



il Villaggio di **Millbrook**

A short documentary about immigration and
assimilation in small-town America.



KC
FILM
FEST
OFFICIAL
SELECTION
2018





Il Villaggio di Millbrook

[Documentary Short]

Running Time:
Produced and Directed By:

36 minutes
Robert H Hanson
Barbara Hanson Pierce

Production Company:
Cinematography and Editing:
Composing and Sound Design:

Beartooth Productions
Robert H Hanson
Jonathan Robertson



LOGLINE

[11 WORDS]

A captivating look into immigration and assimilation in small-town America.

SYNOPSIS

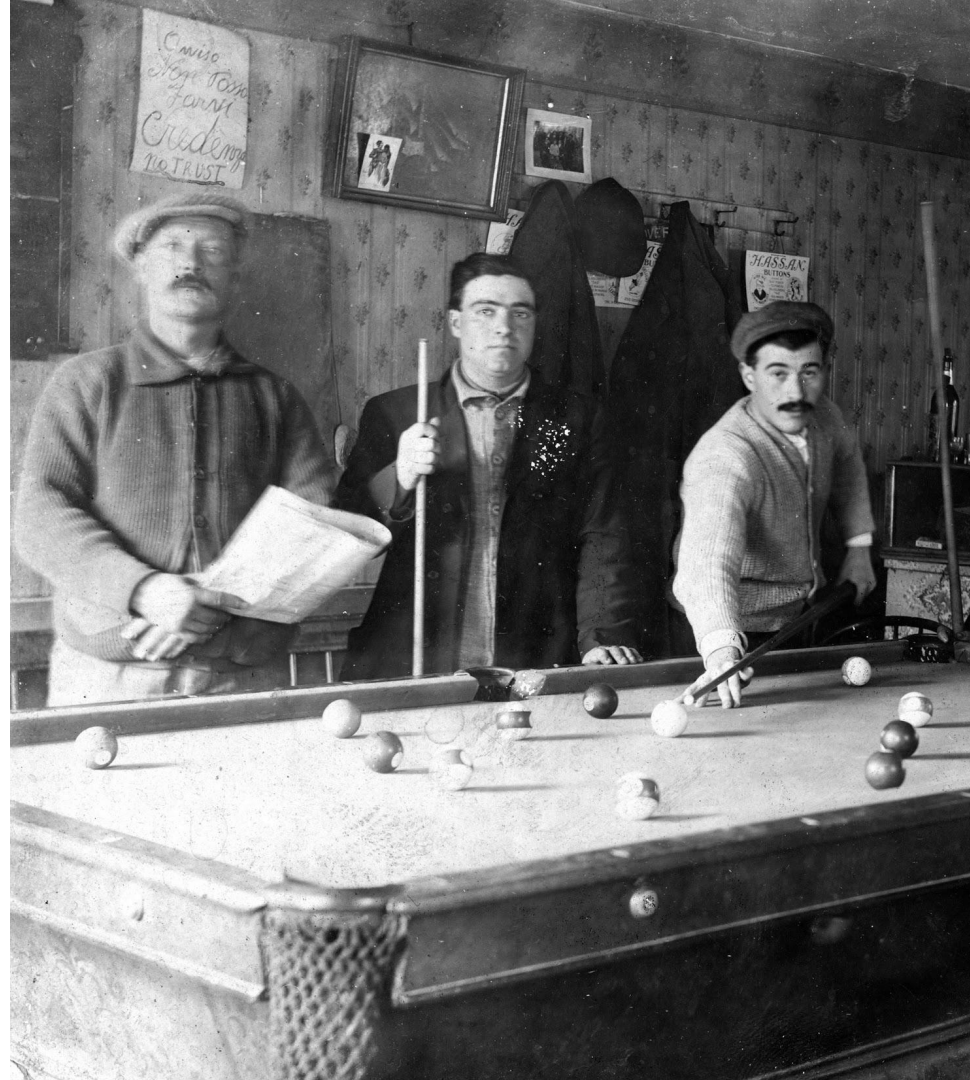
[121 WORDS]

Around the turn of the 19th century, the village of Millbrook, New York experienced a tremendous building campaign. As a result, there was an influx of Italian immigrants who came to Millbrook to be stone masons for the area's many estates. Through a combination of skillful camerawork and seamless editing, the film interweaves historical photos with 15 moving and sometimes amusing interviews. It combines memory and nostalgia, and conveys a sense of the fabric of the community that united these Italian immigrants in their new country, as they adapted to this small village in upstate New York. *Il Villaggio di Millbrook* shows how in one small town, assimilation was the product of hard work, close families, and a desire for community.

