

Maria Giménez Cavallo

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CV

BIO

Maria Giménez Cavallo was born in New York in 1992 to an Italian-American mother and Spanish father. She got her B.A. from Columbia University in Film Studies, Italian Cultural Studies, and French Cultural Studies.

After graduation, Maria moved to Paris to work with Abdellatif Kechiche for four years as artistic collaborator, first assistant director, casting director, and editor for the *Mektoub, My Love* trilogy (Venice 2017, Cannes 2019, Locarno 2025). She then moved to Rome to collaborate with Pietro Marcello, Alice Rohrwacher, and Francesco Munzi on set and in the editing room, for a documentary shot on 16mm throughout Italy: *Futura* (Cannes Quinzaine 2021), later followed Pietro back to Paris where she was artistic director on his French film *L'Envol* (Cannes Quinzaine 2022), and most recently accompanied him on *Duse* (Venice 2025).

In 2020, Maria opened her own production company, Anima Films. Since then, she has made various short films with nature as the central theme, including *La Visita* (Locarno 2022), *La Grande Quercia* (Bellaria, FIFAM 2022), and *Jeanne, petite bergère* (Shortlist Quinzaine 2020). She has participated in various workshops, including Locarno Spring Academy, Armani Laboratorio, Itineranze Doc, and Milano Film Network In Progress. Her hybrid fiction film *Anime galleggianti*, a reimagining of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, had its premiere at the Alice nella città Festival in Rome 2024. In 2025, she participated in Venice's Biennale College development program with her next feature film *Bambino maialino*. Her latest short film *Les métamorphoses, au féminin* premiered at Venice's SIC 2026.

EDUCATION

Columbia University, New York 2010-2014
Bachelor of Arts in Film Studies, Italian Cultural Studies, and French Cultural Studies. GPA: 3.66/4.0
Thesis on the post-humanist ideology in *Le quattro volte* (2010) by Michelangelo Frammartino.

Reid Hall, Paris 2013
Study abroad at Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne for one semester with a focus on cinema and art history.

LANGUAGES

Languages: English (mother tongue), Italian (bilingual), French (bilingual), Spanish (father tongue)

WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS (MENTOR/LECTURER)

Ovid Seminar , Barnard College, New York	2025
Discussed and analyzed my film <i>Anime galleggianti</i> with Professor Jhumpa Lahiri's class	
Terrae Film Festival , Civitavecchia	2025
Masterclass to the local community, retrospective with screening of previous shorts	
Masterclass Cinema Cetona , Tuscany	2025
Masterclass with screenwriting students selected for the Premio Maccari contest	
Università di Bologna , Bologna	2025
Keynote speech at the Canadian Association of Italian Studies Annual Conference.	
Accademia delle Belle Arti , Verona	2025
Presented and discussed various of my films with Irene Dorigotti's Anthropology class	
Sapienza Facoltà delle Lettere e Filosofia , Roma	2025
Analyzed passages from Ovid's <i>Metamorphoses</i> and compared the scenes in my film <i>Anime galleggianti</i> in Francesco Ursini's Philology course.	
Masterclass "Cinema e scrittura" con Maurizio Braucci , Cetona	2024
Lecture on the transformation of Aleksander Grin's "Scarlet Sails" into Pietro Marcello's "Scarlett"	
Corto in Vigneto "Cinema dell'anima" , Toscana	2024
Presented and discussed my short film <i>Jeanne, petite bergère</i> to a local community in the countryside	
Climate Change Narratives Class , Johns Hopkins University of Maryland	2024
Discussed and analyzed my short film <i>La foresta che cammina</i> with Professor Laura Di Bianco's class	
FilmIdee Summer School , Sardegna	2023
Assisted contemporary directors, including Miguel Gomes and Ben Rivers, during the workshop.	
Masterclass on Visual Anthropology , Ferrara	2022
Analyzed the production of <i>Bella e perduta</i> and <i>Le quattro volte</i> , and discussed my own <i>Anime galleggianti</i>	
Italian Cultural Class , Chapman University of California	2022
Discussed and analyzed my short film <i>La Grande Quercia</i> with Professor Federico Pacchioni's class	
CinéMasterClass , Paris	2019
Two-day masterclass to actors with Hafsia Herzi for "L'acteur face au directeur de casting et au réalisateur".	
Seminar Université Paul-Valéry in Montpellier 3 , Montpellier	2019
Gave a talk analyzing Abdellatif Kechiche's <i>Mektoub My Love</i> trilogy for a second year Master class.	
Seminar Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne , Paris	2019
Masterclass about working with Hafsia Herzi on her <i>Tu mérites un amour</i> .	

