



# NIMBLE FINGERS



A DOCUMENTARY FILM BY  
PARSIFAL REPARATO



Length 52'



Nationality: Italian



Shooting Country: Vietnam



Language: Vietnam, Muong



Subtitle: English, Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese

production



[www.nacne.eu](http://www.nacne.eu)  
[www.parsifal.name](http://www.parsifal.name)

## **LOG LINE**

The women's stereotype, as workers perfect to exploit in industrial production is disassemble with the storytelling of life's conditions of migrant worker women coming from the highlands of Northern Vietnam and living and working in Hanoi suburbs, in one of the biggest industrial production sites in the world, told through their eyes, dreams and fear, and described also by their drawings that become animations.



## SYNOPSIS

**Nimble fingers** belong to the Vietnamese women who work in factories owned by some of the most popular electronic brands.

Bay is one of the thousands of young migrant workers. She comes from a remote *Muong* village on the highlands of Northern Vietnam. Now she lives, with the other workers, in a Hanoi suburb, a district developed around one of the biggest industrial production sites in the world. These workers' life strictly follows the rules of the great *Industrial Park of Than Long*. Every single woman is apparently following a stereotype of tireless work and obedience to keep up with the pace of industrial production. They tell us about their work using some drawings that are going to be animated. Step by step the movie reveals the bases upon which the productive chain is built: the conditions in which the young workers are into, the tight control and the difficulties on the workplace.

Behind the apparent perfection of these workers, we can see dreams and fears of a 22 years old working girl through the eyes of Bay.

She comes back to her native village during *Tet's* festivity, the most important time of the year for Vietnam: it represents the opportunity to draw conclusions and make decisions. Returning to the countryside is the occasion for Bay to think about her condition. She comes to see a detachment between her life as an industrial worker and her origins.

This detachment is the symbol of a bigger transformation which belongs not only to Bay, but to her whole generation. They all live the passage from the rural life to the industrial exploitation of the city. This new awareness, makes Bay search for a new road in which she can fulfills her dreams.

## CAST

Bùi Thị Bảy  
Nguyễn Thị Thanh  
Vũ Thị Kim Dung

## TECHNICAL CAST

<b>Direction and Cinematography</b>	Parsifal Reparato
<b>Edition</b>	Armando Duccio Ventriglia
<b>Edition consulting</b>	Sara Fgaier
<b>Animations</b>	Luigi Ricca
<b>Original Music</b>	Nguyễn Quỳnh Phương Andrea Filippucci, Eugenio Vatta Pham Thi Hue E' Zezi Gruppo Operaio
<b>Camera Operators</b>	Parsifal Reparato Hoang Chaizee
<b>Script consulting</b>	Valentina Signorelli
<b>Color</b>	Sebastiano Greco
<b>Sound Design</b>	Federico Tummolo
<b>In Collaboration with:</b>	Institute for European Studies University of Napoli L'Orientale Institute for Workers and Trade Unions Trade Union University Vietnam General Confederation of Labor University of Milano Bicocca
<b>In Association with:</b>	Aristea Paolo De Piaggi
<b>Supported by:</b>	Produzioni dal Basso
<b>Producers:</b>	Parsifal Reparato Federico Schiavi

## THE DIRECTOR PARSIFAL REPARATO

Parsifal Reparato was born in Naples in 1985, he is anthropologist and journalist. He studied also as Director Of Photography.

In 2011, he realize his first short documentary movie, ***Mas allá de la Santería*** (special mention on Procida Film Festival 2013), concerning a medical anthropology research project, about HIV prevention and therapeutic pathways in Cuban Santería.

In 2012 he co-realize the documentary ***Villa villa Vigna*** on biodiversity, it's about the choice of a group of young people to build an alternative lifestyle than that imposed by the urban rhythms.

In 2015 co-direct the documentary ***Rezeki***, telling about gold and stone mining in Sumatra, the project has been funded by European Project SEATIDE and University of Milano Bicocca.

In 2018 directs the Italian Unit for the Argentine documentary ***El camino de Santiago***, directed by Tristán Bauer, about disappearance and death of Santiago Maldonado.

