

ZDF.enterprises



# MALTESE

ZDF.drama



## Key Parameters

**Format:** 8 x 50' or 4 x 90' in 4k

**Genre:** crime, action, drama

## Credits

**Executive Producer:** Patrizia Massa

**Producer for Palomar:** Marco Camilli,

Margherita Murolo, Luigi Pinto

**Producer for Rai:** Giusi Buondonno,

Filippo Rizzello

**Produced by:** Carlo Degli Esposti,

Nicola Serra, Max Gusberti

**Coproducer:** A Rai Fiction Palomar

coproduction with Maze Pictures,

ZDF Enterprises and Dramedy Productions

**Director:** Gianluca Maria Tavarelli

**Writers:** Leonardo Fasoli

and Maddalena Ravagli

**Cast:** Kim Rossi Stuart, Rike Schmid,

Francesco Scianna, Valeria Solarino

**Music:** Ralf Hildenbeutel

**Cinematography:** Marco Pieroni





# General Synopsis

**This is the story of a murder investigation that becomes a bigger case involving mysterious disappearances and more killings. Commissario Maltese is led to uncover a complex system of corruption and lawlessness, with assassins and criminals working alongside powerful but untouchable citizens, including government figures.**

**During the investigation, Maltese risks his own life, clashing with murderers who have been sent to kill him. He sees friends and associates murdered and almost loses the woman he has fallen in love with.**

It is the mid-1970s. A heroin-refining operation moves from Marseille to Sicily, penetrating Italy and causing a far-reaching transformation in the largest criminal organisation in the world: the Mafia.

Dario Maltese is a senior police officer in the drug enforcement agency working in Rome who has unresolved issues in his past. He has never found the strength to face what happened to his father, who died when he was just a boy in Trapani, where he was born. The emotional wound has never healed, and he has always stayed away from the city.

At the beginning of our story Commissario Dario Maltese finally returns home to be the best man at the wedding of his best friend, Gianni Peralta, also a senior police officer. Sadly, Dario will never see his friend wear a wedding ring, as Gianni is killed before his eyes.

Dario asks to be transferred and takes over Gianni's investigation. He gradually reconstructs the inquiry that led to his friend's death, a difficult case involving dangers and false leads. During his quest, he falls in love with a young photographer who works alongside an honest and incorruptible journalist fighting against the Mafia.

He gradually discovers that his friend had understood the mutation of the Mafia and its links with politics and the world of business and finance.

Dario also faces up to the reasons behind his father's death and painfully discovers that the long arm of crime is reaching closer to him than he could ever have imagined.



# The Episodes

## Episode 1

We are in the early 1970s and Commissario Dario Maltese returns to the city of his birth, Trapani, in Sicily, which he left after his father's death 20 years earlier. In all this time, he has never been back.

He returns to Trapani for the wedding of his friend, Gianni Peralta. Peralta, himself a senior police officer in Trapani, never gets to the altar, as he and his bride are killed in front of Maltese.

Devastated, Maltese asks to be transferred to the city to investigate his friend's death. He is determined to do it, even though going back to Trapani reopens old wounds that have never properly healed. He is certain Peralta was killed by the Mafia, but an article and photo in a local paper suggest another possibility: a crime of passion.

Everything points to Gianni Peralta being murdered because of his relationship with a woman whose jealous boyfriend lost his mind.



## Episode 2

The investigation reaches a turning point. The suspected killer of Commissario Gianni Peralta is arrested. Maltese questions him, but he is unconvinced. The case which everyone seems to want closed as quickly as possible is still open as far as he is concerned.

The key to everything is found in the photograph in the local paper that suggests a crime of passion. Maltese turns to an experienced journalist and his photographer girlfriend to find out who took the photo. The young photographer gives him a clue that confirms his theory that the photo is a red herring.

This leads Commissario Maltese to the man who delivered the photo to the paper.

