

ISTITUTO LUCE - ITALNOLEGGIO CINEMATOGRAFICO

MAGNIFICAT

a film

by

PUPI AVATI

FESTIVAL DE CANNES - OFFICIAL SELECTION - IN COMPETITION

INTERNATIONAL PRESS OFFICE

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MAGNIFICAT

Modern man has learnt to live with the silence of God. Silence-absence which makes him proud, freeing himself from dependence, liberating himself from obedience. He can finally place himself in the centre of the system.

On the contrary, the medieval man looked for and wanted to recognize God in everything which surrounded him: He had a primary need to do so. It was the belief in his own existence which reassured him, comparing it with the great unknown that he observed around him. Didn't prayers perhaps constitute a continuous, repeatable request to God for "existing"? And didn't the ritual, through the liturgy (a repetition of that which must not be forgotten of the readings and action grateful to God) aim at having in exchange a sign of the divine presence that would illuminate the great darkness?

We have dedicated Magnificat to this search, this question and to the need of man in those times and furthermore to the reasons of any kind of faith, which makes a human being more harmonious with the surrounding environment.

If in an innocent game of making our films a part of the journey, transforming each film in a stop, if this were the game and each stop would be interpreted therefore as an opportunity to reflect on the journey taken and on the one which awaits us, we are certain that during the

journey, Magnificat would represent the arrival at a unique and mysterious place, not to be found on any map and certainly not foreseen, many years ago on the eve of departure.

Upon arrival at this place, there is, perhaps a wish and desire to broaden the horizons to breathe in a stronger surrounding influence and to free oneself of certain obstacles. To desire to leave a road and venture oneself in the wood in order to look for an incontaminated clearing, abandoning the security of a foreseeable trail.

Magnificat has brought us far, but only in time, in those valleys, where a thousand years after school trips would pass through or on the tops of those mountains where wedding ceremonies would be celebrated.

In order to give a likelihood to everything, we have rebuilt Byzantine iconostasis, Caroligian ciboriums, crosses engraved in stone. We have looked for the sound of rattlesnakes, syringes and cymbals. We have relearnt the language of signs and rituals of burials and marriages, recalled processions of widows and God's judgement. Rituals of which there are strong barbaric influences mixed together with the Cristian liturgy.

In its entirety, the text is a fruit of a passion. It is a consequence of patient reading for years on end. On

the whole, it is an infinite number of suggestions, contributions, interpolations, quotations and final contaminations.

From Gregorio of Tours to Paolo Diacono, from Liutprando from Cremona, through the imitation of Christ until the Lays of Maria of France, from the Poets of the court of Byzantium to the apocryphal Apocalypse of Saint Peter, from the chronicles of Rodolfo the Glabro to the enigmatic Beowulf.

From many uncontemporary sources, from the late Liber de Homine to the letters of Abelardo and Eloisa, to Diorama Lusitano. Furthermore, the Acta Sanctorum, which are mixed together with the Aurea Legends, to the visions of Swedenborg or to Jubilate Agno by Christopher Smart, to the Forum Orders by Cuenca, to the Abandonment of the world of Guglielmo the Maresciallo.

We are very grateful to the contemporary historians who have in the past ten years finally illuminated those centuries which our school books still defined as the "dark" ages. From Lebvre, to Bloch, Braudel, Aries, Duby, Le Goff, Laduerie, Cardini and many others among our own. Therefore, many voices for an only story, which does not have any pretence of being anything else but a testimony of everyday life in a small early Medieval community.

A story about men and women, owned by a man who

harasses then, claimed by hell, tempted by passion and elevated by a spirituality.

Pupi and Antonio Avati

ANTONIO AVATI

and

GIORGIO LEOPARDI

presented

a film

of

PUPI AVATI

with

LUIGI DIBERTI
ARNALDO NINCHI
MASSIMO BELLINZONI
DALIA LAHAV
LORELLA MORLOTTI
MASSIMO SARCHIELLI
BRIZIO MONTINARO
MARCELLO CESENA
CONSUELO FERRARA

and with

EUGENIA ABBATI	MICHELANGELO BRANCATO
MIRIAN ABUTORI	LAURA BROTZU
ELEONORA ALESSANDRELLI	VALENTINA CAPONE
ILARIA AMALDI	ALFREDO CARUSO BELLI
DIANA ANSELMO	MASSIMILIANO CAVALLARO
SANTI BELLINA	DAVIDE CELLI
SALVATORE BILLA	CHANTAL CHIERICI
FLAVIO BISONE	CONSUELO CIALDI
MARCO COLACIOPPO	LUCIO DI LULLO
PAOLA CONTINI	FRANCESCO GABRIELE
RODOLFO CORSATO	FEDERICO GENTILINI
VINCENZO CROCITTI	FEDERICO GEREMICCA
ELISABETTA DARIDA	GAIA GRAZIANI
LUDOVICO DELLO IOIO	FERDINANDO GUELI
	BARBARA MARCIANO

