

KINO LORBER
i n c o r p o r a t e d

presents

LA SAPIENZA
A FILM BY EUGÈNE GREEN

Official Selection 2014 Locarno International Film Festival
Official Selection 2014 Toronto International Film Festival
Official Selection New York Film Festival

France/Italy | 100 minutes | 2014 | In French and Italian with English Subtitles

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Synopsis

At the height of his career, Alexandre decides to set off for Italy with the idea of completing his draft – interrupted years earlier – of a book on Borromini. He is accompanied by his wife Alienor who feels her relationship with her husband gradually slipping away along with the passion it used to inspire. Having reached Stresa they happen to meet Goffredo and Lavinia, a pair of siblings who live there: the former is about to embark in architectural studies, the second is suffering from a nervous disorder.

Reviving a maternal instinct that has lain dormant within her for so many years, Alienor feels the need to stay by Lavinia's side to help her overcome her anxiety and suggests that her husband continue on his travels with Goffredo.

This separation will be the start of an inner journey for both Alexandre and Alienor. With his young friend, Alexandre heads for Turin and Rome, and draws fresh inspiration from the beauty of our country and Goffredo's enthusiasm. He will thus rediscover his joy of life and his original passion for his work, while Alienor will now have the chance to consider her real needs now that her husband has found himself once more.

The film tells of a love story that develops in parallel amid architecture, artistic inspiration and of course emotions. The title of the film refers to one of the most extraordinary projects completed by Francesco Borromini: the Church of St. Yves at La Sapienza in Rome.

About the Director

After studying literature and art history at the Sorbonne, in 1977 Eugène Green founded a theatre company, le Théâtre de la Sapience, with which he attempted to revive baroque theatre and he staged plays by Corneille and Racine. He also acted, and has recorded a certain number of Seventeenth Century texts. In 1999 he directed his first film (released in 2001), *Toutes Les Nuits*, which won the Louis-Delluc first-film award. His subsequent feature films were *Le Nom Du Feu* (2002) presented at the Locarno Film Festival, *Le Monde Vivant* (2003) presented at the Cannes Film Festival, *Le Pont Des Arts* (2004) presented at Locarno Film Festival and *A Religiosa Portuguesa* (2009).

He is also a writer, having published essays on baroque civilization (*La Parole Baroque*), cinema (*Présences and Poétique du Cinématographe*), as well as books of poetry and four novels, *La Reconstruction* (2007), *La Bataille de Roncevaux* (2009), *La Communauté Universelle* (2010), and *Les Atticistes* (2012)

Director's Statement by Eugène Green

This film has two sources of inspiration.

On the one hand the desire to illustrate through film the works and life of the Baroque architect Francesco Borromini.

On the other the interest for contemporary architecture and urban planning.

The first inspiration would suggest a biography, while both would be very suited to a documentary style narrative.

I don't however believe that one may reconstruct a life through film, nor any other element of a distant past and, despite having all due respect for the documentary as a form of expression, I have always had the instinctive belief – that tends to be sidelined in today's Europe – that the greater truth can be found in fiction.

Thus it is through an action that is a product of my imagination, that I have attempted to approach these two themes.

This story involving two couples, a man and a woman, a brother and sister, sheds light on human relations, which are further investigated by introducing a separation, a concept developed out of a long-standing western tradition whereby knowledge is acquired through emptiness, and presence is established through absence.

One way or another, the characters of this screenplay face the challenge of letting the past feed the present in a harmonious fashion, and each of them achieves a new understanding of the nature of love.

At the heart of the story we also encounter the problem of how tradition may be passed on, one of man's eternal preoccupations, an issue that is of great moment for contemporary European society.

Credits

Cast

FabrizioRongione.....	Alexandre Schmidt
ChristelleProtLandman.....	Aliénor Schmidt
LudovicoSuccio.....	Goffredo
Arianna Nastro.....	Lavinia
Eugène Green.....	Le Chaldéen

FabrizioRongione

Born in Belgium of Italian origin, FabrizioRongione has had an extensive career. He made his film debut in Rosetta (1999) directed by the Dardennebrothers and which was awarded the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival. He subsequently performed in many more of their films including L'enfant (2005; Palme d'or at the Cannes Festival). Lorna's Silence (2008) and most recently Two Days, One Night (2014) alongside Marion Cotillard.

His other work includes: Le Parole di Mio Padre (Francesca Comencini, 2001), TartarugheSulDorso (Stefano Pasetto, 2005) and Fratelli di Sangue (David Sordella, 2006). Il NostroMessia (Claudio Serughetti, 2008) and La Prima Linea (Renato De Maria, 2009).

ChristelleProtLandman

ChristelleProtLandman, a French actress has had an extensive career including film, television and theatre. In 2001 she played one of the leading roles in the film Toutes les Nuits directed by Eugène Green. In 2003 she appeared in Le Monde Vivant besides Alexis Loret and AdrienMichaux. In 2004 she appeared in the film Le Pont des Arts.

Crew

Directed by.....	Eugène Green
Written by.....	Eugène Green
Produced by.....	Martine de Clermont-Tonnerre, Alessandro Borrelli
Director of Photography.....	Raphaël O'Byrne
First Assistant Director	Stefano Ruggeri
Film Editing.....	ValérieLoiseleux
Production Manager.....	Federico Mazzola
Production Design.....	Giorgio Barullo
Costumes.....	Agnes Noden