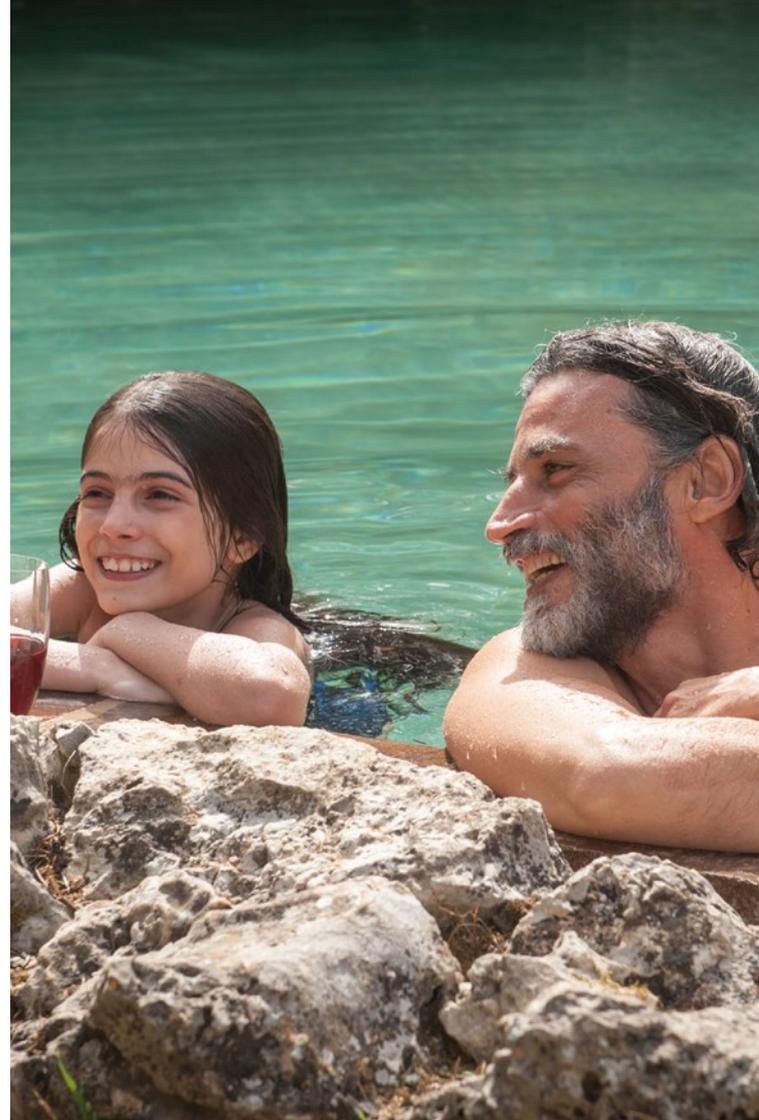
## Episode 3

The man who took the photograph to the paper has a long criminal record. Maltese has him followed and studies his habits and behaviour.

Maltese also discovers that the man's name appears in one of the last cases his friend Gianni was dealing with: the disappearance of a female student.

He starts to investigate and discovers that the young woman's boyfriend, a boxer, also vanished. He was a friend of the man Maltese is having followed.

After arresting the man, Maltese manages to make him confess, and the Mafia's involvement becomes a great deal clearer.



## Episode 4

Maltese is convinced he has all he needs to solve the Peralta case, but finds himself alone against everyone. His witness, the man he has arrested and obtained a confession from, and who has spoken openly to him about the Mafia, is transferred to a special hospital, where he is killed.

The chief prosecutor does not seem to give much credence to Maltese's investigations. It seems everything is to be buried in the quicksand of sleepy, sultry Sicily.

But Maltese does not give up: he gives an explosive interview in which he reveals the background to the case, forcing the prosecution to act.

In the meantime, the Commissario starts to try to heal the wounds of his past. His father, who was also a senior police officer in Trapani, killed himself in the wake of a sex scandal. Dario digs out the file on his father's case and begins studying it.





## Episode 5

Dario's investigation leads him to believe that his friend was killed because of an inquiry taking place outside the usual channels: an investigation into drug trafficking in the city.

The Chief of Police backs Maltese in his intention to pursue this line of inquiry. Dario follows the trail of the drugs all the way to the money.

The money from the drug trafficking is deposited in a bank owned by the Melendez family, the most important in Trapani. They own vast tracts of land and one of them is a senator in Parliament.



## Episode 6

Maltese has managed to get very close to the heart of a hidden power in Trapani and the response is immediate: he is invited to a party at the Melendez mansion.

The powerful family's idea is to co-opt him into their ranks, but Maltese will have none of it and manages to take the opportunity to obtain information from the most vulnerable family member. This leads to a new and unexpected twist in the investigation.

Commissario Maltese's new inquiry leads him to discover how the money from the heroin trafficking which moves through the bank belonging to the Melendez family is reinvested. Virtually worthless land is being bought for a few thousand lire, but it is soon to be the site for a new airport.

Maltese's investigation is halted by a dramatic event. The Melendez family is wiped out in a double Mafia ambush except for one family member who has made a pact with the new Mafia that is coming to power.

## Episode 7

Following the deaths of most of the Melendez family, Dario realizes that the balance of power is changing and there is a danger of the truth slipping through his fingers.