MARIELLA DI LAURO	BRUNO MARINELLI
MARINA MARINI	CLAUDIO PARISE
MARIA CLAUDIA MASSARI	GIUSEPPE PASCULLI
MICHELE MELEGA	MARIO PATANE'
MIMMO MIGNEMI	ROSA PIANETA
BEATRICE MORGIA	CLAUDIA POZZI
SALVATORE MORTELLITTI	FABIO ROSCILLO
ABRAMO ORLANDINI	LUCIO SALIS
IGNAZIO PANDOLFO	CINZIA SCALZI
ANDREA SCORSONI	MARCO TOMMASI
LOREDANA SOLFIZI	VALENTINA TOMIELLI
BIANCA MARIA SORGI MOSCHINI	LUCA TRINCA
SOFIA SPADA	GUGLIELMO UCCIERO
MARZIA SPANU	ANTONIO VIESPOLI
DON TESDAHL	SASA VULLICEVIC
	GIULIANA ZAROLI

Production Manager
FRANCESCO GUERRIERI

Script and Screenplay
PUPI AVATI

Setting
GIUSEPPE PIRROTTA

Assistant director
GIANNI AMADEI

Costumes
SISSI PARRAVICINI

Sound mixer
RAFFAELE DE LUCA

Music
RIZ ORTOLANI

Photography
CESARE BASTELLI

Cinecittà

Editor
AMEDEO SALFA

An production
DUEA FILM

Realized with the collaboration of
ISTITUTO LUCE - ITALNOLEGGIO CINEMATOGRAFICO
PENTA FILM
UNION P.N.

Produced of
ANTONIO AVATI

Directed by
PUPI AVATI

THE CREW

Director	PUPI AVATI
Producer	ANTONIO AVATI
Script and Screenplay	PUPI AVATI
Director of photography	CESARE BASTELLI
Operator	GIOVANNI RAGONE
Setting	GIUSEPPE PIRROTTA
Costumes	SISSI PARRAVICINI
Editor	AMEDEO SALFA
Music	RIZ ORTOLANI
Production Manager	FRANCESCO GUERRIERI
Sound mixer	RAFFAELE DE LUCA
Assistant Director	GIANNI AMADEI
Make-up Artist	MAURIZIO FAZZINI
Hairdresser	GIANCARLO DE LEONARDIS
Production overseers	ANGELA RICCI
	DOMENICO LA SPADA
Script-girl	MARISA CALIA
Production	DUEA FILM S.r.l.
	Realized in collaboration with
	ISTITUTO LUCE ITALNOLEGGIO
	CINEMATOGRAFICO
	PENTA FILM
	UNION P.N.
	CINECITTA'
Development and press	

Assistant Operator
Assistant Director
Secretaries of Production

Administration
Assistant costume
Assistant Scenographers

Boom operator
Stage photographer
Photographic services
Property-man
Dressmakers

Assistants Editor

Gaffer scene-shifters
Scene-shifters

Gaffer Electricians
Electricians

Production collaboration

Cast collaboration
Technical collaboration
Make-up collaboration
Costumes collaboration

ROBERTO DE NIGRIS
GUIDO GEUNA
SILVIA PURIFICATO
YOZO TOKUDA
FIAMMETTA A. DE NIGRIS
DANIELA DI SANTO PARRAVICIN
ALESSANDRA DI FRANCESCO
ELENA PINZUTI
ADRIANO DE LORENZO
FABRIZIO MASTRACCHI MANES
GUIDO LAUDANI
WALTER BELLI
RINA CIPRIANI
PATRIZIA MARIELLA
PIERA GABUTTI
PAOLA TOMMASI
ALDO RICCI
CLAUDIO RICCI
GIORGIO PROTTI
GIORGIO DE MARCHIS
ALESSANDRO MAGNO
ANTONIO LUCREZIO
TOMMASO PESSINA
ROBERTO FERROTTI
LEYLA CAPPELLI
GIORGIO COMEZ
EMANUELE STORTI
PAOLO DE MARCHIS
ANTONELLA PADOVANI
AMELIA CIPRIANI

