

“The Chameleons” by Patrick Botticchio

English Audio Description Preshow Notes

Welcome to 2025 “No Limits”, “The Chameleons” directed by Patrick Botticchio. This programme is co-presented by the Hong Kong Arts Festival and The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, with strategic supporting partner Arts with the Disabled Association Hong Kong. I am Kate Allert, the audio describer.

The programme will be screened at the Laundry Steps, Tai Kwun on the 9th of March 2025 at 2:15pm with free admission. It is around one hour long and performed in Italian, with both Dubbing and Audio Description in Cantonese, and subtitles in Chinese and English, with the House Programme in audio format. Guide dogs are welcome.

The film will also be available to view for free on the “No Limits” website, between the 24th March from 10 am, to the 19th May at 10pm, with Dubbing and Audio Description in Cantonese and English; Subtitles and Accessible Captions in Chinese and English, and the House Programme in audio format.

General Introduction

This is a documentary about an inclusive football team, the "Chameleons", from the Swiss town of Lugano, which has players of diverse abilities, ages and genders. The film records their participation in a European six-nation competition – the first-ever Special Adventure Camp in Bonn, Germany in 2022.

Patrick Botticchio is a Swiss filmmaker who has been making local and international documentaries and short films since 2017.

Key Locations

The players and their families meet at a car park in a leafy Lugano suburb. The coach and assistants welcome the players onto the team bus here at the start of the film and bid them farewell at the end.

The hotel in Bonn is a low-rise building in a quiet area. It has wide steps up to the front door, where the coach seats the players for meetings.

The rooms have large windows, a wardrobe, desk and chair and can accommodate three people. A built-in partition separates the beds and the bathroom is ensuite.

The spacious training camp is in the countryside, with an outdoor recreational area, a playing field and dormitories. The camp has a travel theme, so there are different vehicles throughout.

The outdoor area has caravans and trailers, as well as tables and benches in a covered section, for people to rest and eat.

The large playing field has both soccer and rugby goalposts set up at the ends.

An enormous, grey hangar-type building houses the accommodation for all the teams. It has internal wooden staircases and is brightly lit by day, with muted lighting at night.

Down the centre is a simulated road, with streetlamps and multiple places to sit, talk and eat, as well as open spaces for group activities, and many vintage caravans, each unique.

The walls on both sides have murals of beaches and oceans. There are lots of decorations with pop-art sculptures, paintings, picket fences and flags that make the huge space homely.

Up some stairs on the left, is a mezzanine floor with an old train carriage that is the Chameleon's dormitory. The internal layout has been retained, with a narrow corridor on one side, looking out to a mural of an aquarium and tiny sleeper rooms on the other. Each room has a window overlooking the central space and two bunk beds, made up with crisp white sheets.

The stadium, specially built for the competition in the centre of Bonn, is about a third of the size of a regular pitch. It's surrounded by old and modern buildings and it has ten rows of covered spectator benches on one side, while its white hoardings are waist height, so passersby can stop and watch. There are white marquees for the players and officials to use.

Key Characters

The Chameleon players are adults with different types of disabilities. The group comprises a head coach, three additional staff members and 12 players, mostly men. These are the people most heavily featured in the film.

Boris, the coach, is a man in his forties, tall, bald and stubbled, with many tattoos on his right arm. He likes to wear T-shirts, jeans and a ball cap.

Alain and Andrea are the team members most in need of emotional support; some of the players are away from their families for the very first time.

Alain is a man in his thirties with Down's syndrome. He has short black hair with a receding hairline. He is short and stocky and wears black and gold glasses.

Andrea is a small, slight man with a long, thick neck, glasses and short brown hair. He's pale-skinned and often deeply flushed.

Lorenzo is the most outgoing – an average-built man in his twenties, with short brown curly hair, and an intense expression. He is hearing impaired and wears a device. A polyglot, he loves to chat.

Gustavo is a Portuguese man of stocky build, with short black hair, tanned skin, and black-rimmed, square glasses. He is confident and supports other team members.

Other players include:

Stefano, a tall, thin man with an angular face and cropped brown hair, whose left arm is amputated above the elbow. He's a talented, experienced player.

and

Carmen, nicknamed Bomber, a charismatic woman, tall and fat with short, dark brown hair and bronzed glasses.

The team has a ritual to bond before a match. Standing in a tight circle, they stack their right hands in the centre, count to 3 then shout the team name, shooting their hands up.

This is the end of the audio description preshow notes of "The Chameleons". Please enjoy the show.