



THE ACADEMY
OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES

84th Academy Awards Nominee Questionnaire

Enrico Casarosa / Nominated for: **Animated Short category for “La Luna”**

What is your hometown? Where did you go to school?

Genoa, Italy.

My elementary school was called “Maria Mazzini”.

What was your first movie-going experience, and how did it affect you?

I saw “E.T.” in a theater when I was eleven. I remember absolutely loving it and also being blown away and a tad scared by the fact a movie could make me feel sad and cry. The other memory I have is of watching “Blade Runner.” I loved that movie to no end and I still remember clearly the Rutger Hauer/Roy Batty monologue I memorized as a thirteen year old: “I’ve seen things you people wouldn’t believe, attack ships on fire off the shoulder of Orion... “ :)

What’s the most valuable piece of advice you ever got in your career?

I took to heart this Billy Wilder quote, “Follow your instincts and the mistakes you make will be yours.” I found it in a book about Federico Fellini, he loved it too. It feels especially true in directing a movie: you have to follow your guts and let the chips fall where they may, it’s the only way you can learn from your mistakes and successes. It also resonates wonderfully with “La Luna’s” story, our little boy has to trust his instincts to find his way.

What was the biggest challenge you faced on the movie for which you are nominated?

There’s no speaking in the film, instead characters communicate through gibberish, and it proved difficult to find the right tone for this. At first it played as just annoying banter and it wasn’t working. There’s a real art to creating gibberish and it’s only after doing our homework and searching for voice actors who could really embody our characters that we finally found the right mix for our short.

What was your most memorable moment on this movie?.

I remember the first time I heard the beautiful music that Michael Giacchino composed for “La Luna” performed by the orchestra at the Warner Brothers sound stage. It was such a powerful moment, it brought all of the pieces of the film together--I was very moved. Another highlight was watching the finished short for the first time with the whole “La Luna” team; I could see each one of their contributions in each shot. Every little moment of animation, every little detail in an object or minute sparkle effect in a star were for me pictures of the dedication and artistry of each one of our “La Luna” crew members.

What would be your dream movie project to work on?

A Kurosawa-Felliniesque inspired yakuza story.

What's the one thing that people would be shocked to know about you?

When I was seventeen I used to dance competitively back in Italy. A sort of acrobatic disco dancing, very much like the final scene in "Flashdance." It was a lot of fun, but I remember my girlfriend at the time asking, "Couldn't you just play soccer like every other guy?".

Guess it was the beginning of me taking my own "different path".

Do you use social media? If you tweet, what is your Twitter name?

My twitter name is Sketchcrawl