Our best thanks for the collaboration:

THE MAYOR, THE ADMINISTRATION, THE PEOPLE OF TODI, THE COMMUNE
OF GUALDO CATTANEA (PG)

THE LOYER GIUSEPPE VITALE OWNER OF SPELTARA CASTLE

THE CONVENT OF MONTESANTO (TODI)

THE GRAND HOTEL "BRAMANTE" OF TODI

CESARE BASTELLI STUDIO CINEMA

FRANCESCO MONTORI AND FAMILY

Musical edition

Photographic studio

Negatives

Filmed in

Insurance advice

Lights

Sound truck effect

Costumes realized by

Shoes

Post-scoring realized by
the co-operative society

Mixage

Technical equipment

BMG ARIOLA

ROBERTO RUSSO

KODAK

TECHNOVISION

CINESICURTA'

REC

G.I.S.T.AR.MOVIE Production

COSTUMI D'ARTE ROMA-FIRENZE

ARDITI

FONO ROMA

ROMANO CHECCACCI

ELMA

CAST

LUIGI DIBERTI	LORD OF MANFOLE
ARNALDO NINCHI	FOLCO
MASSIMO BELLINZONI	BAINO
DALIA LAHAV	ROZA
LORELLA MORLOTTI	VENTURINA
MASSIMO SARCHIELLI	MARGHERITA'S FATHER
BRIZIO MONTINARO	LORD OF CAMPODOSE
MARCELLO CESENA	AGATEO
CONSUELO	ABBESS
ANDREA SCORZONI	YOUNG LORD OF MANFOLE
ELEONORA ALESSANDRELLI	MARGHERITA
DAVID CELLI	BAGNARO
NARRATOR'S VOICE	NANDO GAZZOLO

SYNOPSIS

The story takes place at the end of the tenth century in an undefined area in Pentapoli.

During the week before Easter, a number of pilgrims, each for a different reason, go to Malfole, where the Monastery and Abbey of the Visitation is found.

Mary's visit to Elisabeth, the day after the Annunciation gives its name to this Holy place.

The Blessed Virgin Mary's tunic, which a pilgrim had brought back from the Holy Land, hangs from the beam of a church, preserved from an unforgettable time and protected by a silver shrine.

It is said to be miraculous for pregnant women.

For this reason, Roza, a nine-month pregnant royal concubine, reaches the monastery with her servants and midwives. She hopes to give the King a baby boy, who will guarantee her succession to the throne.

Gomario Grifone, on the other hand, has heard a call announcing his own death. He recognized this call by mysterious signs. He decides to go and die at the foot of the Monastery which is the same place where his wife, the Lady of Malfore was born and buried.

Margherita, a fourteen-year-old girl and her brother set off from the faraway Conca of Montefiore towards the Monastery. Margherita is going to be a novice and therefore, will be given to the Church by her family.

Folco and Baino, two executioners, are also on their way to the Monastery. Every three months, they go around to the Dominions the Exarchate to carry out death sentences.

During that holy week of sorrow, many other people will find themselves reaching the same destination as if they were all connected by the same destiny, the same mysterious and enigmatic call.

As a result, their stories will entwine and will come together to make up a mutual theme which concerns questions asked to themselves about life after death and the destiny that awaits them.

Each person will ask for proof of their existence of a continuation of life after death, but none of them for various reasons will manage to have this proof.

The proof will be achieved when each one of them has lost their faith and will have stopped waiting.

FUPI AVATI

He was born in november 3rd 1938.

