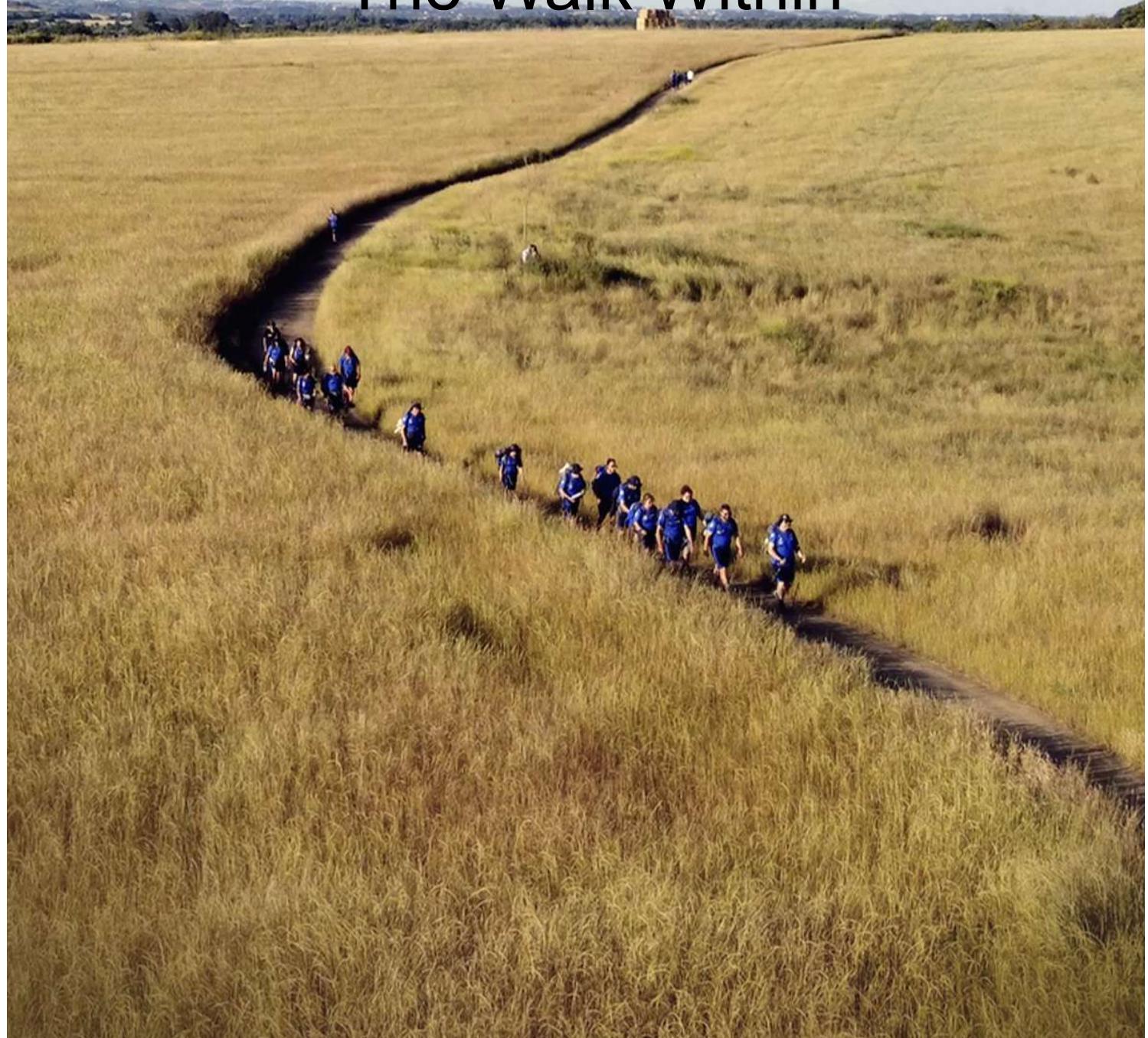


I N V I A G G I O

Un Film Di
Gabriele Vacis

“The Walk Within”



The Walk Within (In Viaggio)

SYNOPSIS

A group of young people with autistic syndrome and their educators decide to embark on "the journey": together they will travel 180 kilometers along the Via Francigena (the Pilgrims' Route) to reach Rome, where they will meet the Pope.



