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***We the Living* - 80th Anniversary Restoration Project Description**

Introduction

An all-new, completely restored, high-definition, edition of *We the Living* is now being prepared for release in early 2023 in celebration of the 80th anniversary of the premiere of this film classic! Once the work is completed, audiences will experience this beautiful film much as it looked when it was first shown at the Venice Film Festival in 1942.

The Project In a Nutshell

Title: We the Living - The 80th Anniversary Restoration
Genre: Feature Length Narrative Film
Running Time: Approx 2 Hours, 55 Minutes
Language: Italian (with English Closed Captions)
Target Audience: General audience
Re-release Budget: \$127,500.
Format: 1080p Digital Video
Est. Completion Date: Approx Nov, 2022
Production Company: Duncan Scott Productions
Distribution Company: TBD
Public Relations: TBD
Primary Distribution: Streaming Platforms and Theatrical
Ancillary Distribution: Cable, Broadcast, Educational

About *We the Living*

Set in the chaotic aftermath of the Russian revolution, *We the Living* is the story of a spirited young woman who courageously defies an oppressive regime. It is an epic tale of perseverance. But at its core, the film serves as an impassioned outcry for the right of each human being to live free.

The story was drawn from American author Ayn Rand's first novel, *We the Living*. Unlike her later, more famous novels, *The Fountainhead* & *Atlas Shrugged*, Rand drew heavily from her experiences as a young woman growing up in Russia. Rand later described it as "as near to an autobiography as I will ever write". It is easily her most personal and heartfelt writing.

The movie was filmed in Rome, Italy in 1942. It stars Alida Valli (as Kira), Rossano Brazzi (as Leo), Fosco Giachetti (as Andrei), and it was directed by Goffredo Alessandrini. Filming began during

World War II, without authorization from Rand, or even her knowledge. Italian authorities green-lit the production in hopes of casting a bad light on Russia--their wartime enemy. *We the Living* premiered in Venice, Italy in 1942 and was initially released as two films, *Noi Vivi* and *Addio Kira*. It was an enormous critical success and went on to become the highest-grossing film in Italy that year.

Alida Valli's portrayal of an independent heroine with two lovers simultaneously was both daring and groundbreaking at the time of its release. More importantly, the film told a story that moviegoers could easily relate to in Italy, a country suffocating under the regime of its fascist dictator, Mussolini. The oppressive conditions depicted in Russia were much like what Italians were enduring.

We the Living came to be known as "the film of nudging in the dark."

But before long, authorities finally recognized why the public embraced the film-- it was a sly indictment of Italy's own fascist government. The film was soon banned and it was ordered that all negatives and prints be destroyed. *We the Living* might never have been seen again except for a brazen step by one of the film's producers. He sent negatives of another film to be destroyed betting that authorities wouldn't examine them carefully, and, at great personal risk, he hid the actual *We the Living* negatives in the basement of a trusted friend for the duration of World War II.

After the war, Scalera Film, the studio that had produced the movie went out of business and the *We the Living* negatives went missing. Decades passed and Rand's novel of WE THE LIVING became an enduring classic, selling millions of copies, translated into dozens of languages, and continuously in print. Yet virtually no one in America even knew that a film version of her book had been made in Italy. Rand was advised that the negatives had most likely been lost forever.

In the late 1960s Rand mentioned the film to her young business associates, Erika and Henry Mark Holzer. With Rand's permission the couple made it their mission to go to Italy, track down the negatives--if they even existed--and bring the movie to American audiences for the first time. It took over two years and multiple trips to Italy, but the Holzer's eventually found the once hidden negatives of *We the Living*, now gathering dust in a warehouse alongside dozens of other films--the all-but-forgotten legacy of the defunct production company. Back in the USA, Rand consulted with filmmaker Duncan Scott on how the original two films, *Noi Vivi* and *Addio Kira* could be combined so that *We the Living* could be released as one film.

The new version of *We the Living* had its world premiere at the Telluride Film festival in 1986--its first showing outside of Italy since 1942. It was released in theaters in the US and eventually, worldwide and on home video and on-demand.

