



"A FEAST FOR THE SENSES"



COHEN MEDIA GROUP PRESENTS

Trifole

A FILM BY

GABRIELE FABBRO

COHEN MEDIA GROUP PRESENTS

Trifole

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When a drifting young woman travels from London to care for her ailing grandfather in Italy's truffle country, their unlikely bond leads her on a magical hunt for a legendary truffle that could save his home—and change her life.

Runtime 100 mins

Genre Adventure, Drama

Location Alba, Piedmont, Italy and surrounds

Languages English, Italian

Director Gabriele Fabbro

Cast Ydalie Turk

Umberto Orsini

Margherita Buy

Enzo Iacchetti

Production TrifoleMovie Srl in association with Cinefonie Scarl

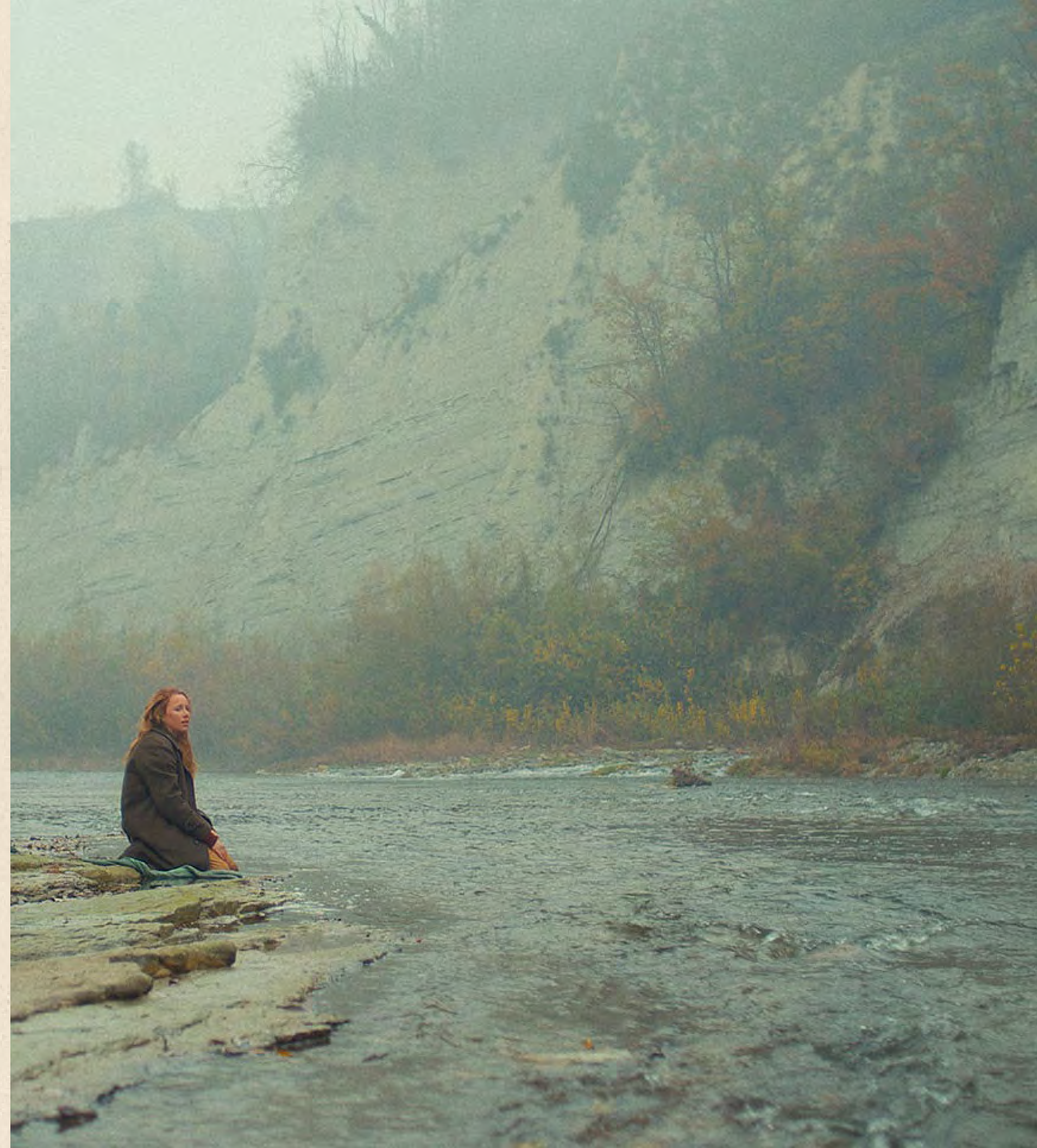
Rating Unrated



In Italy's Piedmont region, the rare white truffle hides deep in the forests around Alba. Igor, an aging truffle hunter, faces failing health and vanishing woodlands while struggling to keep pace with the modern truffle market. Into his quiet, tradition-bound world comes Dalia, his 28-year-old granddaughter from London, disconnected from her roots and searching for direction. Tasked with caring for him, their awkward reunion softens as she's drawn into his passion for truffle hunting—and his world.

When an accounting oversight threatens Igor's home, Dalia embarks on a quest to find a legendary "lightning-struck" truffle that could save everything. Guided by Igor's notes and his faithful dog, Birba, she ventures into a magical forest, confronting rival hunters, unexpected danger, and her own awakening sense of purpose. Set against the earthly beauty of Piedmont's autumn woods and the delirium of Alba's centuries-old truffle fair, *Trifole* is a fantastical and profound adventure about family, tradition and finding one's place in the world.

From filmmaker Gabriele Fabbro, one of *MovieMaker Magazine's* 2022 screenwriters to watch, and co-written by rising star Ydelie Turk, *Trifole* stars Italian screen legends Umberto Orsini (Luchino Visconti's *The Damned*) and Margherita Buy, seven-time David di Donatello Award-winner.



LANGHE'S TRUFFLE FORAGING: HERITAGE AND SIGNIFICANCE

Trifole probes the enduring ethos of the Langhe, a region where farming and foraging still shape memory and identity. For generations, the white truffle has been a gastronomic delight and a marker of place, family and connection with the land. Set against the earthly beauty of Piedmont's autumn woods and the delirium of Alba's centuries-old truffle fair, Trifole is a profound adventure about family, tradition and finding one's place in the world.