He must find out who owns the land where the new airport is to be built and he needs to take drastic measures, because he will never be able to obtain these documents by legal means.

Maltese gets hold of the papers and discovers that there are two law firms and a woman behind the fake organisations. The law firms are inaccessible. The only lead he has is the name of the woman, but it seems she does not exist, until a passport request reveals her identity.



## Episode 8

The woman's name is the key that allows Commissario Maltese to unlock the truth, concealed in the layers of the past. It is a truth that directly links his investigation to his father's inquiries 20 years before.

It is an explosive truth that contains all the answers.



# The Characters

## Kim Rossi Stuart is Dario Maltese



Today, the Mafia is the best-known criminal organisation in the world, but it was ignored for a very long time. “There is no such thing as the Mafia”, people would say, claiming it was invented by fame-hungry writers and journalists. And while everyone was busy denying its existence, the organisation grew in the shadows.

Commissario Dario Maltese is a distillation of a number of brave detectives who tried to investigate the Mafia when too many refused to acknowledge its existence. Many were denigrated or kept away. Others kept going until they were struck down by the mafiosi.

Dario Maltese is someone who simply refuses to be stopped. He cannot stop because, as Judge Giovanni Falcone would remark years later, the scent of freedom and justice drowns in the stink of injustice. Injustice is subjugation that makes victims of us all, but the scent of freedom is associated with the exhausting, draining and often painful search for the truth. And Dario Maltese is a man in search of the truth; a man who is not willing to look the other way or accept compromises. Like many of the real detectives who inspired us, he is an ordinary man, called on to be a hero.

## Rike Schmid is Elisa Ripstein



In the toughest years of conflict between the Italian Mafia and the state, and between the old and the new Mafia of the Corleonesi; when heroin proliferated alongside great movements of dirty money, deaths

would follow day after day like casualties in an endless war. A local paper – L’Ora di Palermo – updated its front pages daily with a running total of murder victims. Throughout this time, there was a brave and talented photojournalist called Letizia Battaglia. She managed to show that poor, tormented Sicily in her pictures. We drew inspiration from this great Italian photographer for Elisa’s character.

Elisa is a woman who tries to examine a land that is stubbornly keeping its eyes shut. She deals with her own fear through her photographs, going into battle armed with her camera and firing shots with a click of the shutter. Just like the great photographer Letizia Battaglia, Elisa spent a long time in a different, very distant place, but her encounter with Sicily astonishes her. Elisa is taken with its pain and its irredeemable contradictions. In a land where the obvious is constantly denied and nothing is ever as it seems, taking pictures can be a powerful weapon.

## Francesco Scianna is Mauro Licata

Before the fight against the Mafia officially began, it started to take shape among small groups of people: police officers on one hand, journalists on the other. There were victims even among those who went into battle with a pen and a typewriter. The Mafia, like all criminal organisations, does not want to be spoken of or written about. It does not want its presence to be pointed out – and those who break this rule must die.

Mauro De Mauro, an outstanding Italian investigative journalist, disappeared in mysterious circumstances. He was inquiring into the Mafia and its obscure connections with the State. Mario Francese, a Sicilian

investigative journalist, was also killed while investigating the Mafia. Years later, Mauro Rostagno had a show on which he talked about and denounced the Mafia. He was also killed. Giuseppe Fava, an excellent Sicilian journalist, was also murdered. They were not the only ones. Mauro Licata, like the rest of the characters in this story,



is inspired by these and other real, brave Sicilian journalists. Like them, he cares more about the quest for truth than for his own life. It is possible to love the world and wish to walk every single one of its billion dusty streets but never leave our suffering land. It is possible to desire a woman more than your own life but be willing to let her go if you feel she could not live her life to the full with you. It is possible to hate the man who took her from you, yet protect and defend him, because he is your best and most honest ally in a war that matters above all else. That is Mauro Licata, journalist: a man who accepts a life without contradictions is no life at all.

# The Makers

## Gianluca Maria Tavarelli

### Director

Born in Turin in 1964, he entered the world of cinema with a selection of short films – first in Super 8 and then 16 mm. In 1994 he made his feature film debut, *Portami via*, based on a script written with Leonardo Fasoli and the winner of the Solinas Award.

