

BORN TO FLY
(NATI PER VOLARE)

2007, Rai, 70 min. Dir. Marco Visalberghi.

Los Angeles Premiere!



Set in Sicily and the South American Andes, this documentary follows late Italian hang-glider Angelo D'Arrigo putting extreme sport to the service of science as he helps biologists teach a captive-born condor to survive in its native environment. Angelo was one of the most accomplished hang-gliders in the world. In the course of his amazing sporting career he won many championships and set countless records, such as the longest hang-gliding trip (across the Mediterranean Sea & the Sahara) and the highest hang-gliding flight (over the summit of Mt Everest). But Angelo was not satisfied with trophies. His dream was to truly fly like a bird, and to fly like one bird in particular: the Andean condor. The largest and most graceful bird on earth, the condor has a wingspan of three meters and soars to incredible heights over the Andes. In 2005/06 Angelo committed a year of his life raising a captive-born Andean condor named Inca. He not only wanted to teach it how to fly – as he had done before with other birds – but also to learn the secrets of high-altitude soaring from Inca. He wanted to push the limits of human flight – to think, feel and fly like a condor. As Angelo and Inca flew together and learned from each other, they crossed over the magic boundary separating man and bird. Angelo described that year as the most incredible of his entire flying career. It was also the last year of his life. The film narrates Angelo's physical, scientific and technological preparation for his trip to Peru and the intense relationship between Angelo and Inca in stunning HD pictures – until Angelo's tragic death. But Angelo's wife Laura and a group of friends have brought Inca to Peru, thus fulfilling Angelo's dream of the condors flying high in the Andes. Set against the spectacular backdrops of Sicily and towering, snow-covered Andes of South America, this feature-length documentary brings together a breathtaking and unique mixture of aerial adventure, sporting spectacle and scientific journey.

Discussion following with Laura Mancuso, widow of Angelo D'Arrigo and President of the Angelo D'Arrigo Foundation.