For years Parsifal works on the socialist and ex-socialist countries which now are facing the challenge of the global economy. A common thread connects his works, his conceptual choices and choices of life that now are coming to the ***Nimble fingers*** project, a movie about Vietnamese women workers.

Parsifal is also a free lance journalist and collaborate with different reviews. In 2015 his last reportage ***Chikù***, about an italian/rom restaurant in Naples, was awarded in the Myllennium Award competition.

In 2008 Parsifal published essays about second generation of immigrant in Rome, for the European Project Tresegy WP5 with Lunaria Association.

In 2010 he published the essay "Integration of Manding community in a neapolitan neighborhood" at the 14 Taller de Antropología Social y Cultural Afroamerican, with Museo Casa de Africa in La Habana, Cuba.

In 2013 he published his thesis *Illness experience and therapeutic pathways in Cuban Santería about HIV/aids. A visual anthropology perspective*.



## FILM'S NOTE

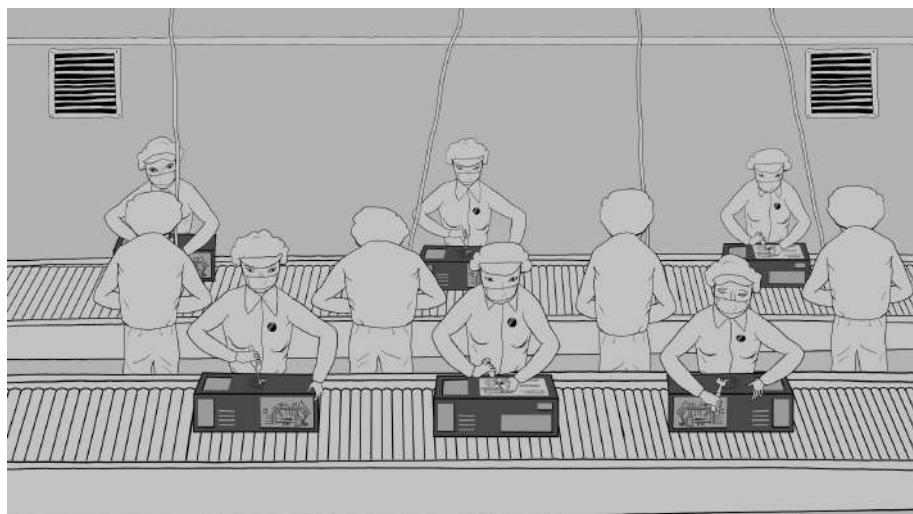
The movie was developed as part of a research on Vietnamese factory workers, their rights and their life conditions. As a result of the economic reforms launched by *Doi Moi* in the 80's, today Vietnam is experiencing substantial internal migration that impact on the life and the geography of the country. The radical changes affecting the economy, the environment and the society offer the opportunity to reflect on the old values and their re-adaptation in contemporary Vietnam. The sudden industrialization invades and completely transforms people's lives, in both material and existential terms.

Many young people are hurled straight into a new urban dimension that is neither city nor village: hard factory work, suburban dormitory housing, and a strong desire of a better future.

**Nimble fingers** is a character-driven documentary movie that, through Bay's eyes, explores the life of the women workers in the Thang Long Industrial Park, on the outskirts of Hanoi. Bay embodies the research outcomes and, through images, she renders the complexity of this historical period and the emotional turmoil of a young girl from a remote *Muong* village - until today inaccessible to foreigners - who goes to work in a faraway factory. As it was not possible to shoot inside the industrial plant, first the women workers described their work and later they drew it. These drawings were animated, becoming a new expressive tool in the hands of the protagonists who thus become the authors of the narration. Instead of being a limitation, censorship becomes an opportunity.

Women in Vietnam constitute around 80% of factory workforce. They are preferred to men because they are considered hard-working, more controllable, easier to dismiss, and less inclined to join the trade union and participate in protests. The established stereotype of the female factory worker is: nimble fingers, slow brain. The project strives to unveil the humanity concealed behind the stereotype.

**Nimble fingers** is about the doubts, fears and dreams in which each worker can recognize herself and imagine a way to express dissent and gain rights.