#### Latest Works for TV

##### 2016/2017 - *Maltese*

TV series 8 x 50' | Written by: Leonardo Fasoli, Maddalena Ravagli | Produced by: Palomar for RAIUNO

##### 2014 - *Il giovane Montalbano* Second season

TV series 6 x 100' | Written by: Andrea Camilleri, Francesco Bruni, Salvatore de Mola, Leonardo Marini | Produced by: Palomar for RAIUNO

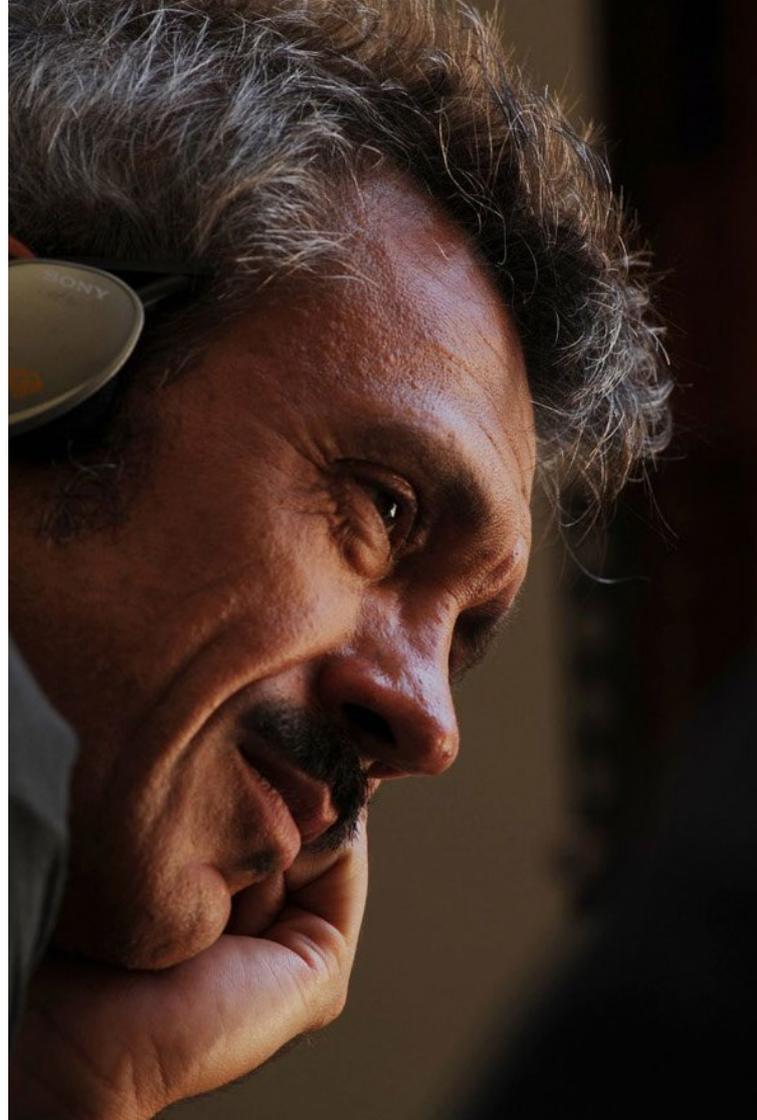
##### 2011 - *Il giovane Montalbano*

TV series 6 x 100' | Written by: Andrea Camilleri, Francesco Bruni, Salvatore de Mola, Leonardo Marini | Produced by: Palomar for RAIUNO

#### Latest Works for Cinema

##### 2014 - *Una storia sbagliata*

Feature film | Written by: Angelo Carbone, Leonardo Fasoli, Gianluca Maria Tavarelli | Produced by: Palomar RaiCinema Festival des Films du Monde de Montréal | Sergio Leone Award at Annecy Cinema Italien 2015



# Leonardo Fasoli

## Screenwriter

### Latest Works

#### **2014 - *Gomorra***

TV series (12 x 50') | Created and written with: Stefano Bises, Giovanni Bianconi, Maddalena Ravagli, Ludovica Rampoldi, Roberto Saviano | Produced by: Cattleya, Fandango for Sky | Directed by: Stefano Sollima, Francesca Comencini, Claudio Cupellini

