

RE-LAUNCHING LUIGI BROGLIO

AN IMMERSIVE AFRO ITALIAN
SPACE ADVENTURE

La Biennale di Venezia

Biennale College
Cinema Immersive



directed by VINCENZO CAVALLO produced by SILVIA GIOIELLO
with STEFANO SCOGNAMIGLIO and LUCA DI TOMMASO
produced by CULTURAL VIDEO PRODUCTION in co-production with INVR.SPACE



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LOGLINE

An immersive 360° experience that brings Luigi Broglio back to life to tell the story of how a group of Italian visionaries managed to challenge the space superpowers by building the first equatorial launch base on a marine platform in Kenya.





SYNOPSIS

Discover the extraordinary story of Luigi Broglio, the man who managed to take Italy to space by building a base in Kenya on a marine platform in the 1960s, right under the equator.

Let yourself be transported into a theatrical work where, as a spectator, you'll find yourself at the center of a 360-degree stage where Broglio and journalist Tristano Malaugurio, both forgotten by history and trapped in the San Marco base control room, will appear right in front of you and engage in an intense confrontation: Tristano will try to convince us of the futility and absurdity of this endeavor, while Luigi will attempt to explain to you how things really went.

To do this, Broglio will have to pass through magical doors and make us turn 180 degrees. You'll enter and exit different flashbacks through which you'll discover the key phases that led to the legendary launch of San Marco 2 in 1967.

Through theatrical sketches, you'll relive the African mission, the meeting with the great Enrico Mattei, the near diplomatic crisis with President Nasser, the shipwreck of the Santa Rita, and the grand finale, in which, through a psychomagical act, you'll rewrite Italian space history.

Luigi Broglio re-emerges from the oblivion of history to tell — with great simplicity and irony — how in the sixties a small group of Italian pioneers and dreamers, with few resources but plenty of creativity, dared to challenge the great space powers.

This Italian scientist, professor and visionary once again inspires minds and warms hearts: this is why he deserves to be **relaunched!**





Kenya, Ngomeni,
Base Spaziale San Marco, 1967,
pochi giorni prima del lancio



ITALIAN SPACE ACHIEVEMENTS

GAETANO ARTURO CROCCO

- **1956** Invents the "**gravitational slingshot**" (gravity assist) - now used in all interplanetary missions

LUIGI BROGLIO

- **1964:** Italy becomes the third nation in the world (after USSR and USA) to launch its own satellite: San Marco 1 from Wallops Island, Virginia
- **1967:** First equatorial marine launch base in the world: Luigi Broglio Space Center in Kenya
- **1967:** Launch of San Marco 2 from the equatorial base - first launch from a marine platform
- **1964-1988:** 9 satellites launched from the San Marco base (4 Italian, 4 American, 1 British)

TECHNOLOGICAL FIRSTS

- First civilian radar constellation (COSMO-SkyMed)
- First European hyperspectral satellite (PRISMA)
- Largest European contribution to the ISS (40% of habitable area)

HUMAN FIRSTS

- First European woman ISS commander (Cristoforetti)
- First European EVA of the new era (Parmitano)
- European space endurance record (Cristoforetti, 199 days)



WHY NOW

The space race has begun again, and it's becoming a topic of enormous importance both because space research is having and will have a decisive impact on the immediate present and future, and because the protagonists of this new race are no longer great state powers but individual entities.

The problem of space privatization At the end of September 2022, during a decisive Ukrainian action, Elon Musk ordered Starlink to be shut down, deactivating at least a hundred terminals. Ukrainian forces were left "blind" without the communication system, with drones shutting down and artillery units in difficulty. This episode made it clear how delicate the power of modern technologies can be in critical contexts.

Europe takes countermeasures Europe is developing the €6.5 billion IRIS² program for a constellation of 264 satellites, as a direct response to SpaceX's Starlink and Amazon's Kuiper constellations. Italy has invested €767 million to create an autonomous national satellite network, abandoning dependence on Starlink for strategic government and military communications.

As Josef Aschbacher, ESA's Director General, declared: "*The European space industry must raise its ambition, otherwise we risk falling behind.*"

Luigi Broglio: the model to rediscover Ambitious but extremely frugal, he worked to ensure that Italy gained an important role in space research despite the limitations of the country's system. He built the first equatorial space base on a marine platform in history, and worked to make the base university-managed because he wanted research to benefit the entire nation and all those who participated in it, including Kenya. In this sense, he was a scientist before being a military man and put the welfare of citizens and public institutions first.



