

CASANOVA

RAI FICTION

*Present*



**THE DREAM OF THE MARATHON MAN**

**DIRECTED BY**  
**LEONE POMPUCCI**

**STARRING**  
**LUIGI LO CASCIO**  
**LAURA CHIATTI**  
**DAJANA RONCIONE**

**AND WITH**  
**ALESSANDRO HABER**  
**THOMAS TRABACCHI**  
**FABIO FULCO**

**AND WITH A SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY**  
**PIPPO DEL BUONO**

## **THE PROJECT**

Mini television series in two 100' episodes for Rai Uno  
based on the novel by Giuseppe Pederiali.

First take 14 June 2010.

Produced with the financial support of the Torino Piemonte Film Commission.

## TECHNICAL CREW

<i>Producer</i>	Luca Barbareschi
<i>Rai Producer</i>	Francesco Nardella
<i>Directed by</i>	Leone Pompucci
<i>Screenplay</i>	Gualtiero Rosella Pietro Calderoni
<i>Written with</i>	Grazia Giardiello Roberto Jannone
<i>Casting</i>	Loredana Scaramella
<i>Production Director</i>	Claudio Gaeta
<i>Press Office</i>	Antonio Naselli tel. +39 06 6864849 a.naselli@casanovamultimedia.it

## PLOT SYNOPSIS

Dorando Pietri was born into a family of poor folk. All he is acquainted with are the fields, a square in Carpi during holidays, and the dirt road that borders on rows of poplar trees. As a child he was always irresistibly fascinated by that road that ended beyond the horizon. And he began running as a child because nothing is needed to run, all you need is the empty space in front of you...

Pericle Barbolini, the Italian marathon champion who races for the same team that counted Dorando out, is participating in a demonstrative race in Carpi. Dorando has a befuddled expression on his face as he watches the champion. The difference between the two men is impressive: Barbolini is tall and thin, while Dorando is short and clumsy. The race begins. Although he has not registered in the race, Dorando is hot on the heels of his idol-enemy since he believes he is partly responsible for his brother being banished from town. Holding a tray of pastries in his hand, Dorando flanks his rival and speaks to him. This bothers Pericle: who is this young man running at his side and keeping his pace? He pushes him away and Dorando falls down on the ground. This is just the beginning of the bitter rivalry that surges up between these two men. Dorando catches up to Barbolini, overtakes him during the last few metres, and soars through the finish line before him.

People at the finish line are taken aback, they don't know who they have to applaud: whether it should be the "regular" winner or that unknown intruder.

Dorando has beaten the great Barbolini and ends up in the newspapers. Even King Vittorio Emanuele III, who is in turn a short man, is impressed by the photograph of the little Dorando next to the great Barbolini. It's the image of David against Goliath.

Dorando and Pericle become the "contenders" of an endless challenge, which not only involves sports but also love. Dorando and Pericle are in love with the same woman - Luciana.

One challenge after the next, Dorando is selected for the Olympic Games.

London, 24 July 1908. It's an exceptionally humid day and the difficult itinerary has made the competition an even more selective one. Soon the marathon turns into an elimination race. The athletes drop out of the race one by one, since they can't keep up to their own pace. Dorando on the other hand, marches ahead with his soft and regular run.

Slightly more than one kilometre away from the finish line, he's alone in the lead. As the Italian athlete makes his way into the White City stadium in London, he is welcomed by a first round of whispered surprise that immediately turns into a loud ovation.

Dorando only has to run half a lap around the track and then through the finish line, but he's at his rope's end: exhausted by the strain, his mind befuddled, about to have a complete physical breakdown, he runs into the wrong track! Both the public and the authorized staff lead him back to the right direction and towards the finish line. He falls down, picks himself up and begins to run again. The only thing that drives him on is his determination. In the meantime the second athlete, Hayes from the U.S.A., makes his way into the stadium and quickly approaches. Dorando is just a few metres away from the ribbon that will mark his victory and his entrance into the annals of history. He falls down once again. A judge walks up to him and helps him all the way to the finish line. Because of that help, Dorando is disqualified from the race.

He loses a victory that was a lifetime dream, but his deeds would soon lead him to becoming a sports hero. The British public opinion is so taken by his race that Queen Alexandra feels the need to present him with a golden trophy full of pound sterling coins exactly like the one awarded to the winner of the race, Johnny Hayes, the second one to cross the finish line.

Yet Dorando's defeat is worth a thousand victories. His name is famous all over the world, so much so that Hayes invites him to the States for a challenge that will decide who the stronger of the two is – once and for all.

Dorando does not want to accept the invitation, but he receives a letter from Luciana – the woman contended by himself and Barbolini. Luciana had left the two of them when she moved to live in the United States and in the letter she tells him about herself and about her son... In the meantime Dorando has married another woman, namely Teresa who is the daughter of his trainer, who cannot bear him any children. The letter kindles his passion for Luciana all over again. He imagines that the child might be his own. He sets off for America, towards a dream of love and glory. Teresa stays behind at home. She is aware of the whole story and her heart bleeds with sorrow.

Dorando's American adventure witnesses him having to do with sinister characters involved in illegal gambling, although he is always pure in his sports spirit and in his patriotic ideals: he runs and wins not only for himself, but for all of his fellow countrymen, the poor outcast emigrants who get their revenge against their "hosts" thanks to Dorando's deeds.

Although scattered with victories, that experience ultimately forces him to decide that Italy is his home and that Teresa is his only true love. He realizes that he must go all the way down the dirt road that once fascinated him as a child.

So Dorando decides to go back home, but he wants to meet Barbolini since his image has always accompanied him every step of the way, spurring him on to overcome the moments of inevitable exhaustion during the course of the race, helping him to win them.

