

Cohen Media Group Presents

NOWHERE SPECIAL



A Red Wave Film

Produced by Picomedia, Digital Cube and N.S.L.

With Rai Cinema

Starring James Norton

and introducing Daniel Lamont

Written, produced and directed by Uberto Pasolini

Produced by Roberto Sessa, Cristian Nicolescu

An Italy, Romania and UK co-production

With the support of Eurimages, the Romanian Film Centre and Northern Ireland Screen

US DISTRIBUTOR

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NOWHERE SPECIAL



LOGLINE

A single father dedicates the last few months of his life to finding a new family for his four-year-old son.

SYNOPSIS

John, a 35-year-old window cleaner, has dedicated his life to bringing up his 4-year-old son, Michael, after the child's mother left them soon after giving birth. When John is given only a few months left to live, he attempts to find a new, perfect family for Michael, determined to shield him from the terrible reality of the situation. Although initially certain of what he is looking for in the perfect family, John gradually abandons his early convictions, overwhelmed by doubts on the decision. How can he judge a family from a brief encounter? And does he know his own child well enough to make this choice for him? As John struggles to find the right answer to his impossible task, he comes to accept the help of a young social worker, opening himself to solutions he would never have considered. And he finally comes to accept his anger at the injustice of his destiny, the need to share the truth with his son, and to follow the child's instincts on the biggest decision of their lives.

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WRITER / DIRECTOR'S NOTE - UBERTO PASOLINI

I wanted to make this film as soon as I read about the case of a terminally ill father attempting to find a new family for his toddler son before his death. Although the situation the main characters find themselves in is very dramatic, the decision at script level was to approach the story in a very subtle, "quiet" way, as far away from melodrama and sentimentalism as possible, as in a film by Yasujiro Ozu, or, more recently, the work of Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne. This approach was reflected in the style of the film-making we adopted, direct and free from distracting stylistic flourishes. Marius Panduru's camera work was designed to be both fluid and unobtrusive, when appropriate even reflecting the child's point of view. The main directorial challenge of the film was that of working with a very young child, and of creating a believable and moving father-son relationship on camera. Fortunately, in young Daniel Lamont, then four years old, we have an extraordinarily aware and sensitive natural performer, and in James Norton a most generous actor, who was happy to dedicate long days into creating a connection with the boy well ahead of the shoot, and to support and guide Daniel throughout what for any child would have been an intense and at times bewildering experience.

PRODUCERS' NOTE - ROBERTO SESSA, CRISTIAN NICOLESCU

With "Nowhere Special", inspired by actual events and telling a moving and compelling story of parenthood, Pasolini adopts again a low key approach to explore universal themes, drawing the audience's involvement and identification with the main protagonists and the dramatic situation they confront. The director has spoken about the work of Yasujiro Ozu, or, more recently, that of Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne, as main reference points for this film, and, in his own small way, and without pretending to emulate them, he was able to use the apparently "simple" approach of those masters with very moving results in his last feature, "Still Life." "Nowhere Special" offers an original take on the subject of parenthood, both through the experience of the two central characters and the varied lives of the potential adopters they come into contact with. It stands out in its work with a very young child, and in the construction of an absolutely believable father-son relationship on screen.

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BIOGRAPHY - UBERTO PASOLINI

Uberto Pasolini founded Red Wave Films in 1993. He produced "The Full Monty," which took over 250 million dollars at the worldwide box office, won a Bafta for Best Film and was nominated for four Oscars including Best Picture. Other Red Wave produced films include "Palookaville" and "The Emperor's New Clothes." In 2007 Uberto directed, wrote and produced "Machan," winner of numerous international awards including the Europa Cinemas Label Award in Venice. "Still Life," his second feature, starred Eddie Marsan and Joanne Froggatt and went on to win Best Director, Orizzonti, Venice 2013 and numerous international festival awards. "Nowhere Special" starring James Norton premiered in Orizzonti at the 2020 Venice Film Festival. Numerous festival awards included the Audience Awards at the Warsaw FF, Valladolid and Pula. His latest feature "The Return," starring Ralph Fiennes and Juliette Binoche, was shot last summer in Corfu and Rome and is currently in post-production. Past TV credits include "The Full Monty" series for Disney on which he was the Executive Producer.

