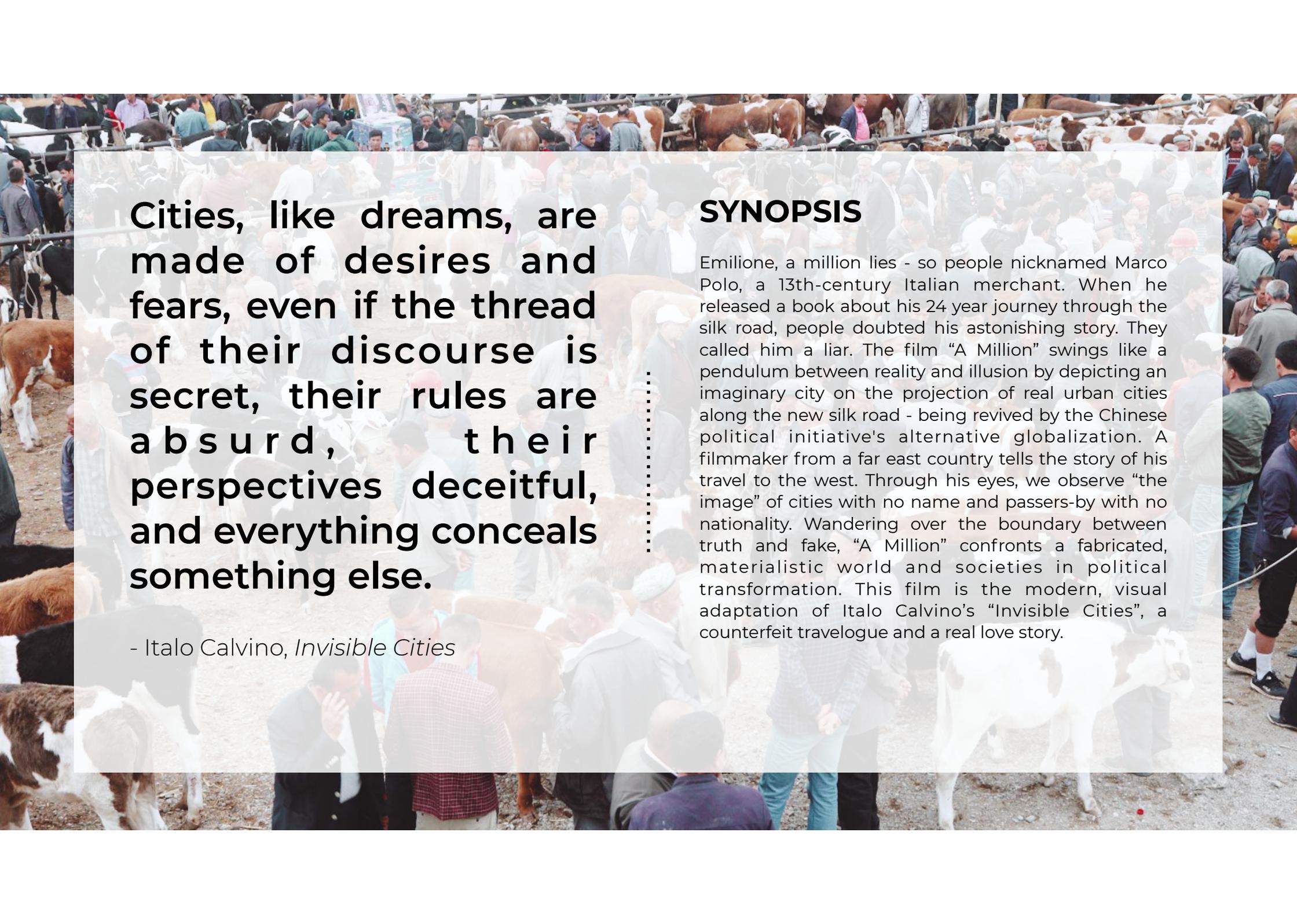


A FILM BY ARATA MORI

A M I L L I O N

A FILM BY ARATA MORI A MORI FILM PRODUCTION CO-PRODUCTION WITH OSSA FILM
SOUND DESIGN & MIX PHILIPPE CIOMPI MUSIC YU MIYASHITA CO-PRODUCER ANDREAS HARTMANN, LEMOHANG JEREMIAH MOSESE
DIRECTOR / PRODUCER / EDITING / TEXT / CINEMATOGRAPHER ARATA MORI

www.aratamori.com/a-million

A busy outdoor market scene, likely a livestock market, with many people and cows. The scene is crowded and filled with activity. The background shows a large number of people, some wearing traditional head coverings, and many cows of various colors (brown, white, black) are visible. The market is set up with metal railings and stalls. The overall atmosphere is one of a bustling, traditional marketplace.

