

FROM RIMINI TO HOLLYWOOD, A 23-YEARS-OLD IN THE VISUAL EFFECTS WORLD

It's what we could call a "brain drain". He left Italy and went to Los Angeles to learn something about his ambition: to work for the cinema specializing in a new field: visual effects, digital compositing and matchmoving. A self made man 2.0 from Rimini. Now he's waiting for an artistic visa to move to the USA. That's the story of Michelangelo Frisoni that, just 23, he's working as the freelance in big national and international cinematographic productions.

"It's a passion that I've been cultivating since my adolescence. It was born watching science fiction movies like Matrix (that was my first inspiration) and working hard. As a child, I used to watch speechless some movie backstage that showed how science fiction was created starting from the big green and blue background ('chroma key') that some artist later would have developed and turned into what we're used to watch as a final product at the cinema. Growing up, I started making home video with my friends and then it turned into an out-and-out job", Michelangelo told to Labitalia.

"When I was 18 I started working as a movies editor until I decided to learn something more about visual effects and direction. So, after the high school, I signed up to an online course of visual effects called VFX Wizard; during these studies I kept on working with experts of that field (that had studied in Italy or abroad) making also music videos such as the one for the singer Fabio Concato. I thought that I didn't need an university education to succeed in working in the cinema world because I'm the kind of person that learns better doing things so I chose the way of "making".

"And in that period - Michelangelo explains - I heard about some workshops of direction at the UCLA, university of California. So I decided to try to start this experience in LA, where cinema is made. I started to show my skills through the workshop and to find some contacts that, as time passed by, turned into substantial and continuous collaborations. This allowed me to collaborate with Joel Hynek, an Academy Award winner thanks to the visual effects of

"What dreams may come", and he's one of the inventors of the 'bullet time' effect of Matrix that is the effect that fired up the passion that now I'm cultivating".

But what this activity is about? "My job is about turning the unreality into real- he answers- making you think that what you're watching on the screen has been shot on live. There are several reasons why people use visual effects and nowadays they are essential in every video; There are, indeed, effects to fix for examples errors on the set such as microphones in the scene, unwanted people and objects in the background, reflections that need to be removed or added, etc. or effects more creative that are about what we see in the movies".

"Visual effect is a kind of art that studies every little details, the reality around us and the beauty and that's the reason why it's an out-and-out art that needs creativity, imagination, ability in problem solving and teamworking".

"Unfortunately, in Italy, it is still considered as a not necessary 'plus', or even worst as an hobby rather than a job. This is the reason why I work mainly with international and independent studies and youtuber both Italian and American. An example of these studies are the first and the second seasons of the American awarded series 'Video Game High School' made by the director and youtuber Freddie Wong, 'Meridian' by the youtuber Mystery Guitar Man and a lot of music videos like the one for Lindsey Stirling; regarding Italy, an example is the series "Cotto e frullato" (in english "Cooked and whipped") by Paolo Cellammare and "Metal Gear Solid: Philanthropy part 2" made by Hive Divison and directed by Gizmodo Talaton and others. They give me freedom in creativity and they valorize my work".

"Anyway, in the last years I've noticed more interest in this art, most of all among the young filmmakers like me, and the more I attend this profession the more I hear about other Italian talents that are working abroad for important cinematographic productions playing important roles. In my job, it's important to always keep up with the latest technologies that allow us to improve the quality and the efficiency of

our result, allowing to save time and money".

"One of the advantages of this job - Michelangelo says - is also the possibility to work as a remote thanks to the Internet connection , so that, waiting to complete the practices for the artistic visa, from Italy I can go on collaborating for these people and people from abroad". He concludes hoping to receive a good news soon.