WHY NOW

Minister Urso, after visiting the San Marco space base in 2024, declared his intention to relaunch the project: "*Over 60 years ago, Italy's space adventure began right here in Malindi. Today we wish to give this base a new mission*". The program for resuming space launches from the San Marco offshore platform has been announced, which could be the ideal location for Vega launchers produced by the Italian company Avio.

But is it true that we will relaunch? And if so, how? This depends on many things, one of which is **the role of public opinion that in a democracy shall count and be decisive**.

The Mattei Plan is closely aligned with the European Union's Global Gateway strategy, emphasizing collaboration, mutual respect, and shared prosperity. The Mattei Plan for Africa aims to allocate resources to support the continent's development, in a territory still poorly equipped in terms of orbital technologies and specifically in Kenya, through the revitalization of the Luigi Broglio base as a hub for Italian orbital activities. As Enrico Mattei would have said, we no longer want to be the tail end, the "kitten". We want to be capable of negotiating, doing, managing. We must be adventurous and look where others are unable to look or reach, just as he taught us.

Why our work matters Our work is part of a broader mission: to make the Italian, European and International public understand the importance of Luigi Broglio as a figure, but above all **why now**. Because as Europeans, even if we don't possess the resources of Americans or Chinese, we can do a great deal. We need to develop new strategies, new agreements with developing countries. Kenya is the right place for a new, renewed scientific and technological cooperation in the space sector.

This is why now We are in the midst of a space race, once again seeking not so much supremacy, but a leadership role in building a space future that truly serves humanity.



DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER NOTES

We live between two continents: Africa and Europe. This is why we always seek little-known life stories that intertwine with these two continents. We are interested in the tales of Italians who lived, worked, and fought in Africa, and those of Africans and Afro-Italians who helped build Italy before, during, and after World War II, also fighting and sometimes dying for an ideal. This cultural heritage is very rich, but it is not valued.

Our dream is to rediscover these stories, which occurred during and after the 100 years of Italian colonial history. We want to tell them with a new perspective: that of the creative diaspora, of those who seek to create new models of citizenship that go beyond national borders.

DISTRIBUTION MODEL

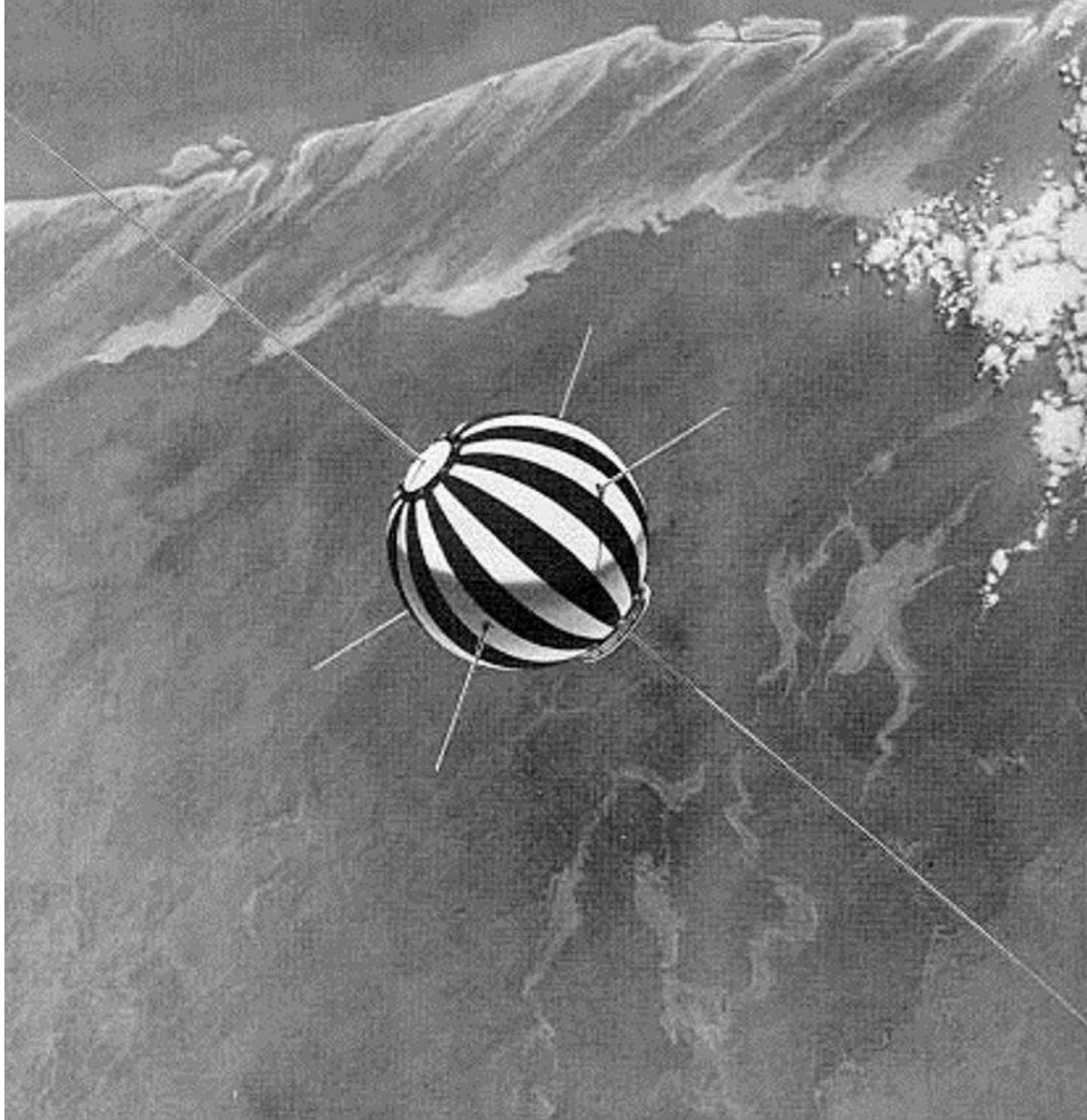
This immersive 360° experience is designed to be distributed through:

- science museums
- Italian cultural institutes
- thematic exhibitions, cultural spaces, immersive cinema festivals
- broadcasters interested in educational and experimental content.

Target audience: young people, students, educators and teachers, families and enthusiasts of science, history and new technologies.

We believe this immersive film offers new perspectives on both the history of scientific innovation and science as well as international cooperation between Africa and Europe.





INFO & SPECS

Production Year 2025

Duration 33 minutes

Experience Type 360° Immersive Video - Maximum Quality 12K

Language Original Italian, dubbed in English

Required Space Installation in seated position with swivel chairs. *No minimum space required.*

Optional Installation Configuration It is possible to add an installation that includes a reconstruction of the San Marco Base Control Room console along with a real-scale model of the San Marco 2 satellite. In this case, the minimum required space is 4 x 4 meters.

Viewing

- Oculus Quest 3 type headsets on swivel chair
- Domes equipped with 180° projectors (adapted version)
- Planetariums (adapted version)

VENICE BIENNALE CINEMA COLLEGE



- Developed within **Biennale College Cinema Immersive 9th edition (2024/2025)**
- Produced with the support of the grant from the **Biennale College Cinema Immersive** program of the **Venice Biennale**; the program is realized with the support of the **Ministry of Culture** and the training activities are made possible thanks to **Creative Europe Media**
- Selected for **Venice Immersive**, the section dedicated to XR - Extended Reality of the **82nd Venice International Film Festival of the Venice Biennale**.



ABOVE THE LINE

Director Vincenzo Cavallo
Producer Silvia Gioiello
Co-Producer Sönke Kirchhof



Historical Consultant Giorgio Di Bernardo Nicolai
(author of "Nella Nebbia in Attesa del Sole - Breve Storia
di Luigi Broglio padre dell'Astronautica Italiana" -
Di Renzo Editore).