WORKSHOPS (MENTEE)

Torino Green Film Lab , Torino	2026
Three day workshop simulating the Green protocol for her project "Piggy Baby"	
Biennale College Venezia , Venice	2025
One of eight participants in the week-long residency focused on the screenplay of "Piggy Baby"	
Forward Trentino Producers Lab , Trento	2025
Participated in the workshop for producers with my new project "Piggy Baby"	
L'orto del mondo , Alteto Tuscany	2024
Participant in the two-week filmmaking lab with mentors Michelangelo Frammartino and Giovanni Cioni	
Uomo e la bestia – Film partecipato , Casa del Cinema Roma	2024
Developped and pitched a project at the workshop by Marechiaro Film regarding the representation of humans and animals onscreen.	
Milano Film Network In Progress , Milan	2023

Participant in the intensive development workshop with mentor Carlo Hintermann with the goal to pitch the project at the Venice Production Bridge during the Giornate degli Autori.

Alice Storyteller Residency and Retreat, Iceland 2023

A week-long intensive writing retreat in a cabin in Northern Iceland with other female filmmakers.

FilmIdee Summer School, Sardegna 2022

Tutoring sessions with Daniela Persico as well as attending masterclasses with contemporary directors.

Itineranze Doc, Italy 2022

My debut feature *Anime galleggianti* was among the six projects chosen to be developed under the guidance of Luciano Barisone in workshops at festivals such as Bellaria, Sole Luna, FrontDoc, and Popoli.

Locarno Spring Academy, Locarno 2022

Among 12 young filmmakers chosen through an international call to produce their own short films over the course of 10 days under the mentorship of Michelangelo Frammartino and Daniela Persico. The short films were then premiered at the Locarno Film Festival and distributed on the RSI Radiotelevisione svizzera.

Armani Laboratorio, Milano 2018

Won a contest to participate in a workshop making a short film on 16mm with Luca Guadagnino and his team. Spent two months between Milan and Rome, with Walter Fasano as mentor for editing.

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP

"Cinema dell'anima: a New Shared Vision in Contemporary Italian Film." Currently co-editing the volume with Professors Federico Pacchioni and Russell Kilbourn, publication forthcoming with Bloomsbury Publishing.

"Transformative Cinema: From Michelangelo Frammartino's *Alberi* to *La foresta che cammina*." Presented at the Journal of Italian Cinema & Media Studies Conference, American University of Rome 2024.

"Filming the Soul: The *Cinema dell'anima* Movement of Contemporary Italian Cinema." Presented at the Journal of Italian Cinema & Media Studies Conference, American University of Rome 2022.

"Cinema dell'anima. For a Transcendental, Post-humanist, Poetic Cinema," in *L'avventura, International Journal of Italian Film and Media Landscapes* 1/2021: 3-22.

<https://www.rivisteweb.it/doi/10.17397/101275>

"Elsa Morante's *La storia*: a posthumanist, feminist, anarchist response to power." In *Speaking Truth to Power from Medieval to Modern Italy*, editors Jo Ann Cavallo, Carlo Lottieri. *Annali d'italianistica* 34 (2016): 425-447.

"For a Pythagorean, posthumanist, transcendental cinema: An Analysis of Michelangelo Frammartino's *Le quattro volte*." Presented at the Conference Humanity and Animality, University College London 2014.

INTERVIEWS

"Maria Giménez Cavallo : « Personne sur le plateau de Kechiche n'a lu le scénario »"

By Raphaëlle Pireyre. AOC Media. December 20, 2025.

<https://aoc.media/entretien/2025/12/19/maria-gimenez-cavallo-personne-sur-le-plateau-de-kechiche-na-lu-le-scenario>

"Maria Giménez Cavallo, l'Américaine qui murmurait à l'oreille d'Abdellatif Kechiche."

By Norine Raja. Vanity Fair. June 4, 2018.

<https://www.vanityfair.fr/culture/ecrans/story/maria-gimenez-cavallo-monteuse-de-mektoub-my-love/1704>

"Speciale "Mektoub, My Love" - Intervista alle montatrici del film."

By Giuseppe Gangi. Onda Cinema. May 31, 2018.

<http://www.ondacinema.it/speciali/scheda/intervista-maria-cavallo-nathanaelle-gerbeaux-mektoub-my-love.html>

"Dans un Kechiche, chaque séquence se travaille comme un long métrage autonome."

