

HILDE LOTZ-BAUER

Photographer

Tribute by Corinna Lotz, after the performance of *Summer of '34* on 23 August 2025

Thank you, Michela Nicolai, Maria Fiorella Rotolo, the town and Giovanni Mastrogiovanni, Mayor of Scanno, and Alessio De Stefano for the translation.

My partner Robbie and I have travelled from London to Scanno because this place meant so much to Hilde, my mother, and it has become very meaningful for us too. We've been here six times since 2007.

I've been researching my mother's life for many years now. She left her native Germany as a young woman shortly after the Nazis came to power and remained in Italy until the war forced her to leave. Her second husband, my father, who wrote about Italian Renaissance architecture, also left Germany in the *Ventennio fascista*. He was later forced to join the German army in 1943.

Hilde had a deep appreciation for Italy's art and culture. She returned a second time and stayed here longer than anywhere else in her life, leaving again only because she was forced to.

Hilde struggled for independence as a young woman against the background of fascism in Germany and Italy. She led an almost charmed life: she was quite privileged, but she had a deep sympathy for the hard-working, ordinary people she met – especially the women she encountered in Italy.

She was the first to portray the women of Scanno as individuals – beautiful and poetic – in a way that unveiled their very souls, as Maria Pia Silla has said. But also as pillars who sustained their community here. Today Scanno, like so many communities across Europe and the wider world, is fighting for its physical and cultural survival against many frightening political and ecological challenges.

I'd like to salute Lo Stormo theatre company, and F.A.S.T.I., the Scanno Tradition and Innovation Fund, for the work that they are doing.

Hilde's life was shaped by the catastrophe of fascism and the Second World War. We also stand at a turning point in history today. This play allows us to feel our strength – as women, as communities – and shows what it truly means to be at home. So, I'd like to quote a Latin poet, Marcus Pacuvis, who said: "Patria est ubicumque est bene" – wherever I feel well, wherever I feel good, here is my home.

<https://hildelotzbauer.net/Hilde-revisits-Scanno.html>