OUR STORY

Two years in the making, *"Il Villaggio di Millbrook"* (The Village of Millbrook) was the vision of Barbara Hanson Pierce, who wanted to explore Millbrook's Italian roots. The film grew out of Millbrook's The Museum in the Streets® project, a permanent, bilingual, historical walking tour of the village, which Pierce, as co-chair, shepherded to its opening in 2014. As a follow-up, she wanted to film the stories of some of Millbrook's oldest families of Italian descent, whose ancestors came in the late 19th and early 20th centuries to work on the great estates.

To turn her vision into reality, Pierce enlisted her nephew, Robert H. Hanson, a professional filmmaker and Professor of Cinema at Missouri Western State University. Hanson came to Millbrook in two successive summers, and spent six days filming at various locations throughout the village. The settings for his interviews are vivid and colorful, evoking warm summer days. To complete the film, Hanson enlisted the help of Jonathan Robertson of Kansas City, who composed and recorded an original score for the film, inspired by Neapolitan folk music.



PRODUCER / DIRECTOR

Robert H Hanson

Robert attended Yale University, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Art with a concentration in filmmaking. His final project, a 45-minute documentary film, received honors in the department. After college, Robert moved to Memphis, Tennessee, where he worked as part of a two-man video production team for Ducks Unlimited.

A desire to learn more about the narrative side of filmmaking brought Robert to Los Angeles, where he earned his MFA at the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts. From there, Robert founded his own video production company, Beartooth Productions, and steadily built up a client list, producing corporate and promotional videos, commercials, and music videos. His most ambitious project, however, was a 10-episode competitive reality series entitled "Nock Out," which aired on NBC Sports in the summer of 2014.

Robert is now an Assistant Professor of Cinema at Missouri Western State University, and is currently producing and directing a feature-length documentary film about archery in the Kingdom of Bhutan.



PRODUCER / DIRECTOR

Barbara Hanson Pierce

Barbara Hanson Pierce graduated from Harvard University and Columbia's Graduate School of Journalism. She has worked as a teacher, editor, speechwriter and freelance journalist. Her writing has been published in Gourmet, Town & Country, Redbook, Country Living, House & Garden, and Reader's Digest.

As co-chair of The Museum in the Streets® program in Millbrook, NY (2011-2014), she was responsible for the first American installation of Museum in the Streets to use Italian as a second language. "Il Villaggio di Millbrook" grew out of that project.

She is married to the former director of the Morgan Library and Museum in New York City, and together they have two married children. They divide their time between Dutchess County, NY, and Northeast Harbor, ME.



COMPOSER / SOUND DESIGNER

Jonathan Robertson

Jonathan Robertson is a composer and sound designer based in Kansas City. He is an adjunct instructor in the Theatre and Music Technology departments at Missouri Western State University, and teaches sound technology at University of Missouri, Kansas City.

Recent credits include: Associate Sound Designer X, or Betty Shabazz v. The Nation off-broadway at the New Victory Theater (Dir. Ian Belknap, NYC, 2017) and the Theater at St. Clements (Dir. Ian Belknap, NYC, 2018); Composer/Sound Designer on Men on Boats at the Unicorn Theatre (Dir. Missy Koonce, Kansas City, 2017); Sound Designer Sea Marks (Dir. Jan Rogge, Kansas City, 2018); Sound Designer A Christmas Carol (Dir. Quin Gresham, Arrow Rock, 2018); Composer/Sound Designer And Then There Were None (Dir. John Rensenhous, Kansas City, 2017).



EXECUTIVE PRODUCER, Skip Ciferri

Skip Ciferri is President of R.W. Ciferri, Inc., general contractors and builders. He is the grandson of Rodrigo Ciferri, one of the contractors and stonemasons featured in the film. Rodrigo emigrated to the USA in 1897 with 65 cents in his pocket. His grandson, Skip, was a public official in Millbrook for 42 years, and is now a director of the Bank of Millbrook.



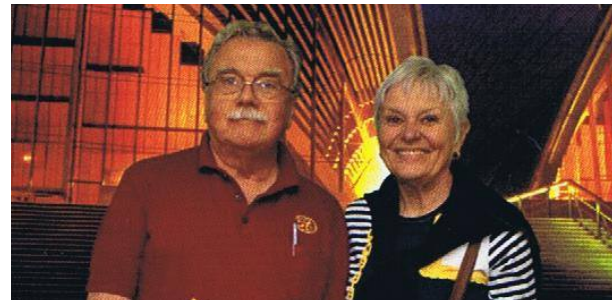
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS, Kathe & John Dyson

John and Kathe Bova Dyson have vineyards and wineries in Millbrook, NY, Tuscany, and California. The Millbrook Winery just produced its 35th vintage. Kathe is a Founder of Friends of Florence which restores important works of art there.



EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS, David & Nan Greenwood

Village Historian David Greenwood and his wife Nan have always shared a passion for local history and the stories of those who can bring that past to life. They have also volunteered for years with the Rotary Youth Exchange Program, facilitating international experiences to develop among young people an understanding and appreciation of other cultures and traditions.





PRAISE

"The universal story of immigrants and assimilation"

Jonathan Galassi, PRESIDENT OF FARRAR, STRAUS AND GIROUX

"The film casts a spell which is what all good films must do, documentaries as well as features, but which so many documentary filmmakers seem not even to attempt. Marvelous cast. Music perfectly deployed. I am swept right into the place and its atmosphere as a complete outsider."

DeWitt Sage, OSCAR-WINNING DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKER

"What an amazing documentary....I learned so much about Millbrook and its own little Italy. Success is when the audience smiles, laughs, sighs, and cries all in one seating."

Debra Flanigan, MILLBROOK RESIDENT

CREDITS

A Film by:

Executive Producers

Cinematography and Editing

Composer / Recordist

Sound Design and Mixing

Studio Musician - Cello

Studio Musician - Mandolin

FEATURING

Noreen Bartolomucci

Skip Ciferri

Rev. Msgr. Gerardo J. Colacicco

Al De Bonis

John Dyson

David Greenwood

Dora Ialongo

Gino Iannucci

Robert H Hanson

Barbara Hanson Pierce

Skip Ciferri

Kathe and John Dyson

David and Nan Greenwood

Barbara Hanson Pierce

Robert H Hanson

Jonathan Robertson

Jonathan Robertson

Ezgi Karakus

Mike Stover

Sara Krauss

Buddy Marona

Rosemary Sepe Neilson

Marguerite Rotunno

Teresa Rotunno

Doreen Sepe

Vic Sepe

1	Ellie	Daughter	7	31	Sept 1899	4	5	New York	New York
2	Don	Son	7	16	Aug 1899	1	2	New York	New York
3	Lane William	Brother-in-law	2	16	Feb 1890	30	16	New York	New York
4	Lane Mary	Sister-in-law	3	21	Oct 1877	52	16	New York	New York
5	Lane Susan	Niece	2	21	Jan 1896	4	2	New York	New York
6	Lane Norman	Nephew	7	16	Nov 1900	17		New York	New York
7	Lane George	Brother-in-law	4	16	July 1891	28	2	New York	New York
8	Lane Norman	Brother-in-law	2	16	Mar 1867	28	3	New York	New York
9	Lane Frank	Brother-in-law	5	16	Oct 1881	14	2	New York	New York
10	Ball George A	Brother	4	16	Mar 1863	57	16	England	England
11	Ellie	Wife	7	21	Mar 1870	30	16	New York	New York
12	Edith	Daughter	7	21	Dec 1891	9	2	New York	New York
13	George	Son	7	16	Feb 1898	7	2	New York	New York
14	Edward E	Son	2	16	Mar 1899	6	2	New York	New York
15	Ralph	Son	7	16	Apr 1899	5	2	New York	New York
16	Jessie	Daughter	2	21	July 1896	3	2	New York	New York
17	Alfred	Son	7	16	Feb 1900	2	2	New York	New York
18	1891 Brown Elizabeth	Not in line	7	21	Jan 1891	69	21	New York	New York
19	1891 Mc John James	Brother	7	16	Oct 1864	35	16	New York	New York
20	Margaret	Wife	7	21	Sept 1865	59	16	New York	New York
21	1891 Butler William	Brother	7	16	Oct 1891	28	2	New York	New York
22	1891 Butler William	Brother	7	16	Oct 1891	28	2	New York	New York
23	Ellie	Wife	7	21	Jan 1899	25	16	New York	New York
24	William	Son	7	16	Mar 1896	4	8	New York	New York
25	Marjorie	Daughter	7	21	Apr 1899	2	2	New York	New York
26	Marjorie	Daughter	7	21	Apr 1899	2	2	New York	New York
27	James James	Son-in-law	7	21	Dec 1899	27	2	New York	New York
28	1891 James James	Son-in-law	7	16	Nov 1891	59	64	New York	New York
29	1891 James James	Son-in-law	7	16	Oct 1891	32	16	New York	New York
30	Ellie	Wife	7	21	Apr 1899	25	16	New York	New York
31	1891 James James	Son-in-law	7	16	Apr 1899	25	16	New York	New York
32	Ellie	Wife	7	21	Apr 1899	25	16	New York	New York
33	James James	Son-in-law	7	21	Apr 1899	25	16	New York	New York
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100	James James	Son-in-law	7	21	Apr 1899	25	16	New York	New York

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