Par Anne Diatkine. Libération. March 20, 2018.

https://next.liberation.fr/cinema/2018/03/20/dans-un-kechiche-chaque-sequence-se-travaille-comme-un-long-metrage-autonome_1637678

DIRECTOR

BAMBINO MAIALINO (PIGGY BABY) – 2026 (in development)

Fiction, 90 min

Produced by Berta Film, Albolina Film

LES MÉTAMORPHOSES, AU FÉMININ – 2026

Fiction, 20 min

Produced by Bleu Piéton, Berta Film, and anima films

Presented at Venice Film Festival – SIC opening film

LA SOGLIA – 2025

Fantasy, hybrid Fiction, 8 min

Produced by anima films at the L'Orto del Mondo Workshop

ANIME GALLEGGianti (WANDERING SOULS) – 2024

Fantasy, hybrid Fiction, 71 min

Produced by anima films, Image Hunters, Sardegna Film Commission

PRENDRE L'ENVOL – 2023

Behind-the-scenes, 16 min

Produced by Avventurosa, CG Cinéma

LA VISITA – 2022

Fiction, 8 min

Produced by Locarno Film Festival, RSI, Ticino Film Commission, CISA

Presented at Locarno Film Festival

LA GRANDE QUERCIA (TALE OF THE GREAT OAK) – 2021

Fiction, 16 min

Produced by anima films, Regione Emilia-Romagna

Presented at Bellaria Film Festival, Festival International du Film d'Amiens

LA FORESTA CHE CAMMINA (THE WALKING FOREST) - 2021

Doc, 7 min

Produced by anima films

PASTOURELLE – 2020

Doc, 12 min

Produced by anima films

JEANNE, PETITE BERGÈRE (THE LITTLE SHEPHERDESS) – 2020

Fiction, 10 min

Produced by anima films, K-REC Films, Les Films de la Bonne Mère

Presented at Les Nuits Méditerranéennes in Corsica, Andaras Traveling Film Festival in Sardinia, Shortlist

Quinzaine des Réalistes Cannes 2020



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

DUSE – 2025 by Pietro Marcello

Assistant Director

Presented at the Venice Film Festival in 2025.

MEKTOUB, MY LOVE : CANTO DUE - 2025 by Abdellatif Kechiche

First Assistant Director

Presented at the Locarno Film Festival in 2025.

MARE'S NEST – 2025 by Ben Rivers

Assistant Director & Production Assistant

Presented at the Locarno Film Festival in 2025.

SULLA TERRA LEGGERI – 2024 by Sara Fgaier

Assistant Director

Presented at the Locarno Film Festival in 2024.

L'ENVOL – 2022 by Pietro Marcello

Artistic Director & Assistant Director

Presented at Quinzaine des Réalistes, Cannes Film Festival 2022.

FUTURA – 2021 by Pietro Marcello, Alice Rohrwacher, Francesco Munzi

Second Assistant Director

Presented at Quinzaine des Réalistes, Cannes Film Festival 2021.

PER LUCIO – 2021 by Pietro Marcello

Second Assistant Director

Presented at Berlin International Film Festival 2021.

MEKTOUB, MY LOVE : INTERMEZZO by Abdellatif Kechiche

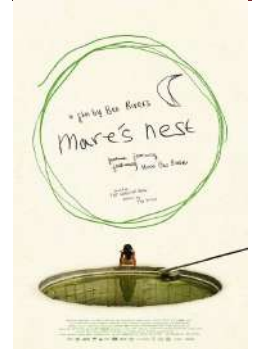
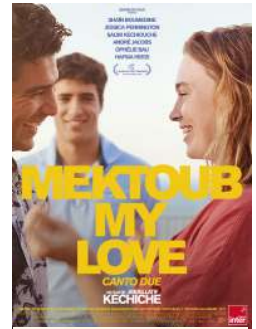
First Assistant Director

Produced by Quat'Sous Films, Pathé Films.

MEKTOUB, MY LOVE : CANTO UNO – 2017 by Abdellatif Kechiche

Artistic Collaborator & Assistant Director

Presented at the Venice Film Festival in September 2017.



EDITOR

***LES MÉTAMORPHOSES, AU FÉMININ* – 2026**

Fiction, 20 min

Produced by Bleu Piéton, Berta Film, and anima films

Presented at Venice Film Festival – SIC opening film

***ANIME GALLEGGIANTI (WANDERING SOULS)* – 2024**

Fantasy, hybrid Fiction, 71 min

Produced by anima films, Image Hunters, Sardegna Film Commission

***PANE QUOTIDIANO* – (in post-production)**

by Franco Piavoli

Produced by Zefiro Films

***TU MÉRITES UN AMOUR* – 2019**

by Hafsia Herzi

Produced by Les Films de la Bonne Mère, Rezo Films, and Arte.

Presented at Semaine de la Critique at the Cannes Film Festival 2019.

***MEKTOUB, MY LOVE : CANTO UNO* – 2017**

by Abdellatif Kechiche

Produced by Quat'Sous Films, Pathé Films.

Presented at the Venice Film Festival in September 2017.

***MEKTOUB, MY LOVE : CANTO DUE* – 2025**

by Abdellatif Kechiche

Produced by Quat'Sous Films, Pathé Films.

Presented at the Locarno Film Festival in 2025.

