

## Document Citation

Title	<b>Mysteries of Lisbon</b>
Author(s)	
Source	<i>San Francisco International Film Festival</i>
Date	
Type	program note
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	Ruiz, Raoul (1941-2011), Puerto Montt, Chile
Film Subjects	Misterios de Lisboa (Mysteries of Lisbon), Ruiz, Raoul, 2010





## MYSTERIES OF LISBON

MISTÉRIOS DE LISBOA

PORTUGAL/FRANCE

2010

256 MIN

**DIR** Raúl Ruiz

**PROD** Paulo Branco

**SCR** Carlos Saboga

**CAM** André Szankowski

**ED** Carlos Madaleno, Valeria Sarmiento

**MUS** Jorge Arriagada, Luis Freitas Branco

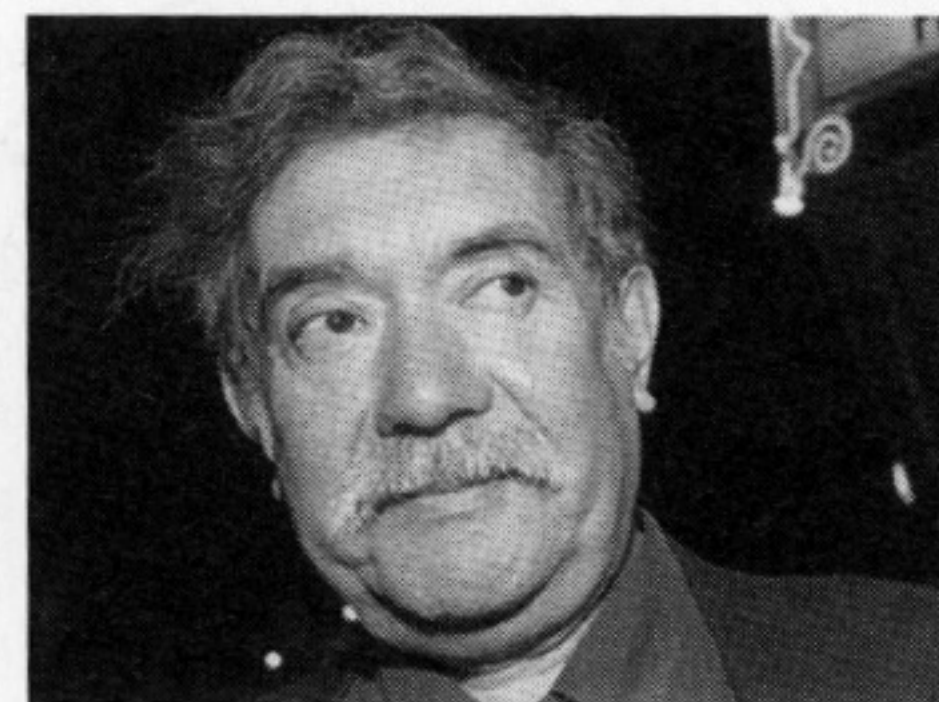
**WITH** Adriano Luz, Maria João Bastos, Ricardo Pereira, Clotilde Hesme, Léa Seydoux

**PRINT SOURCE** Music Box Films, 942 W. Lake Street, Chicago IL 60607. EMAIL: earentz@musicboxfilms.com.

In Portuguese and French with subtitles.  
There will be a 15-minute intermission.

The noble and the damned are interchangeable and identical in Raúl Ruiz's magisterial new gambit on the art of storytelling, based on Camilo Castelo Branco's 19th-century Portuguese novel yet more mind-bending and radical than any contemporary tale. A young boy in a Lisbon orphanage wonders who he is, but soon each and every identity comes into question, especially as flashbacks, flash-forwards and tales within tales begin to spiral forth. A priest may be a fighter, a wealthy man a highway robber and a noblewoman a nun. "But who are you?" asks someone. It all may depend on the story you're in, and who is telling the tale. What remains constant is the sumptuous setting: a decadent Old World Portugal of crumbling estates, extravagant ballrooms and fog-bound dueling fields. No stranger to epic novel adaptations (his **Time Regained** (SFIFF 2000) adapted Proust's **Remembrance of Things Past** with similar flair), Ruiz treats his material with consummate respect and a baroque, Borgesian grandeur, constantly framing shots within shots and actions within actions. A tale of tales, of orphans, counts and duels, this costume meta-drama is Dickens filtered through a surrealist's gaze, and a fitting summation of Ruiz's artistry. Originally made as a miniseries for Portuguese television (this four-hour theatrical version was cut from the six-hour original), **Mysteries of Lisbon** is said by the director to be his final film.

—Jason Sanders



RAÚL RUIZ

Born in Chile, the prolific, ever-surprising Raúl Ruiz began his filmmaking career with **Three Sad Tigers** (1968), which won Locarno's Golden Leopard. Forced to flee Chile after the Pinochet coup in 1973, Ruiz settled in France, where he continued to refine an aesthetic of surrealist, baroque filmmaking seemingly inspired in equal parts by Jorge Luis Borges, classic 19th-century novels, philosophy and American B movies. He has created over 50 films including **City of Pirates** (1983), **Three Lives and Only One Death** (1996), **Genealogies of a Crime** (SFIFF 1997), **Time Regained** (SFIFF 2000) and **Klimt** (2006).

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