The story of **Trifole** is steeped in myth and rooted in truth. The filmmakers spent years researching the story by speaking with farmers and foragers, and the script evolved more like documentary than fiction. Igor Bianco exists; Birba the dog is also a real truffle hunter. The fair, the auctions, the truffle princesses and opera singers—all unfold in life and on screen. What emerges is not fantasy, but a portrait of a world both ancient and endangered.

UNESCO Recognition of Traditional Knowledge

Truffle hunting and extraction in Italy—featuring the skilled tartufai (truffle hunters) and their dogs following centuries-old oral practices—was inscribed in 2021 on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. This designation underscores the cultural value and enduring tradition of truffle foraging, which remains a living practice deeply woven into rural life.

Cultural and Historical Roots in Langhe

Langhe, a rolling hilly area in Piedmont's Cuneo and Asti provinces, is

renowned for its white truffles of Alba—an emblem of regional gastronomic heritage alongside celebrated wines and cheeses. Historically, foraging served as a critical food source in a once-impoverished rural landscape, and the region's terrain and traditions are prominently depicted in the literature of native authors like Cesare Pavese and Beppe Fenoglio.

Contemporary Revival and Culinary Prestige

Today, truffle hunting is both a cultural touchstone and a tourist attraction. Condé Nast Traveler vividly describes the Langhe landscape and the tradition of truffle hunting, highlighting how skilled hunters—accompanied by their dogs—continue to bring prized white truffles to modern tables, enriching Italy's fine dining scene. These efforts illustrate how an essential survival craft has transformed into a symbol of luxury and regional pride.

Environmental Foundations of Truffle Growth

From a scientific perspective, truffles form symbiotic relationships (ectomycorrhizal) with trees such as oak, hazel, and beech, particularly thriving in well-drained, neutral to alkaline soils—conditions that the Langhe hills naturally provide. This ecological basis is fundamental to why the area remains one of Italy's prime truffle foraging landscapes.

