A young boy named Sandro, who comes from a privileged family, goes boating with his father, falls overboard and is lost at sea. When he is rescued by a ship carrying immigrant hopefuls to Italy, his family’s eyes are opened to a world of difficulties about which they knew nothing before. Giordana, director of the immensely popular epic drama La meglio gioventù, turns his attention to the various problems associated with immigration in contemporary Italy.