

CAST & CREW

Written and directed by **Margherita Ferri**
Produced by **Chiara Galloni** and **Ivan Olgiati** – **Articolture**
Introducing **Eleonora Conti** and **Susanna Acchiardi** – With **Fabrizia Sacchi**
DOP: **Marco Ferri** – Editor: Mauro Rossi – OST: **Zero51 Audiolab** – Set design:
Nicola Bruschi – Costume: **Valentina Zizola** – Sound: **Giovanni Frezza**

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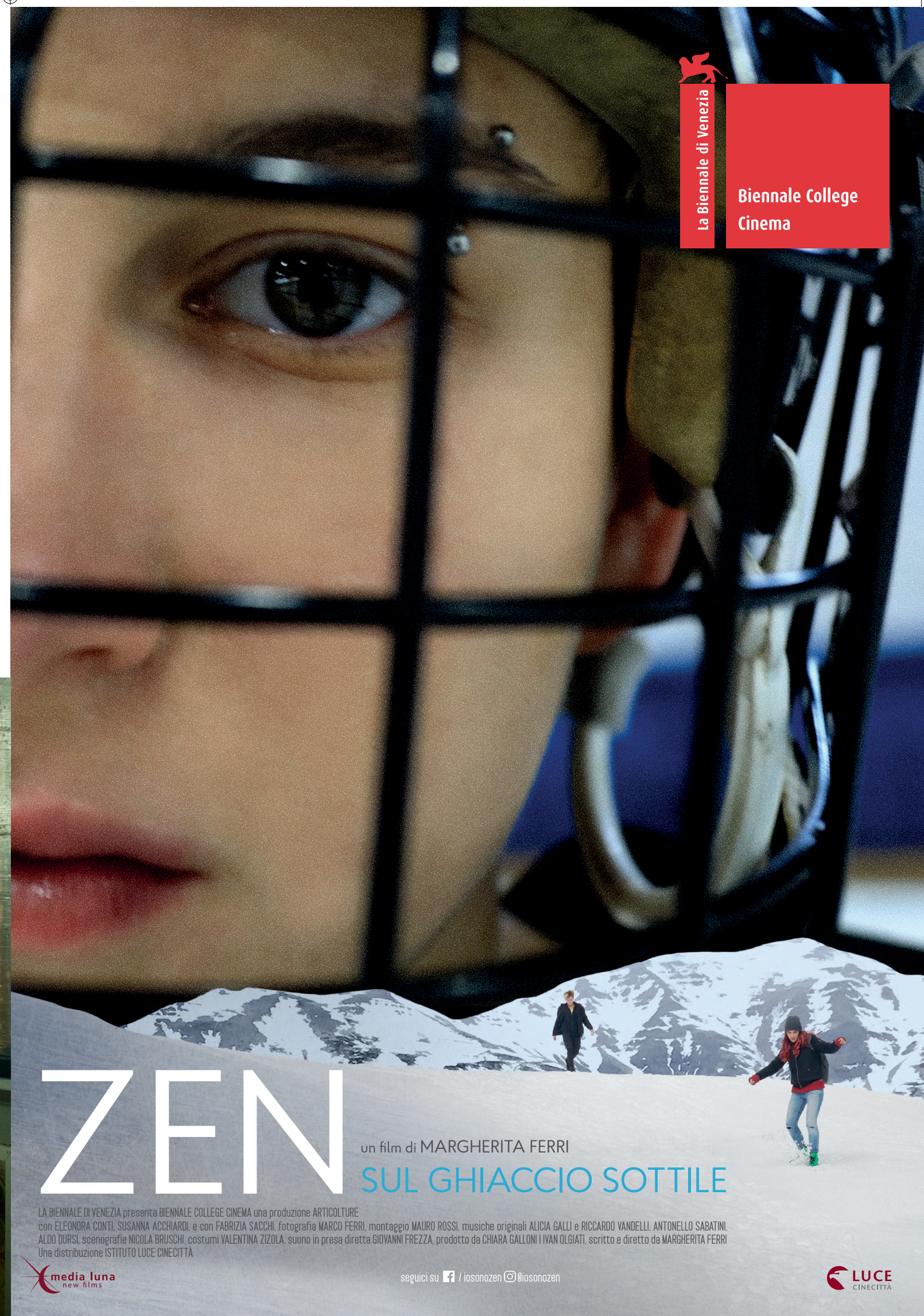
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The project has been selected for Biennale College – Cinema 2017/2018

La Biennale di Venezia

Biennale College
Cinema



ZEN

un film di MARGHERITA FERRI

SUL GHIACCIO SOTTILE

LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA presenta BIENNALE COLLEGE CINEMA una produzione ARTICOLTURE
con ELEONORA CONTI, SUSANNA ACCHIARDI, e con FABRIZIA SACCHI. fotografia MARCO FERRI, montaggio MAURO ROSSI, musiche originali ALICIA GALLI e RICCARDO VANDELLI, ANTONELLO SABATINI,
ALDO DIURSI, scenografie NICOLA BRUSCHI, costumi VALENTINA ZIZOLA, suono in presa diretta GIOVANNI FREZZA, prodotto da CHIARA GALLONI e IVAN OLGATI, scritto e diretto da MARGHERITA FERRI
Una distribuzione ISTITUTO LUCE CINECITTÀ



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SYNOPSIS

Maia, called ZEN, a rowdy yet solitary 16-year-old tomboy, lives in a small village on top of the rough and beautiful Italian Apennines. She's the only girl of the local ice hockey-team and she is constantly bullied by her teammates for her masculine attitude. When Vanessa - the beautiful and bewildered girlfriend of the team captain - runs away from home and hides in Maia's family lodge, Maia feels free to trust someone for the first time. Led by the need to break away from the roles that the small community has forced them to play, Maia and Vanessa embark on a journey of self-discovery: an exploration of their gender identity and sexuality, liquid and restless like the troubled time of youth.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

"Zen in the ice rift" is a coming of age story that follows the emotional journey of Maia aka Zen, a troubled teenager in search of her identity while struggling with the bullying and discrimination that comes from her peers.

Even though I've never played hockey, the trouble that Maia and Vanessa go through are part of my personal story: the restlessness of being an outsider as a teenager; the magic of being attracted to a girl without knowing what is happening or even how to name those feelings; the desire to be seen and accepted for who I am. These emotions are the very essence of my life as a teenager and of the film, that I'd like to consider a rare piece of queer Italian cinema.

The desire to bring a character like Maia who lives on the margins of her community to the centre of the storytelling is at the core of my vision as a director. The film, in fact, tells the conflict between the desire to fit in and the need to be accepted for who we are. It's about the oppression that gender roles and heteronormativity put on our society and the struggles that those who don't conform have to fight.

The journey that Maia goes through is depicted with lyrical images, visually juxtaposing the character and her emotions with the stunning, but often forgotten, natural landscape of the Apennines. With "Zen in the ice rift" I wanted to explore the relationship between the production of landscape and the identity of the community living in those territories. I also worked on the concept of an "emotional landscape" as an artistic tool to visually engage the audience into exploring the inner dimension of the character.

I wanted to make a unique piece of Italian contemporary cinema, deeply rooted in the LGBT+ community with the aim of taking the audience on a compelling journey of self-exploration in the troubled time of youth.

