

Roberto Petrocchi recalls the magic atmosphere of the 19th century

Margherita Buy star in "L'ombra del gigante".

Arnauld Arbessier e Margherita Buy in the set of a story of love death and trasformation set in a beautiful castle in Palombara Sabina



Director Roberto Petrocchi on the set with Arnaud

In the splendid, sumptuous castle of Palombara Sabina, a few miles from Rome, Roberto Petrocchi is putting the final touches to his film "L'ombra del gigante", an adaptation from the book "Il gigante" by Paola Capriolo. Main roles are played by Margherita Buy, Arnaud Arbessier and the young Nicolò Rapisarda. The film is about a captain who goes with his wife and son to guard a fortress which has just one prisoner. The wife plays the piano and the prisoner plays the violin and the two who never to see each other except in the mind of the woman establish a deep relationship. In the end, she dies, heartbroken for not being able to behold what she feels is so near, yet so far. The prisoner inevitably also dies and the captain finally decides to set fire to the fortress.

"The idea came to me while reading the book which I came across by chance. I read it all in one breath and I was impressed by its expressive force. I met Paola several times. I admire her a lot and we've become friends. We have discussed the story in depth in order to portray on screen what is in the mind".

Produced by Cinema e Società

with financial contributions from the Presidenza del Consiglio, Tele+ and Istituto Luce. Pre-production has been lengthy: "A period film set in the 19th century in needs a great deal of preparation", continues Petrocchi. "Especially for the financing. Today, in Italy, to make a film in costume is particularly problematic. There are few people prepared to partake in such a project. Personally, I have great faith in the success of this film".

The part of Adele, the wife, is played by Margherita Buy, who after being successfully nominated for the David di Donatello award for her role in Piccione's "Fuori del Mondo", plays the role of a woman who undergoes a mental transformation from which there is no return. "After reading the script", the actress explains, "I thought that the interpretation should not be along modern lines, but should reach back into sentiments of the past." Together with Margherita Buy, in the role of the captain, is French actor Arnaud Arbessier who many will remember in Alberto Sironi's film on Fausto Coppi's life. Arbessier says: "The nice thing about my character in the film is the great respect he has for others and for the situation, negative as it may be. He knows that his relationship with his wife is failing but doesn't do anything about it because he respects the sentiment that the woman is experiencing and would not do anything to upset her."

Shooting should be finished by the end of May. The film will be distributed by Istituto Luce and will be ready in the autumn, hopefully to participate in the Venice Film Festival (F.P.)

Record

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Margherita Buy