

Gino Paccagnella
in
CUORE DI SILENZIO/HEART OF SILENCE

by **Gino Paccagnella** and **Bruno Stori**
(freely inspired by Andrei Tarkovski's film)
Directed by **Bruno Stori**

“Heart of silence” is a deep question on the mystery of identity.

The life of the great Russian icon-painter Andrei Rublev, in the 15th century, becomes a theatrical exploration of the conflict of conscience in the human being, who faces the horrors constantly provoked by mankind itself.

For many years, Rublev has tried to withdraw from the world, refusing to paint and devoting himself to absolute silence, as he had been psychologically paralyzed by inward suffering. One day he finds himself witnessing the wonder of passion in a teenaged boy, who, in a time of plague, famine and death, when nobody knows the “secret” of how to make a church bell anymore, manages to reinvent it... This master-teenager, his talent manifest through a purely “inspired” action, the total devotion that he shows in his commitment... will shake Andrei’s consciousness to the bottom, and will make him return to active Life...

In his refusal to paint and in his vow of silence, Andrei Rublev inflicts a double martyrdom on himself: he renounces the most precious gift, Art, at a time when he was celebrated as the greatest painter; and affirms the hopelessness of all human speech in the face of the world’s corruption...

Andrei’s social and personal identity disappear for many long years.

The more we feel distressed by the meaninglessness of our deeds in the world, the more we are compelled to “transform” our consciousness... at any cost...

To become ourselves, we have to invent ourselves...

What is the secret of vitality in every human being?

What is it, either from inside or outside, that may come to help us, making us live on with a renewed passion for work, and fresh hope of change... although everything seems to be so difficult?

Inspired by Tarkowski’s masterpiece, the script develops the character of the “Fool/clown”, that is to say the one who, in Andrei’s story, represents a sort of sub-plot... A parallel story to Andrei’s, which likewise involves loss, suffering and an unspeakable wish for Freedom...

Andrei’s story, as well as the Fool’s which enchants the young Andrei at the beginning... is also the story of the difficulty of being on the stage, and the story of our passionate need to find an inner “word” and an inner “gesture”... to do that...

“I was dreaming of flying hanging from a hot-air balloon made of rags. I was flying and the world opened beneath me and it was beautiful and boundless like my joy in that moment. Then all of a sudden the balloon was losing height and plummeting, until it crashed on the hard earth...

When I opened my eyes, I was lying on a small stage for comedians, in a run-down theatre. I was battered, lost, alone, I did not know who I was anymore and what I was doing in that theatre. But although my heart was full of silence, I knew that this was my place... and that there I had to fulfil my mission. And so I let gestures come back, and with the gestures I let words, and with increasing passion I began to tell the story of Andrei Rublev... because his story was also my story... and if his story was actually a confession... then my own was as well... Did I just have to put the pieces together... ?”

Gino Paccagnella and Bruno Stori