

© FLAVIA CASELLA 2018
53' ITALIAN, ENGLISH

SEEDS OF RENAISSANCE

What is the Hunchback Cardoon?

Who wanted to colour the rain?

Why do we say "she" for Barbera?

Who created the Bagna Caoda Brotherhood?

How did the Theatre of Sensitives come about?



SEEDS OF RENAISSANCE

PRODUCERS. ARTISTS. IDEA GROWERS



DIRECTOR: FLAVIA CASELLA
SOUND EDITOR: GIOVANNI CORONA
MOTION GRAPHICS: MATTEO DAL MAS





SYNOPSIS

Italy, Piedmont, early March. Asti's province. Winegrower-poet Arturo Bersano's town house faces Nizza Monferrato station square. Inside, still rooms, relics of the past: photographs, prints, objects which speak of friendship, love, passion for the land and for work. This is the universe of Arturo Bersano. Arts, wine, food. Everything that brings life alive.

"He had a gaze that looked beyond the wall. The wall of existence." His friend Journalist and playwright Guido Ceronetti remembers him. Between Guido and Arturo, a thick correspondence of poems, invectives, flowers, paintings, boxes of wine. Material and immaterial. As if to say that: "Giving joy is a hard profession".

A few kilometers from Nizza, on a hill at the foot of Agliano Terme, lives Paolo Alliaia. He named that hill "Monsicuro" (safe mountain) because it is protected against storms. But maybe also because on its peak he can feel this. Safe. Sitting under a tree, he tells me about the way his Barberas resemble him. Then he stands up, and walking through the vineyard he stops, observing. He caresses a vine. He knows all of the plants, one by one. By name. And he talks about when he and that hill met, some time ago. And about how he cultivates his vines, and of an ancient prehistoric sea.

From a prehistoric sea to hills, and creeks among hills. One in particular: the Belbo River. Loaded with mud, fickle. Bringing disaster and fertility. Claudio Vaccaneo has no doubts: it is due to these factors that the real Hunchback Cardoon only grows here. Claudio, with generations of cardoon producers behind him, knows every secret of that plant and of its stream where he risked drowning many times, as a boy, while fishing bare-handed. He looks at it, leaning on his hoe, as he explains how a life can transform itself, with time, from oppression to vocation.

Some people swim in rivers, others make them resound, like sculptor Piero Fogliati. With a sort of mechanical underwater orchestra, made up of instruments called Liquimofoni.

It is not far from here, in Canelli, that Artist Piero Fogliati came from: yet another hill, surrounded by vine rows. According to Paolo, his son, the vineyards of the family and of the area influenced his father's whole life, for example in the precision with which he created independent machines, able to interact with the environment. These installations approached the city to the countryside where he had lived. Thus the city, Turin, became more tolerable. Almost a Fantastic city.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Is food only a matter of taste? Or rather any food carries a story, just like everything else, that we unconsciously assimilate? How can two bottles of the "same wine" coming from the "same hill" be so diverse if the producers are different?

According to Japanese farmer and philosopher Masanobu Fukuoka, the purpose of agriculture was not to grow crops, but to cultivate and perfect human beings. I asked myself if passionate food producers could feel a boundary between profession and identity, or if they were a bit like artists, whose attitude and vision are always present. I wanted to draw a line between these two occupations and discover what they have in common.

Exploring a small part of the Piedmont land - the one where the Hunchback Cardoon is cultivated, which partially overlaps the Barbera wine production area – I learned about the stories of some of its inhabitants.

I wove together ancient recipes and childhood memories, old black and white pictures and agronomic wisdom. I wanted the film to be a hybrid project, mixing elements from documentaries, TV and the Web. Certain aspects such as a colorful, playful graphics and a modular structure were especially projected with an interactive version in mind.

The film is intended for an Italian and foreign public curious to learn more about our country from an unusual perspective.

With the official recognition of:



CITTA' DI TORINO



Città di **ASTI**
www.comune.asti.it



Slow Food®
Piemonte e Valle d'Aosta

about the Hunchback Cartoon of Nizza Monferrato