



[TIEFILM]

# Sofia's birthday

- Il compleanno di Sofia -

Written and directed by  
Annika Strøm, Saba Salvemini, Luca Franco

A shortfilm produced by  
Areté Ensemble and TIE FILM





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## Synopsis

The birthday of Sophie is the story of a young widow and widower who visit, in a silent and snow covered cemetery, the tombs of their spouses. They meet and fall in love.

The main characters are swept away by a desperate need for affection, fallen a sleep for many years, that calls them to give love another chance.

Life's inexorable and overwhelming force prevails sorrow and the feeling of guilt.

A silent meeting between two human beings coming from different worlds - she from the north and him a man of the south - united by death and by the will of living.

## Synopsis for public

A birthday spent in an ice-cold cemetery, with a surprising gift. A story inspired by a Japanese Haiku poem.

## Notes

The birthday of Sophie is a simple story where silence and nature play an important role. A chronicle that tells the ending of a winter and the beginning of a love story. No words are spoken between the two characters, only their bodies tell us the grief they are living. Their daily ritual tells us how far away they are from joyful living. In a place where death is playing the main part, nature responds with its sounds, recalls and sweet cruelty. The two main characters cannot resist to this primordial recall and as swept away they abandon themselves to the senses.

Nature calmly observes the happenings of life unrolling, while the human nature, destined to surrender to the ever altering of events, hides and waits for the inevitable change provoked by this meeting. This incapacity of man to control the destiny reflects the constant rebirth of the seasons in life and nature.

The final underlines the wonderful human possibility to overcome sorrow and feeling of guilt, in order to give a new meaning to life. Hope blossoms in the moment when we feel as most dead. A birthday in which the most precious gift is the return to life.

This short film is inspired by the following Haiku poetry :  
*(freely translated)*

In the fields of snow  
greenest is the green  
of the new grass

KONISHI RAIZAN (1653-1716)



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## Info

**Year:** 2010

**Duration:** 10,40 minutes

**Country of production:** Italy

**Location:** Norway

**Language:** No dialogue

**Subtitles:** No dialogue or subtitles

**Camera:** Canon 7D

**Video format:** Pal 16/9 DVD and Pal 16/9 Digital Betacam

**Manuscript:** Original

**Film rights:** Areté Ensemble and TIE Film

## Credits

### Direction

Annika Strøm, Saba Salvemini, Luca Franco

### Actors

Annika Strøm  
Saba Salvemini

### Idea/Subject

Annika Strøm

### Screenwriters

Annika Strøm, Saba Salvemini, Luca Franco

### Editor

Luca Franco

### D.O.P.

Luca Franco

### Sound

Filippo Quaglia

### Secretary of production

Serena Maffioli

### Distribution

Areté Ensemble  
Zerottanta Produzioni





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## History

The shortfilm was finished in December 2010

PRIZE "BEST SHORTFILM" Genova Film Festival (Obiettivo Liguria)(Ita)

PRIZE "BEST SHORTFILM" FuoridelComune Festival (Ita)

PRIZE "BEST ACTRESS" PiemonteMovieFestival (Ita)

PRIZE "BEST SOUND" Wordless Film Festival (Ita)

Presented at BiF&est Festival di Bari "Sez. Cinema e Puglia" (Ita)– "Schermi Irregolari 2011" (Ita) - Festival del Cinema Europeo – Puglia Show (Ita) - Skepto Film Festival (Ita) - Fuori del Comune Film Festival (Ita), Foggia Film Festival (Ita), Trani Film Festival (Ita), International Short Film Festival Detmold (Ger), David di Donatello (Ita), Acquedolci Independent Film Festival-AIFF (Ita), Lago Film Festival, Siff (Ita), Salento International Film Festival (Ita), Pentadattilo Film Festival (Ita). Registered in the **ShortFilm Corner 2011 – Cannes (Fra) - Marché du Court Métrage – Clermont-Ferrand 2012 (Fra)**. Registered in the **Anica Catalogue 2011** (Catalogue of Italian Short Film Production). **Eurochannel** has bought the shortfilm for the programmation of 2012/13.

### Info:

[www.areteensemble.com](http://www.areteensemble.com)

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## Curricula

Directors of "Il compleanno di Sofia" are: Annika Strøm, Saba Salvemini, Luca Franco.

**Annika Strøm** Born in 1972, Oslo, Norway. She received her diploma from the Nordic Theatre Academy conducted by Jurij Alschitz and with him she has worked as actress in various performances. She has studied/worked with among others A. Milenin, J.P. Dénizon, G. Borgia, G. Snelvedt, T. Ludovico, Ida Shigemi. In 2007 she established the association ARETE' ENSEMBLE together with Saba Salvemini. She lives and works in Italy since 2002.

**Saba Salvemini** born in 1973, Biella, Italy. He has his diploma from the Theatre Academy of Genova. He has worked with, among others, J. Alschitz, A. Milenin, J.P. Dénizon, G. Borgia, S. Gonnella, L. Sicignano, Ida Shigemi. In 2007 he established the association ARETE' ENSEMBLE together with Annika Strøm.

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### **Areté Ensemble**

Areté Ensemble is a cultural organisation founded in 2007. Arété Ensemble is an international and interdisciplinary cultural organisation. All members are free to persevere with their own work and to find themselves in Arété only when the need for a common project is arising. The education of its members is interdisciplinary just as the work they produce. Arété Ensemble works in the field of

teaching drama, theatre production, music and audiovisual production. Arété Ensemble collaborates with various national and International organisations and its theatre productions have guested numerous theatres and festivals. "Sofia's birthday" is the second short film produced by AE and the first one to be in collaboration with Luca Franco and TIEFILM. The first short film "Fenicotteri Game #1" has won the price of best short film at the Valpolicella Film Festival and has participated in the following festivals: FilmStock Festival (Luton-UK), PiemonteMovie Festival, Trani Film Festival and PalenaFilmFestival. For further information [www.areteensembleenglish.com](http://www.areteensembleenglish.com)

**Luca Franco / TIEFILM** Luca Franco, born in Genoa, Italy. He is director and photographer. He has for many years worked with TV, film and with bigger international events. He has realized theater performances, short films and documentaries. TIEFILM, seated in Genoa, is an organization that produces short films and documentaries. The main aim for TIEFILM is to build an artistic and technical platform in order to produce films in the region of Liguria and in the north of Italy.