#### **2014 - *Marito & marito***

Feature film | Written with: Maddalena Ravagli | Produced by: RaiCinema, ZeroUno

#### **2013 - *Una storia sbagliata***

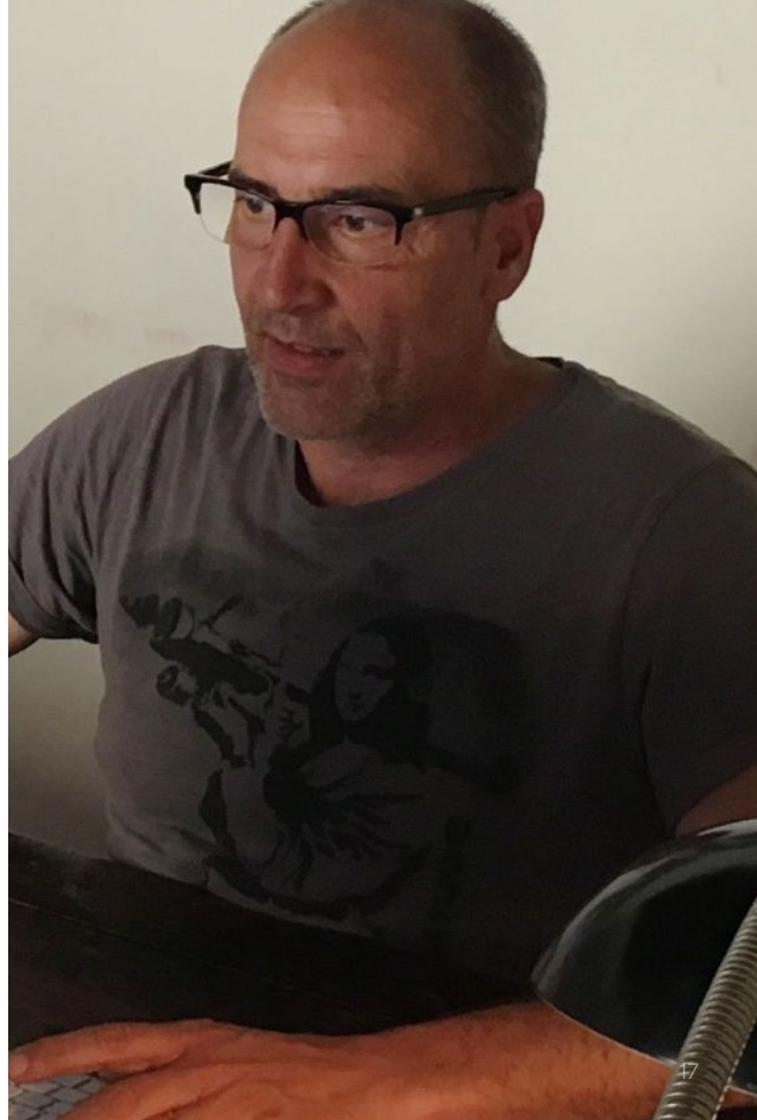
Feature film | Written with: Angelo Carbone, Gianluca Maria Tavarelli | Produced by: Palomar RaiCinema | Directed by: Gianluca Maria Tavarelli

#### **2013 - *Ultimo 4***

Miniseries (2 x 100') | Written with: Maddalena Ravagli | Produced by: Pietro Valsecchi's Taodue | For: Canale cinque - Mediatrade | Directed by: Michele Soavi

#### **2013 - *I pirati della malesia***

TV series (6 x 100') | Created and written with: Maddalena Ravagli | Produced by: PayPerMoon for RaiUno



# Maddalena Ravagli

## Screenwriter

### Latest Works

#### **2014 - *Gomorra***

TV series (12 x 50') | Created and written with: Stefano Bises, Giovanni Bianconi, Maddalena Ravagli, Ludovica Rampoldi, Roberto Saviano | Produced by: Cattleya, Fandango for Sky | Directed by: Stefano Sollima, Francesca Comencini, Claudio Cupellini

#### **2013 - *Ultimo 4***

Miniseries (2 x 100') | Written with: Maddalena Ravagli | Produced by: Pietro Valsecchi's Taodue For: Canale cinque - Mediatrade | Directed by: Michele Soavi

#### **2011 - *Caccia al re***

**Seconda series**  
TV series (6 x 100') | Created and written with: Leonardo Fasoli | Produced by: Goodtime for RaiUno | Directed by: Michele Soavi

#### **2013 - *I pirati della malesia***

TV series (6 x 100') | Created and written with: Leonardo Fasoli | Produced by: PayPerMoon for RaiUno

## Carlo Degli Esposti

### Producer

Carlo Degli Esposti founded Palomar, one of the most experienced television and film production companies in Italy and a leader in the television fiction market, in 1986.

Since then, Palomar has produced many high-quality TV series, such as *Montalbano*, directed by Alberto Sironi; *The Young Montalbano*, directed by Gianluca Maria Tavarelli, and *Braccialetti Rossi* directed by Giacomo Campiotti, as well as feature films including *Anche Libero va bene (Along the Ridge)*, directed by Kim Rossi Stuart; *Noi Credevamo (We Believed)*; *Il Giovane Favoloso (Leopardi)* by Mario Martone, and *L'Intrepido (Intrepido: A Lonely Hero)* by Gianni Amelio.

Palomar has made and distributed more than one hundred productions to date, including most of the major successes in Italian television drama over the past decade.









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