

I Cammelli S.a.s. di Daniele Segre & C.

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Luciana Castellina, a communist

by Daniele Segre

production and distribution: I Cammelli S.a.s.

Italy 2012 - HDV - colour - 78'

Subject, editing and direction: Daniele Segre

Cameraman and cinematography: Emanuele Segre

Sound, original soundtrack, postproduction: Maria Teresa Soldani

“Grandma, are you a communist for real?”

Daniele Segre’s latest film starts by giving an insight into Luciana Castellina’s private life. This episode with her grandson Vito shows the irony that marks the narration by this great woman, activist, journalist, political figure, Italian and European MP and writer.

Daniele Segre dedicates to Luciana Castellina his latest portrait documentary. He captures her in the midst of the echo of the sea in her house at Argentario and surrounded by many photographs in her house in Rome. This is the beginning of the path the director and Luciana Castellina take together to narrate the story of her life. From her school years with Anna Maria Mussolini during Fascist times to her political awakening, this film evokes Luciana Castellina’s activism within the Italian Communist party and her crucial experience in the newspaper “Il Manifesto”, where she played a central role for decades. Luciana remembers her numerous experiences around the world, her pacifist struggles, the encounters with her lifelong friends and her “tribe” – as she calls her family.

The film depicts the portrait of a great political figure in the largest, most passionate and most worthy meaning of the term. All along her life, personal experiences and an ever-changing world intertwine. Luciana Castellina’s political awakening corresponds to her “discovery of the world”, as she titled her recent memoir, which was selected as finalist at the Premio Strega 2011. It is about hope in social justice, experiencing contexts different than one’s own; it is about efforts, travels, war, political rallies, cinema, French intellectuals and FIAT workers, international diplomacy and friendship. All this is built on an intricate web made of reason and affection, of rational questioning and ironic self-narration as well as of profound nostalgia, deception and new discoveries.

Director’s notes

Portraying Luciana Castellina has not been easy.

The richness of Luciana’s story, her cultural knowledge and her memories have nourished me extraordinarily. This has been critical to narrate the story of an important and exemplar life in its complexity and passion. This is a piece of Italian history to remember.