Truffles by Any Other Name

In Italian, the word for "truffle" is tartufo, however in the Piedmontese dialect of the language, you'll often hear trifola, where truffle hunters are referred to as trifolao.

Trifole takes its title from this translation.

FILMMAKER'S STATEMENT

Our story probes themes of preservation. Preservation of nature, memory, traditions, home and family. We set the film in the Langhe because it is one of the few places in the world where life still revolves around these elements. Trifole is an intimate portrait not only of a family, but also of the region itself, suspended between deep-rooted farming and foraging traditions and the fast-moving modernity reshaping the landscape.

Around the world, people enjoy truffles as a remarkable gastronomic experience. This film illuminates the provenance, terroir and traditions of Northern Italy's ancient truffle-foraging community, making clear that truffles are not only a luxury to be consumed—they are a way of life.

The idea for the film began with my personal connection to truffles. I grew up in Milan, and as a child, my family traveled to Alba every autumn to eat fresh tagliolini al tartufo. Every time the waiter came to shave truffles on our plates, he told fascinating stories about the truffle hunter who brought that truffle to the restaurant. In my child's eyes, it seemed like a secret treasure hunt. That ritual sparked my lifelong curiosity about how truffles are foraged and the people who dedicate their lives to finding them.

Over time, my conversations with farmers and foragers revealed that even the Langhe is now vulnerable to climate change and human interference. As truffles became scarcer, for me, they came to symbolize the gifts of the land, and the rituals and traditions at risk of disappearance. They embody values of affection, passion and family love that our modern world often leaves behind.

Igor is a character rooted in those values, living by the rhythm of nature and in close bond with his dog. His way of life stands in sharp contrast to a new world that is rapidly consuming the land, its professions and its fruits. The destruction of old-growth trees to expand vineyards and the poisoning of truffle dogs are not dramatic devices—they are real, urgent threats in the Langhe today.

Some may think our story is a fable, but we invented nothing. Actress Ydalie Turk and I spent years gathering accounts from farmers and truffle institutions. The script evolved more like a documentary than a work of fiction.

Igor Bianco is a real person. The Alba Truffle Fair, the auction, the truffle princesses, the opera singers all unfold in real life as they do on screen. For us, it was essential to reflect the truth of the people and the place. The film became a kind of manifesto for the Langhe, capturing its beauty while acknowledging its challenges. Above all, it honors a region still fighting to preserve its bond with nature.

Making Trifole was only possible through a remarkable collaboration—Umberto Orsini, Ydalie Turk, Birba, our tireless truffle-hunting dog, and Italian screen legend Margherita Buy all brought extraordinary depth to the world we sought to portray. Behind the camera, I was surrounded by a family of fiercely talented filmmakers and producers who shared my commitment to telling this story with honesty and respect for the people and the land of the Langhe.

GABRIELE FABBRO

DIRECTOR AND CO-WRITER



YDALIE TURK

CO-WRITER AND LEAD ACTOR, DALIA

She is a South African actress and writer who was named screenwriter to Watch in 2022 by MovieMaker Magazine for The Grand Bolero. She received her acting BFA in Los Angeles, and currently resides in Cape Town where she works in Film, Television, and on Stage. Aside from starring in the film Color of Dreams, 2022 was dedicated to the theatre. She played Orpheus in Sarah Ruhl's Eurydice. Thereafter, she starred as Katjia in a production of Zakes Mda's The Bells of Amersfoort, and starred in Green Room written by Dominic Pretorius and novelist Keely Shinnars. Finally, in 2023, she wrote and starred in a run of Before the Second Advent, which toured multiple theatres in Cape Town.