ABOVE THE LINE

Produced by Cultural Video Foundation Naples
in co-production with Cultural Video Production (Kenya) and INVR.SPACE (Germany)



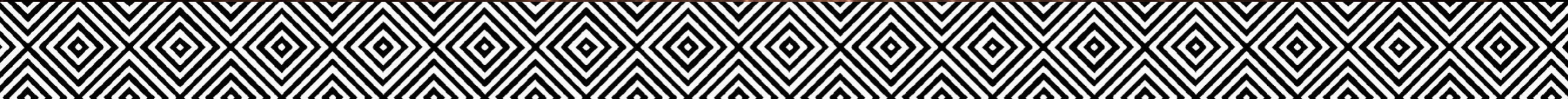
CAST & CREW

Cast Luigi Broglio - Stefano Scognamiglio / Tristano Malaugurio - Luca Di Tommaso / Captain - Luca Riemma / Enrico Mattei - Roberto Pappalardo / NASA Deputy Director - David Power / Kenyan Man - Robert Aidoo / Kenyan Woman - Florence Omorogieva / President Nasser - Tarek Ismail Abdelfatah Mohamed Elke / Carlo Broglio Team - Gaetano Amato / Michele Broglio Team - Paolo Pio Pagano / Ivan - Vincenzo Cavallo / Enrico Mattei's Friend - Enzo Nucci / Bartender - Luigi Luciano / Sailor - Cristina D'Andrea / Sailor - Chiara Cotumaccio / Journalist - Luana Del Percio / Journalist - Nsangu Maulidi / Assistant - Anna Cavalli / Party Guests - Lucia Cavallo - Paola Ventre - Santa Di Salvo - Francesco Fagiano / Kenyan Writer - Stephen Kazungu Charo / Voice Over - Cynthia Muthogi / Voice Over - Irungu Mutu / Voice Over - Richard Kiley

Crew Co-Producer - Sönke Kirchhof / General Manager - Jessica Zippel / Director of Photography Italy - Hannah Schwaiger / Production Designer - Carmine De Mizio / Costume Designer - Annalisa Ciaramella ASC / Editing - Charles Muchiri Muthoni, Vincenzo Cavallo / Video Stitching and Video Post Production - Jessica Zippel / Director of Photography Kenya - Charles Muchiri Muthoni / Costume Assistant - Anna Cavalli / Hair and Makeup - Luciano Carino Hair and Makeup Assistant - Alessandra Notarantonio / Lighting Designer - Simone Picardi / Location Sound Recordist - Antonio Caspariello / Sound Design, Mixing and Spatialization - Francesco Guarnaccia & Giorgio Durantino – The CTRL Room / Data Manager - Giuseppe Casola / Stage Technician - Lud Sciannamblo / Stage Technician - Ross Croce / Costumes provided by - Factory Costume / Set Construction - NEO scenografie







DIRECTOR AND PRODUCERS - BIOGRAPHIES

Silvia Gioiello is co-founder of Cultural Video Foundation Naples and Cultural Video Production. Producer and creative director with international experience, she designs and creates stories that connect distant communities and cultures. Over the years, she has contributed to the development of innovative and engaging films: from co-productions for Netflix to immersive experiences, always with a careful eye on experimentation and socio-cultural impact. Silvia is an expert in participatory design.

<https://thenrbbus.com/>

Vincenzo Cavallo is a director, producer and academic researcher with a PhD in communication and new technologies, who has collaborated with various United Nations agencies. His first immersive experience, *African Space Makers*, was presented in competition at Venice in 2020 and won the prestigious Lumiere Award for best director and the XR Must Impact Award for social innovation. His latest feature film, *Bufis-Daydreamers*, received the Berlinale Talent Co-Production Award and is currently available on Netflix worldwide. His 12-episode series, *Pasos De Cumbia*, a co-production between Kenya, Chile and Colombia, was nominated for the India Catalina TV Awards in the culture and entertainment section and aired on Radio Televisione Colombia, Canal 13 and various other broadcasters in Latin America. Born and raised in Naples, where he continues to produce, in 2010 he was one of 24 directors who participated in the collective film project *Napoli 24* directing the episode about Gaiola. In 2015 he won the Roma Web Fest and Berlin Web Fest as best director, with a web series about Castel Volturno.

<https://thenrbbus.com/>

Sönke Kirchhof is founder and CEO of INVR.SPACE GmbH (VR, AR) and reallifefilm international GmbH (Stereo 3D and VFX), with offices in Berlin, Munich and Hamburg. He is a member of FKTG, VRBB, XR Bavaria, Medianet BB and elected member of the 3IT Steering Committee and the Virtual Reality Association Berlin. Research and development of technologies, as well as analysis of creative approaches, are among his core competencies. His projects have always been distinguished by a strong innovation orientation. <http://invr.space/>



DOWNLOADS

Video B.T.S. 2 min.
Video B.T.S. 10 min.

Photo Backstage
Photo Producer
Photo Director

Poster Portrait
Poster Landscape



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