event becoming the first work ever presented on floating platform.

His last film feature film is “**LA DEA FORTUNA**” (The Goddess Fortune) , starring Stefano Accorsi, Edoardo Leo and Jasmine Trinca , produced by R&C Produzioni with Warner Bros Italia.

The film received 3 nominations for the David di Donatello (Best Leading Actress, best Original Screenplay and Original Sound track)

Ferzan Ozpetek has written his third novel “**COME UN RESPIRO**” edited by Mondadori. The novel was published on March 24th 2020 and immediately became a best seller.

In 2020 Ozpetek makes his theatrical directorial debut with the show based on his film “**MINE VAGANTI**” (“Loose Cannons”), with Francesco Pannofino, Paola Minaccioni, Arturo Muselli, Giorgio Marchesi and Caterina Vertova.

In 2021 he directs for Disney the 8 episodes series “**THE IGNORANT ANGELS**” taken from his cult movie “His Secret Life” . The series is produced by R&C and Faros Film, starring Luca Argentero, Cristiana Capotondi, Eduardo Scarpetta, Serra Ylmaz, Anna Ferzetti.

In October 2021 Ozpetek has presented at the Roman theatre Ambra Jovinelli a play written, directed and interpreted by himself, “**Ferzaneide**” and all the incomes were donated to Emergency. The show was also presented on tour the same and the following year and was always sold out.

In 2023 he realized “**THE ISTANBUL TRILOGY**”, three 22 minutes short movies entirely shot in Istanbul with a Turkish cast. They are available on Netflix.

His 14th film , “**NEW OLIMPO**”, was produced in 2023 by R&C Produzioni and Faros Film for Netflix . In the cast Damiano Gavino, Andrea Di Luigi, Luisa Ranieri and Greta Scarano. The film was presented at Rome Film Festival and released on Netflix some days later, on November 1st 2023.

In 2024 he has directed the theatre play “**MAGNIFICENT PRESENCE**”, based on his 2012 film, a sold out tour. In the cast Serra Ylmaz, Tosca D’Aquino and Federico Cesari.

FILMOGRAPHY

1997 IL BAGNO TURCO (*The Turkish Bath*)

1999 HAREM SUARÉ
2001 LE FATE IGNORANTI (*His Secret Life*)
2003 LA FINESTRA DI FRONTE (*Facing Window*)
2004 CUORE SACRO (*Sacred Heart*)
2007 SATURNO CONTRO
2008 UN GIORNO PERFETTO (*A perfect Day*)
2010 MINE VAGANTI (*Loose Cannons*)
2012 MAGNIFICA PRESENZA (*Magnificent Presence*)
2014 ALLACCIATE LE CINTURE (*Fasten your seatbelts*)
2016 ROSSO ISTANBUL (*Istanbul Red*)
2017 NAPOLI VELATA (*Naples in Veils*)
2019 LA DEA FORTUNA (*The Goddess Fortune*)
2021 LE FATE IGNORANTI - The Series (*The Ignorant Angels*)
2023 NUOVO OLIMPO (*New Olimpo*)