UMBERTO ORSINI

LEAD ACTOR, IGOR

He is an Italian stage, television and film actor. Born in Novara, Orsini gave up his career as notary to attend the Accademia Nazionale di Arte Drammatica Silvio D'Amico. In the late 1950s, he emerged as a talented stage actor, and in 1960, for the theatrical representation of "L'Arielda", he worked for the first time with Luchino Visconti. After a few secondary roles (that include Federico Fellini's "La Dolce Vita"), Orsini debuted in a leading role in 1962 with the film "Il mare", directed by Giuseppe Patroni Griffi. In 1969, he was awarded with the Nastro d'Argento for Best Supporting Actor for his performance in Visconti's "The Damned". His popularity is mostly coming from television where his biggest success was in 1969 with the role of Ivan Karamazov into the drama "fratelli Karamazov" from Sandro Bolchi. In 2008, he was nominated for a David di Donatello for Best Supporting Actor for his role in Il mattino ha l'oro in bocca.



MARGHERITA BUY

SUPPORTING ACTOR, MARTA

She is one of the most appreciated actresses of European cinema and currently the most relevant Italian Actress. She is the only actress to be a seven-time David di Donatello Awards winner and seven-time Nastro d'argento winner. She was in every major Italian production of the past decades. Over the years, she has worked with prominent directors such as Ferzan Özpetek in "Le fate ignoranti" (2001) and Nanni Moretti in "Il caimano" (2006). Moretti has directed her in several films, so much so that she is considered his muse. In recent years, she continued to shine on the big screen in films such as "My Mother" (2015) directed by Nanni Moretti, winning additional major awards. Her career is studded with successes in television (Bellocchio's 'Esterno notte' series, among others) and film, demonstrating her adaptability and talent. In 2023, Buy tried her hand as a director, presenting in 2023 her first film, "Volare."

"I'm passionate about preserving local traditions that are disappearing, and aim to present them to international audiences in a magical way. With Trifole I want to tell a dynamic story with an adventurous tone to underline the immense importance for all of us to conserve and respect nature as well as portray the value of family and one's roots.

The dynamics between Dalia and Igor, were inspired by the relationship I had with my grandfather, who recently passed away due to Parkinson's. His illness prevented us from communicating and after relocating to America, I was not present in the last years of his life and at the time of his death. I have created this film to fill this regret and immortalize my grandfather on the big screen, describing him in the most sincere way."

GABRIELE FABBRO

DIRECTOR AND CO-WRITER

Named by MovieMaker Magazine as one of 2022's screenwriters to watch, Gabriele Fabbro was born in 1996, in Milan, Italy. He's a film director with a BFA degree in Filmmaking from the New York Film Academy. Since 2011, he has written, directed and produced over 30 productions including features, shorts, music videos and commercials. Among his most recent works, he directed the music video "If You Run (2020)" for Josh Homme (Queens of the Stone Age). His short film "8 (2019)" screened at the 76 Venice Film Festival and "The Grand Bolero", his first feature film, premiered at the 2021 Austin Film Festival and is being distributed on Prime Video.