## THEY WROTE ABOUT THE FILM...

"Il posto di lavoro, che «appare» solo nelle divise delle protagoniste e nelle sequenze di animazione della catena di montaggio e della fabbrica che mostrano le immagini «proibite»"

**Il Manifesto**

"The documentary includes no commentary, solely relying on testimonies from the workers. In this way, Parsifal was able to explore not only the conditions they work under but also their dreams, their fears, and what they hope for in the future."

**Raoul Wallenberg Institute**

"For the research into a story of a girl which has been conducted in an absorbing way and using a compelling anthropological approach. The mention is really for the careful, patient and humane way it tells this special story which brings us closer to the reality of which we take part every day from thousands of kilometres away."

**On The Road Film Festival (Special Mention)**

"Reparato segue il corpo di una giovane donna vietnamita che si fa traccia, ed anima, di una denuncia in grado di giungere fino al fulcro economico occidentale."

**Point Blank**

"Emerge un'idea forte, pensata e detta con un linguaggio chiaro e coraggioso. Parsifal tratteggia un quadro estremamente definito e non ha paura di "giocare" con i filtri. Forse la testimonianza di come una distanza infinita possa essere colmata da un'antropologia seriamente sociale. E necessariamente esistenziale."

**L'Osservatorio Flegreo**

"Nel tentativo di diffondere un messaggio di speranza a chi è costantemente spinto ai margini, il film trasporta nel cuore del Vietnam e nell'anima della protagonista, e nel racconto di sé e dell'altro rivela l'universalità di un tema che va a toccare i diritti dei lavoratori e i diritti umani."

**Cinemadocumentario.it**

il documentario di Parsifal Reparato Nimble fingers, oltre a distinguersi per lo stile impeccabile (movimenti di macchina, fotografia, musica), tratta un tema singolare ma al contempo universale

**Cineforum**

"Nimble Fingers parla di una umanità che sembra essere sopraffatta del capitale, di una industrializzazione che ha impoverito materialmente e culturalmente le popolazioni locali."

**Eco Note**

"un documentario forte, ben riuscito e necessario".

**emilio doc**

"Quello che il film di Parsifal cerca di veicolare è un messaggio che trascende i limiti geografici e culturali, un messaggio di speranza e di conforto a chi in tutto il mondo è costantemente spinto ai margini della società. Un messaggio che riporta in luce le affinità storiche del progresso di tutti i popoli, ma anche la differente distanza dai propri obiettivi."

**Non solo turisti**

"Lo sguardo del regista si rivolge con ammirazione alle giovani operaie vietnamite, che, seppure escluse dal potere, sono il cuore produttivo del miracolo asiatico: nelle loro vite prendono forma profonde contraddizioni, imprimendosi nei loro corpi, trasformati in icone viventi."

**Asianworld.it**

"Nimble fingers, il Vietnam delle operaie raccontato da un italiano."

Daily Storm

“una cultura cinematografica critica, che parta dal basso e fuori dalle logiche del mainstream.”

Stella Nova

“il film Nimble Fingers descrive il tentativo di trovare risposta al sentire comune, all’insoddisfazione, alla voglia di riscatto che appartiene alle giovani generazioni di lavoratori da un capo all’altro del mondo.”

Corso Italia News

“L’esperienza di vita del giovane regista, maturata da un lungo lavoro di ricerca antropologica prende corpo nel confronto tra le due prospettive, uniche ed emblematiche di uno stato d’animo che interessa le ultime generazioni.”

Il Mezzogiorno.info

“un film sulle operaie vietnamite che vivono il contraddittorio passaggio dalla campagna alla città.”

L’Indro

“L’alternanza di brillanti animazioni realizzate a partire dai disegni e dai racconti delle operaie riesce a restituire la realtà dello **stress fisico, psicologico ed emotivo** vissuti alla catena di montaggio”

Sociologicamente

“Il film ci dice che non ci hanno ancora convertito in robot e che la vita delle giovani vietnamite è fatta di sogni, domande e inquietudini che sfuggono al destino che qualcun altro ha stabilito per loro.”

