

## **Mafia Queens**

Film by: Paolo Colangeli

Produced by: DocLab/Media Mediterranea and A&E Networks, Leonardo Film, Autentic

Format: 4 x 52', 90'

Year of Production: 2016

Language: English

Format: HD

## **Logline**

Women who climbed to the top of their clans... Women who changed the rules of the game... Women the camorra changed forever.

## **Synopsis**

For the first time a prime-time television series reveals the intimate life of leading women bosses living in hiding under police protection. The series offers an unprecedented view of the motivations and mechanisms that led these women to assume key roles in the criminal organization, shedding light on the little-known role of women in organized crime. Their exclusive accounts are brought to life by raw, fast-paced re-enactments shot on location.

Whether they were born into 'the family' or fell in love with the wrong man, they rose quickly to the top - managing drugs, extortion, waste disposal, public contracts and subcontracts, making life and death decisions, ordering homicides and sometimes killing personally for the clan.

Where most men become involved in organized crime for power and money, these women appear to be motivated at least initially by love and loyalty to their men, their families and their children. But in time they prove to be as skilful and as brutal as the men in their pursuit of wealth, power and influence. They create alliances, defend the clan's territory and fight for the clan's needs like the best of them ... until one day their hold on power slips and the only way out is to side with the law.

This documentary depicts their intimate and dramatic stories that swing between shocking events and moments of great pathos.

## **Episodes:**

1. Antonella Madonna
2. Cristina Pinto
3. Anna Carrino
4. Maria Durracio

### **EP.1 ANTONELLA MADONNA**

Antonella Madonna is married to Natale Dantese, a powerful young boss in Ercolano, a town known for the eruption of Vesuvius in ancient times. Dantese leads the fiercest faction of the Ascione-Papale family, victors of a bloody clan war that left 60 dead. Antonella is his confidante: she knows in detail the clan's trade, its finances and is involved in her husband's tactical choices. When Dantese is arrested it's only natural that the sceptre passes to her. She is twenty-six, with two daughters. On her regular prison visits her husband briefs her on how to manage the organization. Investigative magistrates realise that Dantese is still running his clan from behind bars and put him in isolation. Antonella begins making decisions on her own... but with her husband in prison for life something essential is missing... She begins a passionate affair with a married man. The two meet in secret in a hotel on the coast, but her mysterious disappearances don't go unnoticed and they are surprised in the hotel and beaten almost to death. Antonella is gradually marginalised from the control of the clan. Fearing for her life, deprived of her daughters, who are taken from her to live with her mother-in-law, she turns herself in to the police.

### **EP.2 CRISTINA PINTO**

Cristina was born in Pianura, a little town in the Naples' countryside, in a family that had no direct connections with the clans. During her teens she shows a tendency to violence. She likes power, money, and adrenaline and immediately she becomes the boss of a young gang. She get arrested when she was only 17. When she comes out from jail her criminal perspective is increased and of course she meets the Camorra very soon. The Perrella clan is headed by two brothers, Mario and Nunzio. Mario convinces Cristina and her gang to work with him and in a very short time she becomes the military wing of the Perrella Clan. She is the woman with the gun, she shoots better than men, and she gains the absolute faith of Mario. Everybody calls her "Nikita". The war between the clans increases bringing the number of homicides

to 40 in two years. And one evening a stray bullet kills an eleven years old kid, Fabio De Pandi, while he is crossing a street with his parents. This innocent victim brings the attention of the investigators on those clans. Many members of the clan are arrested. A night after several months of adventurous lam is the turn of Nikita. She is arrested and convicted to 20 years of jail. After all this years in jail Cristina Pinto is finally free, she has a new life, she is a fisherwoman in Pozzuoli, and she is out from the camorra.

### **EP.3 ANNA CARRINO**

Anna Carrino is still a teenager when she falls for Francesco Bidognetti, a rising star in the Casalesi clan. When her husband is imprisoned she replaces him at the head of the family.

Anna has a strong character: she's determined and opportunistic. She's capable of manipulating to her advantage the crude plans of her subordinates, often violent and ignorant men. But as the years go by inner conflicts emerge in her role as wife and mother. Her children are increasingly distant and, not least, Anna discovers after 25 years of marriage that her husband has been cheating on her. Her disillusionment and sense of betrayal mature into an overwhelming need to be loved, to have a man capable of making her feel like a woman again: the separation caused by Bidognetti's life sentence is now unbearable.

Anna decides to change her life. She abandons her gilded cage and her children to face their destiny. Today, she lives under protection and has contributed to the unmasking of the most powerful mafia organization in Italy.

### **EP.4 Maria Duraccio**

Marinella - this is how people refer to Maria Duraccio- grows up in Ottaviano in a family that has bonds with the "Nuova Camorra Organizzata", the criminal organization led by Raffele Cutolo. When she is a kid, her father spends three years in jail for helping his son who is in state of hiding. Then, at the age of 16, she witnesses her father's murder, committed by the Fabbrocino clan: a life-changing trauma for her. It's 1989 and the NCO and the Nuova Famiglia clan are fighting to gain supremacy.

Marinella is split between two lives: she studies Religion and works helping needy people but at the same time her desire to avenge her father's death is out of control. She meets a man called Giovanni Gattor and they get married. In 1999 they have a child, who unfortunately is seriously handicapped. Her husband can't handle the situation and their marriage suffers a big crisis. She tries to be strong but she needs

help. Rosetta Cutolo, the older sister of the camorra's boss, is the one who offers her a helping hand.

Marinella starts rising from the ranks in the criminal world of Ottaviano, especially between narcos and extortionists. She bonds with a man who has just left the jail, Michele Auriemma, and starts a relationship with him. Michele Auriemma's fight to gain supremacy and new territories against the Nuova Famiglia stirs up the war against the Fabbrocino clan.

Marinella and Michele become two of the leaders of the Camorra but their raise suddenly stops: on 2007 November 26th Michele Auriemma organizes the assassination of Nicola Samarrazzo, a drug-dealer who has been cheating on the clan. The carabinieri find his body buried in a field and with it they find the evidences that bring to them.

This is how Michele and Marianella lose their power, how they get arrested and how Marianella's cooperation with the justice begins.