FILMOGRAPHY

- 1968 **BALSAMUS** - prod. MAGIC FILM
with Bob Tonelli, Greta Vajant, G.Gravina. G.L. Pizzirani.
- 1969 **THOMAS** - prod. CIDIERRE CINEMATOGRAFICA
with Anita Sanders, Edmund Purdon, Mariangela Melato,
G.Cravina, G.Pizzirani, Bob Tonelli.
Partecipation at LOCARNO FESTIVAL 1970
(STEFEN AWARD best actor not protagonist to Bob Tonelli)
- 1974 **LA MAZURCA DEL BARONE...** - prod. EURO INTERNATIONAL FILMS
with Ugo Tognazzi, Paolo Villaggio, Delia Boccardo,
Lucio Dalla, Gianni Cavina.
- 1975 **BORDELLA** - prod. EURO INTERNATIONAL FILMS
with Luigi Proietti, Al Lettieri, Vincent Gardenia,
Taryn Powel, Christian De Sica, Vladeck Sheball, G. Cavina.
1° AWARD DE CURTIS
(best comic film)
- 1976 **LA CASA DALLE FINESTRE CHE RIDONO** - prod. A.M.A. FILM
with Lino Capolicchio, Francesca Marciano, Gianni Cavina,
Bob Tonelli, G. Pizzirani.
1° PRIX DE LA CRITIQUE FESTIVAL DE PARIS
FILM FANTASTIQUE E DE SCIENZE FICTION
QUALITY AWARD MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND SPECTACLE

- 1977 **TUTTI DEFUNTI TRANNE I MORTI** - prod. A.M.A. FILM
with Lino Capolicchio, Gianni Cavina, Carlo Delle Piane,
Adriana Innocenti, Pietro Brambilla.
CHIANCIANO AWARD DIRECTION FOR THE TELEVISION 1978
MASCHERA D'ARGENTO 1978
SALSOMAGGIORE AWARD BEST SCENARIO OF THE YEAR 1978
CRITIC AWARD S. SEBASTIAN
- 1978 **LE STRELLE NEL FOSSO** - prod. A.M.A. FILM
with Lino Capolicchio, G. Cavina, Carlo Delle Piane,
Roberta Paladini, Giulio Pizzirani, Adolfo Belletti.
1° VALLADOLID AWARD 1979
TARGA D'ORO CINEMA AND SOCIETY 1979
QUALITY AWARD MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND SPECTACLE
- 1979 **CINEMA!!!** - prod. A.M.A. FILM - R.A.I.
with Lino Capolicchio, G. Cavina, Carlo delle Piane,
Roberta Paladini, Adriana Innocenti.
NAXOS AWARD DIRECTION OF THE TELEVISION 1979
- 1980 **AIUTAMI A SOGNARE** - prod. A.M.A. FILM - R.A.I.
with Mariangela Melato, Anthony Franciosa, J.P. Leaud,
Alexandra Stewart, Paola Pitagora.
NASTRO D'ARGENTO and DAVID DI DONATELLO
MARIANGELA MELATO (best actress)
NASTRO D'ARGENTO: RIZ ORTOLANI (best music)
QUALITY AWARD MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND SPECTACLE
- 1981 **DANCING PARADISE** - prod. A.M.A. FILM - R.A.I.
with Gianni Cavina, Carlo Delle Piane.
BEST ACTOR: C. DELLE PIANE - CHAMROUSSE FESTIVAL
CHIANCIANO AWARD DIRECTION FOR THE TELEVISION 1982
1° AWARD NIZZA FESTIVAL 1982

- 1982 **ZEDER** - prod. A.M.A. FILM - R.A.I.
with Gabriele Lavia, Anne Canovas.
Distribution Gaumont.
- 1983 **UNA GITA SCOLASTICA** - prod. A.M.A. FILM - R.A.I.
with Carlo Delle Piane e Tiziana Pini
Partecipazione at VENEZIA FESTIVAL 1983
(Pasinetti Award to Carlo Delle Piane: best actor)
ISCHIA AWARD (of the Public) 13th edition
NASTRO D'ARGENTO: BEST FILM
NASTRO D'ARGENTO: best screenplay with Antonio Avati
NASTRO D'ARGENTO: best actor Carlo Delle Piane
NASTRO D'ARGENTO: music RIZ ORTOLANI
NASTRO D'ARGENTO: best starting actress LIDIA BROCCOLINO
GLOBO D'ORO : best actor CARLO DELLE PIANE
DE PADRES FESTIVAL (France): BEST FILM
BASTIA: MEDITERRANEO FESTIVAL OF THE CINEMA
Best Film (Award of the Public)
- 1984 **NOI TRE** - prod. DUEA FILM - ISTITUTO LUCE - RAI UNO
with Lino Capolicchio, Gianni Cavina, Carlo Delle Piane,
Ida Di Benedetto, Christopher Davindsonh, Dario Parisini,
Barbara Rebecchini.
Partecipazione at VENEZIA FESTIVAL 1984
(LEONE SPECIALE OF THE JURY)
- 1984 **IMPIEGATI** - prod. DUEA FILM - NATIONAL - FILMES - DANIA
with Claudio Botosso, Elena Sofia Ricci, Leonardo Sottani,
Dario Parisini, Giovanna Maldotti, Luca Barbareschi.
GLOBO D'ORO - to ELENA SOFIA RICCI as revelation actress of
the year.
CANNES FESTIVAL - QUINZAINE DES REALIZATEURES