Cities, like dreams, are made of desires and fears, even if the thread of their discourse is secret, their rules are absurd, their perspectives deceitful, and everything conceals something else.

- Italo Calvino, *Invisible Cities*

SYNOPSIS

Emilione, a million lies - so people nicknamed Marco Polo, a 13th-century Italian merchant. When he released a book about his 24 year journey through the silk road, people doubted his astonishing story. They called him a liar. The film "A Million" swings like a pendulum between reality and illusion by depicting an imaginary city on the projection of real urban cities along the new silk road - being revived by the Chinese political initiative's alternative globalization. A filmmaker from a far east country tells the story of his travel to the west. Through his eyes, we observe "the image" of cities with no name and passers-by with no nationality. Wandering over the boundary between truth and fake, "A Million" confronts a fabricated, materialistic world and societies in political transformation. This film is the modern, visual adaptation of Italo Calvino's "Invisible Cities", a counterfeit travelogue and a real love story.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I cannot help but feel I am a stranger. Since I have split my base between Japan and Europe, and ever since I grew up in Japan, I have always had a disjuncture in my life. As an outsider in the exclusive society of Japan, and as an Asian in western societies. It is as if a rupture divides my body into two; the two opposites of extremity.

When I was a lonely young man, I traveled alone to many countries in Europe, Southeast Asia and North Africa. All the cities I visited were different, and people I met spoke different languages, but they always reminded me of the place where I grew up in Japan - every city had alleys where children played football and shopping streets where people gathered. No matter where I was, a city had a common "image" which was similar to another, and it sometimes emerged in my memory in the midst of a dream in the night.

The new silk road initiated by China is creating new geopolitical territories that might overwrite western-orientated globalization. In this globalized world, however, we no longer live in a geographical territory, surrounded by borders and nature, but a new type of territory - a territory of illusion where authenticity and fabrication co-exist, are mixed up, and have lost their boundary. We, who lost the origin and belonging, became anonymous signs.

Through this film, I created the fable of the world which we constructed with the apparatus of "image". This is my autobiographical work as a nomad and a film about a city floating in everyone's under-consciousness.



**Director / Producer
Cinematographer / Editor / Text**

ARATA MORI

Arata Mori's creative practice crosses over the fields of filmmaking, dance-theatre, architecture and visual arts. He is the graduate of BA Fine Art at Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design in London.

In 2013, Mori made his directorial debut experimental short film "Camino Negro", which depicts a circulating dream of a nomad who travels in his inner world. This mixture of variable elements of image, poem, philosophy and dance deals with the relation of Body and Image. It was selected for international film festivals including Short Film Corner at Cannes Film festival and Alternative Film and Video Festival Belgrade.

Since 2019, he co-directs with Andreas Hartmann for the ongoing feature-length documentary film "Johatsu - Missing" (Tentative Title), which deals with the evaporation of people in Japan and so-called "Night Moving Companies", which help those to disappear. The film is currently in Production, and in co-production with BR/ARTE and in participation with SRF and yesDocu.

He is also the co-founder and co-director of the architecture video project, another .:

"A Million" is his first feature-length film. // aratamori.com

Sound Design & Mix PHILIPPE CIOMPI

Philippe Ciompi is a film sound designer and dubbing mixer with several years of experience in Britain, Switzerland, China, France, and other countries. His work explores the ways in which sound creates perceptual networks of space and time. He occasionally works as a film editor, composer and sound artist, and is a visiting lecturer for sound design at the Royal College of Art and Goldsmiths College in London, as well as at HEAD in Geneva. Recent works include collaborations with Ben Rivers & Ben Russell, Jumana Manna, Dieudo Hamadi, Elene Naveriani, Andrew Kötting and Sarah Vanagt among others. // philippeciompi.com

Music

YU MIYASHITA

An electronic composer with both the aliases of Yu Miyashita & Yaporigami. Released works from a number of labels internationally, including Mille Plateaux and Detroit Underground. In the recent year, Miyashita created the entire soundtrack for the film directed by Jeremiah Mosese, "This Is Not A Burial, It's A Resurrection", which premiered at the 2019 Venice International Film Festival and has won numerous awards at film festivals around the world, including Sundance Film Festival. The film has also recently entered the international film section at the Oscars.

