



# MOTHERS

## LOOK BOOK

Contact:

Cecilia Albertini - Director

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# Logline:

MOTHERS is a 13 minutes drama about Maria, a financially strained single mom, works as a surrogate mother for another woman, Francesca. When doctors discover that the child Maria is carrying has a congenital defect and Francesca wants her to get an abortion, Maria realizes that she has grown attached to the life inside of her.

# Synopses:

Los Angeles, Present Day: Maria, 25, a financially strained single mother, is 4 months pregnant. But the baby she is expecting isn't hers - she is a gestational surrogate. The intended parent is Francesca, a well-off Italian woman whose eggs were planted into Maria's womb.

During a routine ultrasound, the doctor discovers that the baby has a brain defect, and Francesca chooses to terminate the pregnancy. But Francesca's anguished decision coincides with Maria's realisation of her own responsibility towards the life growing inside her body. However, Maria does not have a saying in the decision, and she has no choice but to follow the orders, as dictated by the contract she signed before starting the pregnancy.

# Characters:



**Maria** is 25, she is of Mexican descent. She is a single mother who works at a meat factory, struggling to provide for her 4 year old son, Juan. She decided to work as a surrogate mostly for financial reasons, and every day she has to make a conscious effort not to grow attached to the life inside of her.



**Francesca** is 37, and she is an Italian woman who resorted to surrogacy after many failed attempts at getting pregnant. Since surrogacy is illegal in most European countries, Francesca had to hire a surrogate in California. When she is told that the baby she's been waiting for so long has a brain defect, her whole world crushes down. She has to make a very difficult and anguished decision that will change her life.

# Director's Statement:

I first became interested in surrogacy after reading an article about Italian couples that fly overseas to hire surrogate mothers in California.

Since paid surrogacy is illegal in most European countries, couples often go to America or Mexico in order to hire a surrogate.

Surrogacy is becoming more and more a common practice, providing a great option for infertile couples that want children.

But when something goes wrong, things can become really complicated.

I am always attracted to complex and nuanced stories and dilemmas.

I also strongly believe in a woman's right to choose. But in the instance of surrogacy, since there are two mothers involved, it's hard to determine which one of the two women has the right to choose.

Stories like this happen more often than we think, and I believe that they deserve to be told.



# The Team:

**Cecilia Albertini**

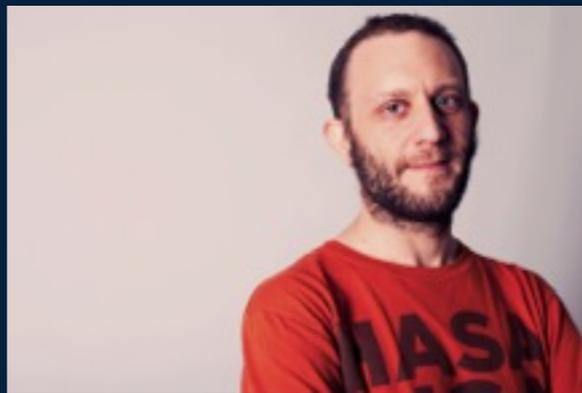
co-writer/director



Cecilia was born and raised in Milano, Italy. After working as an actress in film and TV in Italy, she moved to the U.S. to pursue her B.A. at Columbia University and then her M.F.A. in Film at UCLA. She is the recipient of the Delia Salvi Award and the Motion Pictures Association Award at UCLA. Mothers is Cecilia's thesis film.

**Gregory J. Rossi**

producer



Gregory was born in Rome and is an alumnus of the legendary Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia. In 2005 he founded NeroFilm, producing two award winning feature films, Gabriele Albanesi's *Il Bosco Fuori*, and Simone Bartolini's *Le Formiche della Città Morta*, which gained international acclaim and distribution. He works between Rome and Los Angeles as a versatile producer-director. Most recently, he produced *Viola, Franca*, which premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2017.

**Andrea Brusa**

writer



Andrea was born and raised in Milano, Italy. After pursuing an M.F.A. in Screenwriting at UCLA, Andrea wrote and directed the award-winning short *RESPIRO*, and co-wrote the short film *Viola, Franca*, which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2017.