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CAST BIOGRAPHY - JAMES NORTON

James Norton is best known for his roles in the popular British television series "Happy Valley," "McMafia," "War and Peace" and "Granchester." In 2013, he was chosen by Screen International as one of their "Stars of Tomorrow," in 2015 he was nominated for a BAFTA TV Award for Best Supporting Actor for his work on "Happy Valley" and in 2021 was nominated for a BIFA (Best Actor) for "Nowhere Special." His work encompasses stage and screen; his most recent theatre performance in Ivo Van Hove's staging of "A Little Life," for which James garnered an Olivier Award nomination for his role as 'Jude.' His screen work includes Greta Gerwig's "Little Women," the Netflix thriller "Things Seen and Heard" with Amanda Seyfried, HBO Series "The Nevers," Agnieszka Holland's "Mr Jones" and most recently as the legendary record producer, Chris Blackwell, in the blockbuster hit, "Bob Marley: One Love." Other credits include "Black Mirror," "Dr Who," Ron Howard's "Rush" alongside Chris Hemsworth and Olivia Wilde and "An Education" with Carey Mulligan and Rosamund Pike. He graduated from Cambridge University and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA).

CAST BIOGRAPHY - DANIEL LAMONT

Daniel Lamont made his acting debut at the age of 4 in the leading role of Michael in "Nowhere Special." For his performance opposite James Norton, Daniel was nominated for "Young British/Irish Performer of the Year" by the London Film Critics Circle. Since "Nowhere Special," Daniel has also starred in the BBC Northern Ireland comedy "St Mungo's" (2022), Sky One's Christmas Eve drama "The Heist Before Christmas" (2023) and the Paramount+ limited series "The Doll Factory" (2023).

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PRODUCER'S BIOGRAPHY - ROBERTO SESSA / PICOMEDIA

Roberto Sessa is the former CEO of Fremantle in Italy, former Board Member at Fremantle Spain, former Vice President of the European Coordination Independent Producers (CEPI), and Co-Founder and Member of the Board of the Italian Association Television Producers (A.P.A.) as well as Owner and Founder of Picomedia. Founded in 2010, Picomedia regularly cooperates with RAI Fiction, Warner Bros, Medusa, Mediaset, Mediaset Espana, Globo, Mediterranea, RAICinema, Wild Bunch, Beta and TF1.

PRODUCER'S BIOGRAPHY - CRISTIAN NICOLESCU / DIGITAL CUBE

Cristian Nicolescu holds the title of the youngest editor nominated for the Gopo Awards - the most important distinction awarded by the industry to Romanian professionals. His latest projects include co-producing "Donbass" (directed by Sergey Loznitsa, Un Certain Regard Award, 2018), the 2017 Golden Bear winner, "Ana Mon Amour" and 2016 Semaine de la Critique winner, "Albüm". He is CEO and co-founder of Digital Cube - Eastern Europe's most comprehensive production and post-production facility, regularly cooperating with Netflix, HBO Europe, the Berlinale EFM, Cannes Marché du Film and AFM.

NOWHERE SPECIAL



CAST

John
Michael
Shona
Ella
Rosemary

James Norton
Daniel Lamont
Eileen O'Higgins
Valerie O'Connor
Stella McCusker

CREW

Written, produced and directed by
Producers
Director of photography
Editors
Casting
Production designer
Costume designer
Make-up artist

Uberto Pasolini
Roberto Sessa, Cristian Nicolescu
Marius Panduru rsc
Masahiro Hirakubo, Saska Simpson
Carla Stronge csa
Patrick Creighton
Maggie Donnelly
Polly Mckay

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Shooting Locations
Running time
Screen Ratio
Format

Belfast, Northern Ireland
96 min
1.85:1
Digital