**BIRBA**

THE DOG

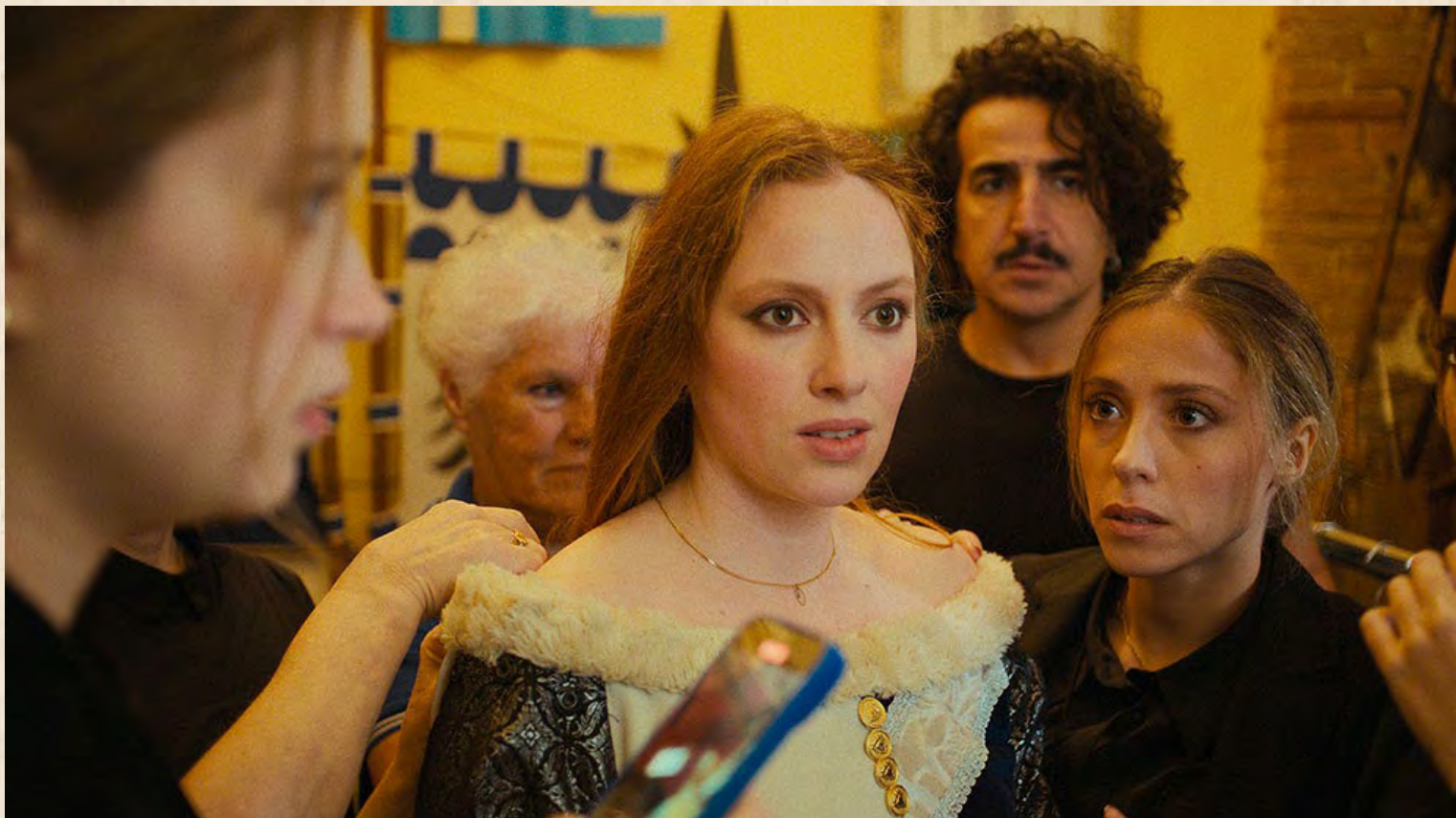
Born in August 2010 in the Piedmont village of La Morra, Birba was trained by her first owner Aurelio, a skilled and respected trifolau (truffle hunter), who raised her with love and discipline. From a young age, Birba showed exceptional talent and sensitivity, quickly becoming one of the most skilled truffle dogs in the region.

After Aurelio's sudden passing in 2020, Birba was adopted by Marisa and Franco, who cared for her through her grief. Day by day, she rebuilt her trust and joy through truffle hunting, an activity that became both play and healing. Her new owner discovered not only a loyal companion, but a dog of extraordinary intelligence: Birba could distinguish different truffle species, gently retrieve them without damage, and even help at home by bringing objects like phones, keys, or slippers.

But Birba's journey didn't end in the woods, it continued on screen. In 2020, she made her film debut in *The Truffle Hunters*, the acclaimed documentary by Michael Dweck and Gregory Kershaw, which premiered at Sundance and explored the disappearing world of traditional truffle hunting in rural Piedmont.

In 2024, Birba returned to the spotlight with a central role in *Trifole*, a poetic drama directed by Gabriele Fabbro. The film was released theatrically in Italy and had its international premiere at the Palm Springs Film Festival in 2025. Alongside Marisa and Franco, Birba also took part in the Italian promotional tour of the film, winning hearts once again, both in the forest and on the red carpet.

With her gentle temperament and intuitive nature, Birba has been called 'a heart wrapped in soft fur' and no description could be more accurate.



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