He wants to challenge him again, like in the past. But Barbolini, a former champion who has fallen into oblivion, has been enlisted in the army. Dorando decides to follow him to war, where he manages to meet the rival who has ultimately become a friend of his.

There they are: the eternal rivals, one in front of the other. They look like ghosts. They are not surrounded by poplar trees or fields, but only by the cries and suffering caused by war. They two rival/friends exchange just a few words. Dorando challenges him in the middle of hell. The challenge is accepted. Two men together as one, under the shining sun in a war scenario, the time has come for the attack... they jump out of the trench together... and together they run...

The deeds of Dorando Pietri, especially his marathon during the Olympic Games in London, have contributed towards making a modern epic out of sports with its winners, losers, dramas, small and great heroes. His epic and adventurous story, the fact that he was always pure in his ideals as a true sportsman, his legendary races make this television drama a very interesting product for the public.

The movie is directed by Leone Pompucci, based on the story and screenplay by Gualtiero Rosella and Pietro Calderoni, written together with Grazia Giardiello and Roberto Jannone.

The first take was in June 2010 and the last take was in August.

Television network RAI 1. Prime-time.

Production: Casanova Multimedia S.p.A.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

### LEONE POMPUCCI

Leone Pompucci was born in Rome on 15 August 1961.

Graduated from the Avogadro institute in Rome, followed by studies at the National Santa Cecilia Conservatory.

Profession:

**1982-1989.** Began his career as a photographer. He conceived and produced covers for the most important Italian and European weekly magazines: Der Spiegel, L'Express, Panorama, L'Espresso, L'Europeo and Famiglia Cristiana.

**1989-1992.** Began his experience as scriptwriter.

Won the 1992 Solinas Award with the screenplay for the feature film "Mille Bolle Blu".

**1993.** Made his directing debut with the film "Mille Bolle Blu".

Produced by Mario and Vittorio Cecchi Gori, which was awarded:  
the Ciak D'oro during the 50th Venice International Film Festival;  
the David di Donatello prize;  
the International Stockholm Film Festival;  
the Vevey Festival.

**1994.** With the screenplay for "Controfagotto", he was granted the "Manuscript du Vercorin" International Screenplay Award.

**1994-2009.** Began working in the advertising field, directing successful campaigns for the most important Italian and foreign trademarks: Agip, Alitalia, Banca Popolare Lodi, Barilla, Brio Blu, Brondi Telefonica, Buitoni, Cameo, Credito Italiano, Corriere della Sera, Dreher,

Fabbri Editore, Ford, Garzanti, Granarolo, H 3 G, INA Assicurazioni, Infiore, La Stampa, L'Espresso, Motta, Nissan, Negroni, Riso Gallo, Sanbitter, Telecom, Tim, Uliveto, Rocchetta and Dash.

Over the years, these commercials have awarded him six "Key Awards" and the "Trenta secondi d'oro" prize.

Worked with the following spokespersons: Roberto Baggio, Piero Chiambretti, Diego Abatantuono, Massimo Boldi, Alessandro Del Piero, Flavio Insinna, Simona Marchini, Claudio Amendola, Dario Vergassola, Stefano Bollani, Max Tortora, Cristina Chiabotto. Fabio De Luigi and Claudia Gerini.

**1995.** Directed the film entitled "Camerieri" starring Diego Abatantuono, Paolo Villaggio and Ciccio Ingrassia.

Produced by Vittorio Cecchi Gori...

Which awarded him with two Nastri d'Argento prizes:

Nastro d'Argento for the Best Screenplay category;

Nastro d'Argento for the Best Supporting Actress (Regina Bianchi).

**2000.** Produced by Vittorio Cecchi Gori. Starring Carlo Buccirosso, Claudio Amendola and Emilio Solfrizzi. Directed his third movie called "Il Grande Botto".

Success with the critics.

**2002-2003.** Directed twelve episodes of the Rai Uno series called "Don Matteo", starring Terence Hill. His episodes obtain excellent ratings and win:

the International Monte-Carlo Fiction Festival";

the 2003 Flaiano Prize with one of the leading actors.

**From 2002.** Creation and direction of all the Uliveto e Rocchetta commercials starring Alessandro Del Piero and Cristina Chiabotto.

**From 2005.** Creation and direction of all the Brio Blu commercials starring Insinna, Tortora and Margiotta.

**2004.** Screenplay and direction for Rai Uno of "La fuga degli Innocenti".

A two-episode film about fleeing Jewish children during World War II.

Starring: Max von Sydow, Ken Duken, Ennio Fantastichini, Jasmine Trinca and Toni Bertorelli.

The mini series wins:

the Flaiano prize as Best Television Drama of the Year;

“Jewish Eye” World Festival of Jewish Films in Israel;

Silver FIPA at the Biarritz International Festival;

Jury’s Award at the Le Monde International Festival in Reims;

the International Shanghai Television Festival as Best Movie Direction;

the International Shanghai Television Festival as Best Movie Technology and Music;

a special mention for Photography at the Monte-Carlo Festival;

the Bar International TV Festival in Montenegro as Best Movie Direction;

the Grolla d’Oro as Best Television Drama Story;

Special Jury’s Award during the 29th Golden Chest Festival. Bulgaria;

the Bulgarian Writers Guild Award as Best Original Music Score.

This television drama has received most awards in the history of Italian television.

As scriptwriter and director, he is working on a new film with Alberto Grimaldi (producer for Fellini, Pasolini, Sergio Leone and “Last Tango in Paris”).

Presently his commercials being broadcast are: Dash with Fabio De Luigi;

Uliveto e Rocchetta with Alessandro del Piero and Cristina Chiabotto;

Brio Blu with Dario Vergassola and Stefano Bollani.