

LINA WERTMÜLLER JOB'S BIOGRAPHY

Lina Wertmüller Job dedicated her talent to all the branches of the performing arts: cinema, theatre, opera, and she is writer of many song lyrics and novels.

Born in Rome on August 14th 1928, Lina Wertmüller Job (true name Arcangela Felice Assunta Wertmüller von Elgg Spanol von Braucich Job) enrolled on stage directing courses at the Accademia Pietro Sharoff. After gaining her diploma, she worked in theatre productions with Garinei & Giovannini and became assistant director to Guido Salvini, Alberto Bonucci and Giorgio De Lullo.

Through her acquaintance with Marcello Mastroianni, she met Federico Fellini and, in 1962, Fellini offered her to be his assistant director on *8 1/2*. In the meantime, she worked as writer in radio and television programmes such as *Canzonissima* and *Studio Uno*.

She made her film directing debut with *The Basilisks* (1963). The film's subject matter - the lives of impoverished people in southern Italy - became a recurring motif in her later works.

Then in 1965 she directed the episodic film *Let's Talk About Men*, and for television *Gian Burrasca's Diary*, a successful musical adaptation of the eponymous novel by Vamba.

In the second half of the 60's, Lina Wertmüller directed two musicals, *Rita la Zanzara* and *Non Stuzzicate la Zanzara*, and the western *Belle Star Story* starring Elsa Martinelli. She signed those movies with alternative names: George H. Brown and Nathan Wich.

In the 70's Lina Wertmüller expressed her grotesque nature and poetry, by writing and directing her most successful movies: *The Seduction of Mimi* (1972), *Love and Anarchy* (1973), *Swept Away* (1974), *All Screwed Up* (1974) and *Seven Beauties* (1975), most of them are performed by Giancarlo Giannini and Mariangela Melato.

The Seduction of Mimi and *Love and Anarchy* were premiered at Cannes Film Festival. Lina Wertmüller is the first female director to participate at the French Festival with her own movies.

These films display a unique writing and directing style that has proved popular both in Italy and abroad, especially in the USA.

With *Seven Beauties*, Lina Wertmüller becomes the first woman in film history to receive four Academy Award Nominations, including Best Director, Best Original Screenplay, Best Foreign Film and Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role for Giancarlo Giannini.

After her worldwide success, the list of her movies is rich and various. Among them she directed Candice Bergen and Giannini in *Night Full of Rain* (1978); Sophia Loren, Marcello Mastroianni and Giannini in *Blood Feud*, also known as *Revenge* (1978). *A Night Full of Rain*, was entered into the 28th Berlin International Film Festival.

Her 1983 picture *A Joke of Destiny* was entered into the 14th Moscow International Film Festival.

In 1985, she received the Women in Film Crystal Award for outstanding women who, through endurance and the excellence of their work, have helped to expand the role of women within the entertainment industry.

Her principal source of inspiration has always been the observation of society within its issues and troubles that often have an impact on human souls. In the film *Camorra* (1985), starring Angela Molina and Harvey Keitel, Lina Wertmüller told the story of the neapolitan "mothers-courage" who avenged their children victims of drug. The film was in competition at 36th Berlin Film Festival. *Up to date* (1989), shows one more time Wertmüller's sensibility in human issues, bringing for the first time to the screen the tragedy of AIDS. In that movie Lina Wertmüller directed an international cast: Rutger Hauer, Faye Dunaway and Peter O'Toole.

lifetime companion and collaborator and worked among others in many of her movies and stage productions. They have a daughter Maria Zulima aka "Mauci".