Pressenza International Press Agency

“menzione speciale a Nimble Fingers di Parsifal Reparato, per essersi saputo calare in una realtà lontana come quella del Vietnam cogliendone certe specificità, attraverso una narrazione che predilige un cinema della realtà, senza precludere la ricerca linguistica. Il film osserva la vita delle operaie vietnamite che lavorano nelle fabbriche dei più importanti marchi dell’elettronica mondiale e in particolare, avvicinandosi ad una di esse, Bây proveniente da un remoto villaggio sugli altopiani del Vietnam del Nord e giunta alla periferia di Hanoi, rivela un’istanza di universalità, che va oltre i confini del proprio Paese. Un messaggio di speranza a chi vive relegato ai bordi di una società sempre più sorda, a chi non ha mai avuto un posto di primo piano. Un cinema non urlato, che con un lirismo nato dalla capacità di osservazione, tocca tematiche importanti: i diritti dei lavoratori e i diritti umani. Raggardevole, originale e usata con sapienza l’uso dell’animazione accompagnata da uno sfondo sonoro coinvolgente che si inserisce qui e là nel racconto, per descrivere i ritmi lavorativi da catena di montaggio.”

Modena Via Emilia Doc Fest



## THEY TALKED ON RADIO...

Radio3 Mondo - Interview to Parsifal Reparato (11/01/2019)

Radio Articolo 1 - Nimble fingers Donne operaie in Vietnam (04/01/2018)

Radio Stonata - Crowdfunding Produzioni dal Basso Nimble fingers (01/10/2014)

Radio Popolare - Interview to Parsifal Reparato (21/03/2018)

Sección oficial  
Official Selection



## ON TV...

Ecozine Film Festival - Interview to Parsifal Reparato

Il13 - Interview to Parsifal Reparato

Sole Luna - Interview to Parsifal Reparato - Treviso

ecozine  
International Film Festival  
Sección Première  
ZARAGOZA-ESPAÑA  
XI edición



NACNE PRODUCTION IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH PARSIFAL REPARATO PRODUCER ASSOCIATE ARISTEA PAOLO DE PIAGGI PRODUCER FEDERICO SCHIAVI CINEMATOGRAPHER PARSIFAL REPARATO EDITION ARMANDO DUCCIO VENTRIGLIA ANIMATION LUIGI RICCA PHUONG QUÝNH NGUYỄN MUSIC ANDREA FILIPPUCCI EUGENIO VATTA PHAM THI HUE E'ZEZI SECOND CAMERA HOANG CHAIZEE COLOR CORRECTION SEBASTIANO GRECO SOUND DESIGN FEDERICO TUMMOLO WITH BÙI THỊ BÁY NGUYỄN THỊ THANH VŨ THỊ KIM DUNG

ARISTEA  
NACNE  
pdb.





## AWARDS

1. GOLDEN TREE INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL - BEST MID-LENGTH DOCUMENTARY - (FRANKFURT, 22 SEPTEMBER 2018)
2. TERRA DI TUTTI FILM FESTIVAL - PREMIO STORIE DI GIOVANI INVISIBILI - (BOLOGNA, 9 OCTOBER 2018)
3. ROMA CINEMA DOC (ROMA) - VINCITORE BEST ITALIAN DOCUMENTARY NOVEMBER 2017;
4. SOLE LUNA FILM FESTIVAL - AUDIENCE AWARD (TREviso 13 SEPTEMBER 2018);
5. VIA EMILIA DOC FEST - MENZIONE SPECIALE (MODENA, 10 NOVEMBER 2018);
6. PREMIO GAVIOLI - FINALISTA; (BRESCIA, DECEMBER 2017);
7. MUESTRA DE ANTROPOLOGIA VISUAL DE MADRID - MENCION ESPECIAL MEJOR DOCUMENTAL ANTROPOLÓGICO (MADRID, 24 NOVEMBER 2018);
8. ON THE ROAD FILM FESTIVAL - SPECIAL MENTION (ROMA, 1 DECEMBER 2018);
9. ON THE ROAD FILM FESTIVAL - AUDIENCE AWARD (ROMA, 1 DECEMBER 2018);
10. PROSPECTIVA BRIO FESTIVAL - MENZIONE SPECIALE (MONTESARCHIO (BN), 30 NOVEMBER 2018);
11. VISUAL FEST ROMA3 - SPECIAL MENTION SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE - (ROMA, 13 DICEMBRE 2018);
12. EURASIA INTERNATIONAL MONTHLY FILM FESTIVAL - BEST DIRECTOR - (MOSCOW, 25 NOVEMBER 2018);
13. MOSTRA INTERNACIONAL DE CINEMA Etnografico MICE - BEST FILM - (SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA 31 MARCH 2019);

## OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

1. FESTIVAL DE CINE Y DERECHOS HUMANOS DE MADRID (SPAGNA); - PRE PREMIÈRE (4 DECEMBER 2017);
2. ECOZINE FILM FESTIVAL - INAUGURAZIONE SECCIÓN PREMIÈRE - (ZARAGOZA, 11 MAY 2018)
3. 24º ARCIPELAGO FILM FESTIVAL - (ROMA, 10 DECEMBER 2017);
4. THE SWEDISH HUMAN RIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL - (LUND, 18 MARCH 2018);
5. 28º FESTIVAL DEL CINEMA AFRICANO, D'ASIA E AMERICA LATINA (MILANO); (20 MARCH 2018);
6. FIFEQ FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL DU FILM ETHNOGRAPHIQUE DU QUEBEC (30 MARCH 2018);
7. LOW COST FILM FESTIVAL - (BARCELONA, 6 APRIL 2018);
8. CARE INTERNATIONAL FILM AWARDS - (NEW YORK, 14 APRIL 2018);
9. WORKERS UNITE! FILM FESTIVAL (NEW YORK 9 MAY 2018);
10. UCHY FILM AWARDS (LAUSANNE, SWIZERLAND);
11. PHOENIX FILM FESTIVAL - (MELBOURNE);
12. RASSEGNA I GIOVEDI DEI DIRITTI UMANI (SALERNO, 30 MAY 2018);
13. ISCHIA FILM FESTIVAL (ISCHIA, 4 JULY 2018);
14. SOLE LUNA FILM FESTIVAL - (PALERMO 5 LUGLIO 2018);
15. SUBURBINALE (GROß-ENZERSDORF WIEN, 16 SEPTEMBER 2018);
16. JAHORINA FILM FESTIVAL - (PALE, SARAJEVO 28 SEPTEMBER 2018);
17. FESTIVAL INTERNAZIONALE DEL CINEMA DEI DIRITTI UMANI A CREMONA - PROIEZIONE SPECIALE (8, OCTOBER 2018);
18. JOGJA NETPAC ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL - (YOGYAKARTA, 28 NOVEMBER 2018);
19. MOTOSOLIDALE FESTIVAL DEI DIRITTI - (PAVIA, 29 NOVEMBER 2018);
20. LACENO D'ORO - FUORI CONCORSO (AVELLINO, 4 DECEMBER 2018);
21. 20TH MADURAI FILM FESTIVAL - (MADURAI, 9 DECEMBER 2018);
22. MOSCOW INDIE FILM FESTIVAL - NOMINATION BEST MAN FILMMAKER (MOSCOW, 2019);
23. INTIMATE LENSI ETHNOGRAPHIC FILM FESTIVAL - (BENEVENTO, 2019)
24. VISIONI ITALIANE - (BOLOGNA, 27 FEBRUARY 2019);
25. 14ª MOSTRA INTERNACIONAL DE CINEMA ETNOGRAFICO - (SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA, 25 MAY 2019);
26. 8ª MOSTRA ECOFALANTE CINEMA AMBIENTAL - (SÃO PAULO, JUNE 2019);
27. WORKING TITLE FILM FESTIVAL - (VICENZA, 3 OCTOBER 2019);
28. TAIWAN INTERNATIONAL ETHNOGRAPHIC FILM FESTIVAL - (TAIWAN, 4 OCTOBER 2019);
29. NAPOLI FILM FESTIVAL - (NAPOLI, 25 SETTEMBRE 2019);



## CONTACTS



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