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THE CANTERBURY TALES



An ALBERTO GRIMALDI production

"THE CANTERBURY TALES"

Based on the CANTERBURY TALES by GEOFFREY CHAUCER

A Film by PIER PAOLO PASOLINI

with

HUGH GRIFFITH LAURA BETTI NINETTO DAVOLI FRANCO CITTI
JOSEPHINE CHAPLIN ALAN WEBB JENNY RUNACRE JOHN FRANCIS LANE
ATHOL COATS TOM BAKER OSCAR FOCHETTI ROBIN ASQUITH

Written and Directed by PIER PAOLO PASOLINI

A co-production PEA PRODUZIONI
EUROPEE ASSOCIATE S.A.S.—ROME
LES PRODUCTIONS ARTISTES ASSOCIES S.A.—PARIS

Winner Golden Bear Award 1972 Berlin Film Festival

THE CAST

Prologue

Chaucer Pier Paolo Pasolini
The Wife of Bath Laura Betti
The Cook J. P. Van Dyne
The Pardoner Derek Deadman
Host of the Tabard .. George Bethell Datch

The Merchant's Tale

Sir January Hugh Griffith
May Josephine Chaplin
Damian Oscar Fochetti
Pluto Guiseppe Arrigo
Prosperine Elizabetta Genovese

The Friar's Tale

The Devil Franco Citti
The Summoner Daniel Buckler
The Spy Tony Moore

The Cook's Tale

Peterkin Ninetto Davoli

The Miller's Tale

John the Carpenter Michael Balfour
Alison, his wife Jenny Runacre
Nicholas Dan Thomas

Absalom Peter Cain
Martin Martin Philips

The Wife of Bath's Tale

Wife of Bath Laura Betti
Fourth Husband Reg Stuart
Jenkin Tom Baker
Alice Judy Stewart-Murray

The Steward's Tale

John Eamann Howell
Alan Patrick Duffett
Simkin The Miller Albert King
His Wife Eileen King
Molly, his daughter Heather Johnson

The Pardoner's Tale

Ruffo Robin Asquith
Jack The Justice Martin Whelar
Johnny The Grace John McLaren
Dick The Sparrow Edward Monteith
Old Man Alan Webb

The Summoner's Tale

Friar John Francis Lane
Thomas Hugh McKenzie Bailey
Angel Settimio Castagna

THE CREDITS

Produced by Alberto Grimaldi
Written and Directed by Pier Paolo Pasolini
Based on "The Canterbury Tales" by
Geoffrey Chaucer
Photography by Tonino Delli Colli
Art Director Dante Ferzetti
Costume Designer Danilo Donati
Editor Nino Baragli
Special Effects Luciano Anzellotti
Music selected by Pier Paolo Pasolini
With the collaboration of M. Ennio Morricone
Production Manager

Camera Operator Carlo Tafani
British Production Co-ordination
Adriano Magistretti Anthony Moore
Assistant Camera Operator
Maurizio Lucchini
Assistant Directors Sergio Citti,
Umberto Angelucci, Peter Shepherd
Continuity Beatrice Banfi
Assistant Editors
Anita Cacciolati, Ugo de Rossi
Unit Manager Ennio Onorati

Alessandro von Normann
Assistant Art Director Carlo Agate

Technicolor ®

SYNOPSIS

Pilgrims assemble at the Tabard Inn in Southwark on their way to Canterbury. Among them are the Pardoner (DEREK DEADMAN) the Wife of Bath (LAURA BETTI) and Geoffrey Chaucer (PIER PAOLO PASOLINI). The Host of the Inn (GEORGE BETHELL DATCH) suggests that, to pass the time on the journey, each pilgrim will tell a tale and the one judged best will earn a free dinner on their return from Canterbury.

First comes *The Merchant's Tale* of Old Sir January (HUGH GRIFFITH). He resolves to wed a young wife and marries May (JOSEPHINE CHAPLIN). But Damian, a page (OSCAR FOCHETTI) falls in love with May and when Sir January is struck blind they seize the opportunity to make love in a locked garden. But Pluto (GUISEPPE ARRIGO) and Prosperine (ELIZABETTA GENOVESE), wandering in the garden, take a hand in the proceedings by restoring Sir January's sight in time for him to catch the guilty pair.

The Devil (FRANCO CITTI) makes his appearance in *The Friar's Tale*. He watches a Summoner (DANIEL BUCKLER) with the help of a spy, catching people in lechery. Those who cannot pay his large fee are burned. The Devil and the Summoner team up together and, by entering into an agreement, the Devil captures the soul of the Summoner.

Peterkin (NINETTO DAVOLI) a cheeky young layabout, appears in *The Cook's Tale*. He wanders around Mediaeval London getting into trouble. Gatecrashing a wedding party his antics amuse the bride but not her father, when he reduces the gathering to chaos. Forced by his parents to get a job Peterkin works for a grocer but is caught taking money from the till for gambling. He is undaunted when he is caught and put in the stocks.

In *The Miller's Tale* Nicholas (DAN THOMAS) a student, has fallen in love with his landlady. He lodges with a Carpenter (MICHAEL BALFOUR) and his wife Alison (JENNY RUNACRE) and devises a plan to enable him to make love to Alison. Pretending to go into a trance he predicts a Second Flood. While the Carpenter sits, in a barrel hanging from the rafters, awaiting the waters, Nicholas and Alison, enjoy themselves. But Absalom (PETER CAIN) a sacristan who is also in love with Alison, serenades her beneath her window. When he demands a kiss she opens the window and lets fly a fart. Vowing revenge Absalom borrows a red hot poker from a neighbouring blacksmith

The lusty *Wife of Bath's Tale* commences when she has exhausted her fourth husband (REG STUART) with her excessive demands. She catches sight of young student Jenkin (TOM BAKER) who lodges with a friend, Alice (JUDY STEWART-MURRAY). When her husband dies of exhaustion she goes out on a picnic with Jenkin and insists that he marry her because he has bewitched her. At the church she first buries one husband then marries the next. But, too late she discovers that Jenkin is more interested in books than in her charms.

Two Cambridge students attempt to outwit a dishonest Miller in *The Steward's Tale*. John (EAMANN HOWELL) and Alan (PATRICK DUFFETT) take the corn to the mill and watch the Miller like a hawk. But the Miller (ALBERT KING) sets their horse loose and, while they are looking for it, steals back some of the flour. Forced to spend the night at the Mill, Alan sleeps with the Miller's comely daughter (HEATHER JOHNSON) and John tricks the Miller's wife (EILEEN KING) into bed with him. Then Alan, mistaking the Miller for John, tells him of the fun he has had with his daughter

In *The Pardoner's Tale* Ruffo (ROBIN ASQUITH) who spends his nights in brothels with three inseparable companions—Jack the Justice (MARTIN WHELAR) Johnny The Grace (JOHN McLAREN) and Dick the Sparrow (EDWARD MONTEITH)—suddenly dies. When his friends seek out Death to get their revenge, an Old Man (ALAN WEBB) directs them towards a tree where they find a treasure. Dick goes into town to buy some wine and, deciding to keep all the treasure, poisons it. But his friends, having the same idea, strangle him after drinking the poisoned wine.

A greedy Friar (JOHN FRANCIS LANE) in *The Summoner's Tale*, who has been battering on a sick man (HUGH MCKENZIE-BAILEY) goes to Hell and finds out exactly where the Devil keeps the Friars.

Finally the pilgrims arrive at Canterbury.

Running Time 109 mins.