A real adventure, the first of a lifetime for our young protagonists as they discover their independence. From the necessary athletic preparation to the coveted goal, we follow the young people on a path of personal growth, in which they experience fatigue and fun, discover new relationships, clash and fall in love in an exciting journey that will put them to the test, between the hard ground of the road and spirituality.



and sums up the adventure with them.

The journey takes on the dignity of a real pilgrimage, an inner journey to discover one's own spirituality which, for the first time, will be told from an absolutely original point of view, that of a group of autistic children. Beyond the spectrum, inside the spirit.

In the film viewers will enjoy the entire experience of the journey with its most crucial and significative moments.

THE DEED...

The narrative revolves around the characters who "do the deed". The deed in this case is to walk 180 kilometers along the Via Francigena to get to the center of Rome and to meet Pope Francis. The epilogue and at the same time the narrative and emotional apex of the project will be the moment when the Holy Father welcomes the group to Rome

PRODUCTION NOTES

Walking means accepting the unexpected. The characteristic we most often attribute to people on the autistic spectrum is methodical order. Everyone knows that autistic people need to constantly confirm their behavior, their most pedantic habits: separating the food on their plates, buttoning all the buttons on their shirts and woe betide if they don't have a nutty chestnut or a coin in their pockets... Everything must always correspond to that precise and maniacal order.

The unexpected is what upsets them more than anything else. The cliché is that uncertainty is their worst enemy. But when you set off on a journey, even more so if it is on foot, uncertainty is the rule: *What will the weather be like? Will it be too sunny? Will it rain? Will there be insects on the road? Car traffic? What and where will we eat? Where will we sleep tonight?*

It seems like an impossible mission to put together a group of twelve people on the autistic spectrum and set off on a ten-day journey to Rome.

The purpose of the adventure, the meeting with Pope Francis, a spiritual figure who transcends the purely religious sphere, provides the young people with an opportunity for growth that goes beyond the practical results of managing a journey independently, and leads to emotional maturation.

This is exactly what "The Walk Within" is about. A film to discover the lives of twelve autistic young people, to demonstrate their ability to invent fantastic stories in situations that seem most obvious.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Pilgrims of yesterday set out from the darkest peripheries of the world to "conquer" the centre, the navel of the world. Today we know that we can only find the navel of the world within people. So, this group of young people start from a condition that still has great difficulty in being recognised, to conquer a "visibility" that does not lie in media vanity, as this word is commonly understood.

The visibility they want to achieve with this journey is that of Italo Calvino's "American Lessons": in the fourth lesson, dedicated to visibility, Calvino begins with a quote from Dante's Purgatory: "poi piovve dentro a l'alta fantasia" which literally means "and then, it rained down into the highest imagination" so, Calvino believes, imagination is a place where it rains inside. Anyone who knows a

person with autism can instantly understand what the great ancient poet and the great modern writer meant.

Let's follow the raindrops that our children let fall in their imagination in an adventurous, risky, daring condition in which they encountered showers of suggestions, downpours of feelings, storms of fantasies.

Formats available and teaser:



- 80-minute (rough cut available end of September 2021)
- 52-minute version
- Miniseries (tbc)
- Teaser: <https://vimeo.com/563140596> psw: inviaggio2021

Next important dates:

- Official presentation during the 39th Torino Film Festival: special event on the International Day of Disability on **December 3rd, 2021**.
- First domestic theatrical release **April 2nd, 2022** - World Autism Awareness Day -

Produced by INDYCA FILM
World Sales: TVCO