

# fROOTS

FROOTS : WOMEX AWARD WINNER



**dvd**  
& video

roots on screens

## STEFANO VALLA & DANIELE SCURATI

Per Dove Tu Passi Aditi A182507

The giffero is a form of rustic oboe without keys. It is the dominant musical instrument of the mountainous Apennine region of north-west Italy which includes parts of the four provinces of Alessandria, Genova, Piacenza and Pavia. At one time it was partnered by local bagpipes but this role was overtaken during the 20th Century by the piano accordion.

Stefano Valla is one outstanding current practitioner on it and his partner is a remarkable virtuoso on the accordion.

The video takes us through just about all aspects of this tradition. We see the instrument played in concert, for dancing, in

Carnevale parades, for song accompaniment, in the recording studio and in aching beautiful settings in the Apennines set up for the video. We visit the skilled makers of both instruments and see how Stefano sets up his reeds for different situations.

We hear from two ethnomusicologists (English & French subtitles available) of earlier musicians who were role models for these two, of the way they have developed traditional playing and how new influences have been absorbed.

The video uses adventurous cinematography to portray a tradition that is vibrant and creates a lot of enthusiasm amongst its adherents, though perhaps, at 80 minutes, it could have done with some tighter editing.

[www.valiascurati.it/](http://www.valiascurati.it/)

Vic Smith

# david wax museum

american roots meet mexican folk