Additionally, he has provided music for architecture video production another : as well as for the shows of fashion brand Viviano. His joint exhibition with Kezzardrix was held at the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts. // underarrow.com

Co-Producer **ANDREAS HARTMANN**

Andreas Hartmann is a Berlin-based filmmaker, producer and founder of the production company Ossa Film. He graduated from the Academy of Film and Television (HFF) "Konrad Wolf" Potsdam-Babelsberg and was Meisterschüler of Prof. Thomas Arslan at the Berlin University of the Arts (UdK). He received several artist-in-residence stipends e.g. at Tokyo Arts and Space, Villa Kamogawa Goethe-Institut Kyoto, DAAD in Myanmar and Vietnam. He is alumni of Berlinale Talents, received the Gerd Ruge Grant and was nominated for the German TV award Grimme-Preis. His productions and co-productions were screened and awarded at several international film festivals e.g. Venice, Busan, DOK Leipzig, Festival dei Popoli Forence, Cinéma du Réel Centre Pompidou Paris. // ossafilm.com, andreas-hartmann.com

Filmography / Ossa Film:

REPLACEMENTS (2020) – World Premiere at the 77th Venice International Film Festival "Venice VR Expanded Competition"

A FREE MAN (2017) – awarded with the „Busan Cinephile Award“ for the Best World Documentary at the 22nd BUSAN International Film Festival and nominated for the German TV award "Grimme Prize 2017" in the ZDF/3sat series "Ab 18!"

MY BUDDHA IS PUNK (2015) – World Premiere at the 56th Festival dei Popoli Florence "Festival Highlights"

DAYS OF RAIN (2010) – World Premiere at the Cinéma du Réel Festival at the Centre Pompidou Paris.

Co-Producer **LEMOHANG JEREMIAH MOSESE**

Lemohang Jeremiah Mosese is a film director, producer and visual artist hailing from Lesotho. In 2018 his feature-length visual essay film 'Mother, I am Suffocating. This is My Last Film About You', was selected for Final Cut in Venice and went on to premiere at the Berlinale Forum in 2019.

Mosese was one of three filmmakers selected for Biennale College Cinema with his second narrative feature film 'This Is Not A Burial, It's A Resurrection'. The film, he directed and produced, was screened at Venice International Film Festival 2019, at Sundance Film Festival 2020 (winning Special Jury Award for Visionary Filmmaking), at Rotterdam Film Festival 2020, at Portland International Film Festival 2020 (winning the Jury Prize) and at many other prominent film festivals, winning a large number of awards.

Mosese has also shown a series of still photographs from his films and video art installation works at various museums and galleries. Mosese served as a juror for several film festivals including Berlinale International Short Films, Berlinale Short Form Station, and The Films After Tomorrow - Locarno Film Festival, and has been invited to give master classes in various spaces from refugee camps to Cambridge university.

FILM DATA

A Million

Feature-length Documentary Film

Stage | Completed
Production Year | 2021
Distribution year | 2021
Format | Digital HD
Sound | Dolby Surround 5.1
Length | 65 mins
Genre | Documentary, Experimental
Production Countries | Japan, Germany
Production | Mori Film
Co-Production | Ossa Film

Website | www.aratamori.com/a-million

Teaser | www.vimeo.com/420593555
Password: sc321

CONTACT

ARATA MORI (Director / Producer)

Email: info@aratamori.com

Website: www.aratamori.com

Address: 230-0072 Kanagawa, Yokohama-city, Tsurumi-ku,
Kajiyama 1-28-5 302 (JAPAN)
Rykestrasse 28, 10405 Berlin (GERMANY)





