

THE FILMS OF JEAN-MARIE STRAUB AND DANIELÈ HUILLET

STRAUB & HUILLET AND HÖLDERLIN SCREENINGS AND LECTURE

Friday 12 + Saturday 13 April, Goethe-Institut London



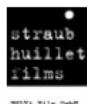
The Antigone
of Sophocles after
Hölderlin's Translation
Adapted for the Stage
by Brecht 1948,
Directed by D. Huillet
and J.-M. Straub,
Germany, 1991

Between 1987 and 1991, Jean-Marie Straub and Danièle Huillet made four films referencing the work of the poet, dramatist and philosopher, Friedrich Hölderlin (1770–1843). The German writer was known for his innovation of poetic language as well as his support of the political ideas of the French Revolution. Largely forgotten after his death, Hölderlin received renewed attention in the 20th century from thinkers including Theodor W. Adorno, Walter Benjamin, Michel Foucault, Martin Heidegger, Georg Lukács, Thomas and Heinrich Mann, or Stefan Zweig, but also the Nazis, who appropriated him as a national icon.

After their Kafka adaptation *Class Relations*, shot with artificial light and in black and white, Huillet and Straub went to Sicily to film the Hölderlin films. Here they worked with only natural light following carefully mapped-out constellations between camera and characters, creating some of their most rigorous and beautiful work. Three of the films will be shown on 35mm.

Part of *The Films of Jean-Marie Straub and Danièle Huillet*, 1 March – 1 June 2019
Various London Venues. For more information visit www.goethe.de/uk

The retrospective is organised by the Goethe-Institut London in collaboration with BELVA Film and in partnership with BFI Southbank, the Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA), the Institut Français, Close-Up Film Centre, King's College London, the German Screen Studies Network, the Birkbeck Institute for the Moving Images (BIMI), and the Whitechapel Gallery. With the kind support from the Embassy of Switzerland in the UK, the Istituto Italiano di Cultura di Londra, the Instituto Camões, BIRMAC (Birkbeck Interdisciplinary Research in Media and Culture) and the Department of German, King's College London.



MIGUEL ABREU GALLERY

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THE DEATH OF EMPEDOCLES + BLACK SIN

Friday 12 April 2019, 6.15pm

The programme brings together Straub and Huillet's adaptations of Hölderlin's first and third version of his unfinished mourning play about the pre-Socratic philosopher Empedocles, who ended his life in the crater of Mount Etna. Huillet and Straub filmed in Sicily, at and around the volcano, with the heat, intense light, and wind becoming part of the fabric of the film.

The Death of Empedocles, or When the Green of the Earth Will Glisten for You Anew, Dirs: D. Huillet & J.-M. Straub, West Germany, 1987, 35mm/DCP, colour, 132 min., in German with English subtitles. / *Schwarze Sünde*, Dirs: D. Huillet & J.-M. Straub, West Germany, 1988, 35mm, colour, 42 min, German with English subtitles.

OH SUPREME LIGHT + CÉZANNE. CONVERSATION WITH JOACHIM GASQUET

Saturday 13 April 2019, 2pm

A short film in praise of light based on lines from Dante's *Divine Comedy* is shown together with Huillet and Straub's tribute to their favourite painter, Paul Cézanne, which they based on the memoirs of the French writer and critic Joachim Gasquet. The inclusion of two excerpts from their *The Death of Empedocles* in this film points to the link between the painter and Empedocles as arbiters between art and nature. And both films feature mountains of fire, the volcano Mount Etna (*Empedocles*) and Mount Sainte-Victorie (*Cézanne*), about which the painter said, "Look at this mountain, it was once fire."

O Somma Luce, Dir: Jean-Marie Straub, France, 2010, HD, colour, 18 min. / *Cézanne. Dialogue avec Joachim Gasquet*, Dirs: D. Huillet & J.-M. Straub, France, 1990, 35mm, colour, 51 min, French version with English subtitles.

STAGES OF VIOLENCE. ANTIGONE BY STRAUB/HUILLET, BETWEEN THEATRE AND FILM LECTURE

Saturday 13 April 2019, 4pm

In his lecture theatre expert Patrick Primavesi will discuss the question of violence in Sophocles' *Antigone* translated by Hölderlin in the version by Brecht and the adaptation by Huillet and Straub.

Patrick Primavesi is professor and head of department at the Institute of Theatre Studies at the University of Leipzig. He wrote his PhD on Walter Benjamin's theories about commentary, translation and theatre and published widely on Bertolt Brecht and Heiner Müller, on contemporary theatre, dance and performance art. For decades, he has also been writing on the work of Danièle Huillet and Jean-Marie Straub, in particular on their films *Antigone*, *The Death of Empedocles* / *Black Sin*, *From Until Tomorrow*, *Sicilia!*, *Workers*, *Peasants*.

THE BRIDEGROOM, THE ACTRESS AND THE PIMP + THE ANTIGONE OF SOPHOCLES AFTER HÖLDERLIN'S TRANSLATION ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY BRECHT 1948

Saturday 13 April 2019, 6.30pm

As the title makes clear, Straub and Huillet based their film on Brecht's politicised adaptation of Hölderlin's translation of the Greek tragedy, in which, following Thebes' civil war, Antigone buries her brother against the will of the new ruler. Premiered just three years after World War II, Brecht's version portrays war and violence as results of the failure and mismanagement of government. The film is shown with the short *The Bridegroom...*, about which Danièle Huillet said that in it "the oppression of women is very clear."

Der Bräutigam, die Komödiantin und der Zuhälter, D. Huillet & J.-M. Straub, West Germany, 1968, 35mm/Digital, b&w, 23 min., German with English subtitles. / *Die Antigone des Sophokles nach der Hölderlinschen Übertragung für die Bühne bearbeitet von Brecht 1948 (Suhrkamp Verlag)*, Germany, 1991, 35mm, colour, 100 min, German with English subtitles.