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CHRIST STOPPED AT EBOLI (Cristo si e fermato a Eboli) (Italy, 1978)



To be presented at the 1980 Los Angeles International Film Exposition on Friday, March 7 7:00 p.m.

116 minutes

Press Screening: Saturday, March 1 6:30 p.m.

Carlo Levi, a Northern Italian intellectual and radical writer, was banished by the Facist government to three years' exile in the impoverished and isolated Lucania region in the south in 1935. In the misery and despair of the peasantry, and the pitifully hungry way the petit bourgeoisie exercised power over them, Levi perceived the soil in which Facism grew.

Levi's famous post-war autobiographical novel takes its title from a southern proverb on the isolation of the south from even the influence of God. Director Rosi sees the work as primarily concerned with the meeting of two cultures, and comments that the casting of the film reflects the class-structure it depicts: "The intellectual is Gian Maria Volonte; the petit bourgeois are played by professional and amateur actors; and the peasants are real peasants."

Born in Naples in 1922, Rosi worked at Radio Naples during the war and in theatre after, and became assistant director to Visconti on LA TERRA TREMA in 1948. After ten years of prolific scripting and assistant directing, he made his directorial debut with LA SFIDA, followed by I MAGLIARI (1959), SALVATORE GIULIANO (1961), C'ERA UNA VOLTA (Cinderella, Italian Style) (1967), UOMINI CONTRO (1970), THE MATTEL AFFAIR (1972), LUCKY LUCIANO (1973), and ILLUSTRIOUS CORPSES (1975).

CHRIST STOPPED AT EBOLI was shown at the 1979 festivals in Cannes, Chicago, San Sebastian. Moscow (Grand Prix), and London.

CREDITS

Director Francesco Rosi Producers Franco Cristaldi, Nicola Carraro

Screenwriters Francesco Rosi, Tonino Guerra, Raffaele La Capria

Based on the novel by Carlo Levi

Cinematographer Pasqualino De Santis Editor Ruggero Mastroianni Music Piero Piccioni

Production Company RAI/Vides Cinematografica, Rome/Action Films/

Gaumont, Paris

CAST

Carlo Levi Gian Maria Volonte The Podesta Paolo Bonacelli Baron Rotunno Alain Cuny Luisa Levi Lea Massari Giulia Irene Papas Don Trajella François Simon