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These Encounters of Theirs | BAMPFA



(Quei loro incontri)

Jean-Marie Straub, Danièle Huillet

France, Italy, 2005

featuring

Angela Nugara, Vittorio Vigneri, Grazi Orsi, Romano Guelfi,

The musings of the gods are brought to the earthly realms of contemporary rural Italy in Straub and Huillet's re-creation of Cesare Pavese's 1947 book *Dialogues with Leucò*. The last feature-length collaboration between the duo before Huillet's passing in 2006, *These Encounters* restages in a sun-dappled Tuscan countryside five of Pavese's scenes involving the gods discussing human destiny; these immortals are here voiced not by professional actors, but rather a rope maker, a postmaster, a farmer, and more. The texts—and, miraculously, the film's images of luxuriant nature—provide a reminder that even within our mortal realms, joys can still be found.

Jason Sanders