- 1985 **FESTA DI LAUREA** - prod. DUEA FILM - NATIONAL - FILMES -
DAIA - RAI UNO
with Carlo Delle Piane, Aurore Clement, Lidia Broccolino,
Nik Novecento, Dario Parisini.
- 1986 **REGALO DI NATALE** - prod. DUEA FILM - DMV DISTRIBUZIONE -
RAI UNO
with Diego Abatantuono, Carlo Delle Piane, Gianni Cavina,
Alessandro Haber, George Heastman e Kristina Sevieri.
NASTRO D'ARGENTO to DIEGO ABATANTUONO
(not protagonist actor)
LEONE D'ORO AT VENICE FESTIVAL to CARLO DELLE PIANE as
best protagonist actor.
DAVID DI DONATELLO: RAFFAELE DE LUCA best sound
RIZ ORTOLANI best musical theme
- 1986 **HAMBURGER SERENADE**: TELEVISION SHOW 12 serial story -
prod. RAI UNO - DUEA FILM
with Nik Novecento, Alfiero toppetti and Beatrice Macola.
TOTO' AWARD: best television comic show for the year.
- 1987 **ULTIMO MINUTO** - prod. DUEA FILM - DMV DISTRIBUZIONE -
RAI UNO
with Ugo Tognazzi, Elena Sofia Ricci, Lino Capolicchio,
Diego Abatantuono and Massimo Bonetti.
NASTRO D'ARGENTO to RIZ ORTOLANI
(best remark musical)
DAVID DI DONATELLO to RIZ ORTOLANI
(best original theme)
DAVID DI DONATELLO to RAFFAELE DE LUCA
(best sound)

- 1987 **SPOSI** - prod. DUEA FILM - NUMERO UNO cinematografica
with Carlo Delle Piane, Simona Marchini, Nik Novecento,
Jerry Calà, Alessandro Haber, Ottavia Piccolo.
(episode films withouth to L. Mannuzzi, C. Bastelli,
F. Farina, A. Avati)
- 1989 **STORIA DI RAGAZZI E DI RAGAZZE** - prod. DUEA FILM -
UNIONE CINEMATOGRAFICA - RAI UNO
with Alessandro Haber, Lucrezia Lante della Rovere,
Massimo Bonetti, Felice Andreasi.
(Partecipation at Venice Festival 1989 -not for
competition)
For the film "STORIA DI RAGAZZI E DI RAGAZZE"
NASTRO D'ARGENTO best film
NASTRO D'ARGENTO best scenario
AWARD CIAK best scenario
AWARD "DE GASPERI"
- 1990 **BIX** - prod. DUEA FILM . UNION P.N. - RAI UNO
with Bryant Weeks, Tommaso L. Orzari, Sally Groth
PARTECIPATION AT CANNES FILM FESTIVAL 1991
For the film "BIX"
NASTRO D'ARGENTO to PASQUALE RACHINI best potographie
CIAK AWARD to CARLO SIMI best scenario
DAVID DI DONATELLO best scenario to CARLO SIMI
- 1991 **FRATELLI E SORELLE** - prod. DUCA FILM - FILMAURO with the
collaboration of RAI UNO
with Luciano Federico, Stefano Accorsi, Franco Nero,
Anna Bonaiuto.
PARTECIPATION AT VENICE FESTIVAL 1992
Special Award of the Jury at EUROPEAN FESTIVAL OF THE
CINEMA 1992 - PARIS.

1992 **MAGNIFICAT** - prod. DUEA FILM with the collaboration of
ISTITUTO LUCE
with Arnaldo Ninchi, Luigi Diberti.