

Fratelli Detective

Verdict? Film!



"Director Rossella Izzo is one of the most talented directors of television movies and television series in Italy. She understands every aspect of movie directing. Although she explained very precisely the look she wanted for the *Fratelli Detective* television series - a cross between a detective story and a comedy - she appreciated my ideas and choices. Together we achieved the right mood," says director of photography Gino Sgreva, AIC (*Exodus, Salvatore, Padre Pio*).

The successful pilot introduced television audiences to detective inspector Francesco Forti. An unruly single man, he is forced to turn his life upside down after the unexpected death of his father. He suddenly becomes responsible for Lawrence, a half-brother he didn't even know existed. But 13-year-old Lawrence turns out to be a child genius who turns sleuth and helps anti-hero Francesco solve murder investigations. The pilot was shot in HD and the intention was to shoot the television series in the same format.

"The most important step was to convince the producers to upgrade the project from HD to Super 16 film stock," states Sgreva. "I impressed upon them that the superior quality of KODAK VISION3 would add a positive value to the production. After all, the best images mean the best production standard!" Claudia Polletti, senior sales/TV segment staff member at Kodak Rome, was also instrumental in encouraging line producer, Giangi Foschini, to change direction. "From the very beginning, Mr Sgreva was keen to shoot on Kodak Super 16, which really helped us. So I spent a significant amount of time with Mr Foschini and impressed upon him that Super 16 would offer added value in terms of quality, reliability, results and price. Following a comparative test between HD and Kodak Super 16, he appreciated the superior image quality of film versus the digital format."

A delighted Sgreva received the go-ahead to use KODAK VISION3 250D 7207 and KODAK VISION3 500T 7219 on the

new *Fratelli Detective* television series. "The stocks have a huge dynamic range, which gave me the opportunity to achieve a rich mood in a high contrast situation, with many details in the highlights and shadow areas. That would have been impossible with an HD camera; especially the RED, which records a compressed video signal."

One scene was shot in a beautiful modern villa with many large windows. "The 7207 worked so well that, irrespective of the time of day or whether it was sunny or cloudy, I was able to achieve a perfect balance between interiors and exteriors with a minimal quantity of HMIs. The stock almost has the same sensibility as the human eye. HD cameras just aren't comparable."

"I like to mix practicals and lights of different colours in my night exterior set-ups," continues Sgreva. "The mood created by 7219 is so beautiful that I cannot imagine how I could have done better! Furthermore, the great sensibility and huge latitude of this stock enabled me to work in very dark conditions without the loss of quality or detail."

Two ARRI SR3 Advanced cameras and a complete set of Zeiss lenses, including the 11-110 zoom, were used by A-camera operator Massimiliano Sano and B-camera/Steadicam operator Gianni Aldi. "I've worked with the camera team for many years and it was a great pleasure to be supported by such nice professionals! Another important partner was Technicolor Lab Rome. They ensured the best quality negative development and colour grading. But most importantly, I thank my friend Merrick Distant and his team at Kodak for their assistance. I trust in their work and I know they're always into something new. I'm waiting for whatever's next!"

Fratelli Detective is produced by Eyeworks Italia SpA. The series will be aired on Mediaset Channel 5, prime time, in autumn 2010.

1 L-R Massimiliano Sano, Camera Operator; Gino Sgreva, AIC, DP; Rosella Izzo, Director.