The film garnered rave reviews. New York Newsday said, "*We the Living* qualifies in every respect as film treasure...one of the best movies of the year"; "Hugely entertaining" wrote the Los Angeles Times; and Sneak Previews called it "An amazing piece of cinema."

Business Plan/Budget

Duncan Scott Productions (DSP) is producing and managing all aspects of *We the Living - 80th Anniversary Restoration*. The company began restoration work in January of 2020 and it is expected to be completed by Nov. 2022.

DSP had a high-definition digital scan made using the well-preserved master 35mm negatives of the original two films that comprise *We the Living: Noi Vivi* and *Addio Kira*. Then, using state-of-the-art digital software technology, they began repairing and rejuvenating the entire film, frame by frame, removing scratches, dirt, and other flaws that are common in old movies. Improvements to exposure and contrast were made scene by scene. In addition, a new translation was made of all the dialog and improvements made to the style and tone of the subtitle script.

Publicity & promotion planning began in early fall 2022. In addition to general interest entertainment publications and social media, the PR campaign will target special interest publications that focus on classic and foreign films as well as objectivist, libertarian, free market, and conservative outlets. *We the Living* will be shown at major film festivals worldwide, including Il Cinema Ritrovato, in Bologna, Italy.

We the Living - 80th Anniversary Restoration will be released into a limited number of movie theaters across the country in the winter of 2023 followed by distribution on streaming/on demand platforms.

The budget for the project is \$232,670. DSP has donated in-kind services, facilities, equipment and labor estimated at \$105,100. The balance of \$127,570 is being raised through donations.

Schedule

Stage One	Telecine conversion of 35mm film to HD files, assemble original 4 hr version.	Completed January 2020
Stage Two	Review and correction of subtitles.	Completed March 2020
Stage Three	Digital correction of basic flaws - scratches, dirt, missing frames, visible splices, video noise, mismatched aspect ratio, soft imagery, uncorrected contrast & gamma.	Completed May 2021
Stage Four	Digital correction of complex flaws - judder (jittering, frames), flicker, ephemeral artifact removal.	Completed January 2022
Stage Five	Conform footage to 2 hr, 52 Min Version	Completed May 2022
Stage Six	Audio restoration and sound remix.	Completed, August 2022
Stage Seven	Produce streaming platform deliverables and DCP.	Approx. Nov 2022
Stage Eight	Premiere of restored version	Approx. Feb - March 2023

About Duncan Scott Productions

We the Living - 80th Anniversary Restoration is being produced by Emmy award-winning filmmaker, Duncan Scott, whose credits include over 150 film and television projects as screenwriter, producer, and/or director.

He is one of the world's leading specialists in adaptations of the works of Ayn Rand for screen and stage. Years ago, he worked closely with Ayn Rand, Henry Mark Holzer, and Erika Holzer on the restoration of the lost film classic, ***We the Living*** (1942) which was based on Rand's first novel. Duncan's company, Duncan Scott Productions has been the owner/distributor of ***We the Living*** for over 25 years. His company is currently producing a fully restored HD version of the film.

Duncan was one of the screenwriters of the motion picture, ***Atlas Shrugged – Part Two*** (2012), and was Consulting Producer for ***Atlas Shrugged – Part Three*** (2014) for which he also contributed to the screenplay. He also wrote and directed a stage adaptation of Rand's short novel, ***Anthem***. He is the Founder and Director of the non-profit ***Objectivist History Project***, which films interviews with the key individuals that helped launch the Objectivist philosophical movement.

Early in his career, Duncan worked as an assistant director on feature films, including ***Deathtrap***, ***Nighthawks***, and ***Zelig***, alongside filmmakers such as Sidney Lumet, Woody Allen, and Richard Brooks. He produced and directed over thirty half-hour programs for the national public television series ***Innovation***. His stage directing credits include major productions of ***A Man For All Seasons*** and ***Chapter Two***. Other career highlights include collaborations with anthropologist Margaret Mead, musician Eric Clapton, and actor Michael Caine.

Duncan majored in theater arts at the School of Performing Arts in New York City and Santa Monica College. He is a member of The Directors Guild of America, The Writers Guild of America, the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, and the Creative Counsel of The Moving Picture Institute. His awards include four Emmy Awards, two Telly Awards, and a Peabody Award nomination.

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