

## CHRONICLE OF ANNA MAGDALENA BACH

By Jean-Marie Straub

Germany, 1967, 35mm, 93 min., black and white,  
German with English subtitles



*Chronicle of Anna Magdalena Bach*, which covers the years of Bach's life from his marriage to Anna Magdalena to his death in 1748, 'is at once a love story, a documentary, a socio-political statement, and a film of the music of Bach' (Richard Roud)

'The point of departure for *our Chronicle of Anna Magdalena Bach* was the idea of a film in which music would be used – not as accompaniment, nor as commentary – but as raw material. The only real point of reference was the parallel to what Bresson did with a literary text in *Diary of a Country Priest*... We also wanted to film a love story like no other: a woman talking about her husband who she loved unto his death. That's the story: no biography can be made without an external point of view, and here it is the consciousness of Anna Magdalena Bach' Jean-Marie Straub

### Sutherland award London Film Festival 1968

**'A masterpiece. This film IS music'**

Richard Roud, Sight and Sound

**'Huillet and Straub rank with the masters of modern film'**

David Sterritt, *Cineaste*

**'The last great filmmakers of the history of modern cinema, perhaps of cinema, period.'**

Serge Daney

**CREW**

**Director** Jean-Marie Straub

**Screenplay** Jean-Marie Straub and Danièle Huillet

**Director of Photography** Ugo Piccone, Saverio Diamanti, Giovanni Canfarelli

**Editors** Danièle Huillet, Jean-Marie Straub

**Music by** Johann Sebastian Bach

**Producers** Franz Seitz, Gian Vittorio Baldi, Jean-Marie Straub, Danièle Huillet

**Production Company** Seitz Filmproduktion, in co-production with IDI Cinematografica, Straub-Huillet Film, HR, TELEPOOL

**PRINCIPAL CAST**

Gustav Leonhardt, Christa Lang, Kathrien Leonhardt, Andreas Pangritz, Bob van Aspern, Ernst Castelli, Joachim Wolf, Rainer Kirchner

## **SICILIA!**

**By Jean-Marie Straub and Danièle Huillet**

France/Italy, 1998, 64 min., black and white

Italian with English subtitles



Based on Elio Vittorini's seminal 1938-1939 anti-fascist novel *Conversations in Sicily*, banned by the Fascists in 1942, *Sicilia!* is a four part film which follows Silvestro, an emigrant who is returning home after fifteen years spent in America. His conversations, with his mother, on the train, or on the price of oranges, as well as the recurrent shot of arid landscape outside the train window, supply some of the most intense and memorable moments in contemporary cinema.

**'See Sicilia! and live again'**

Libération

**'Perhaps the greatest anti-fascist film in the history of cinema'**

Le Monde

**'Sublime'**

**'Pure, exhilarating cinema, restorative in its bracing beauty.'**

Cinematheque Ontario

**CREW**

**Written, directed, edited and produced by** Jean-Marie Straub and Danièle Huillet

Based on the novel *Conversazione in Sicilia* by Elio Vittorini (1938-1939)

**Director of photography:** William Lubtchansky.

**Executive producer :** Pierre Grise Productions

**Coproducers :** Enzo Porcelli, Istituto Luce, Alia Film

**CAST**

Gianni Buscarino (the Man),

Angela Nugara (the Mother)

Vittorio Vigneri (the Knife-Grinder)

and Carmelo Maddio, Angela Durantini, Simone Nucatola, Ignazio Trombello, Giovanni Interlandi, Giuseppe Bonta, and Mario Baschiere (Townsfolk).

# UNE VISITE AU LOUVRE

By Jean-Marie Straub and Danièle Huillet

France, 2003, 44 min., Col.  
French with English Subtitles



As the camera shows us some of the masterpieces held in the Louvre, Julie Kotaï speaks the comments made about the paintings by Cézanne which were put into writing by the poet Joachim Gasquet.

*Une Visite au Louvre* allows us to appreciate, through their regard and understanding of art, the rigorous filmmaking of Jean-Marie Straub and Danièle Huillet.

**‘It could be said that Straub is to cinema what Cézanne was to painting.’**

Hervé Gauville, Libération

**‘A series of long shots on a selection of paintings hanging in The Louvre coupled with a vibrant text attributed to Cézanne. *Une Visite au Louvre*, in all its basic simplicity, is an impassioned ode to both art and critical thinking’**

Jean-Baptiste Morain, Les Inrockuptibles

**Written, directed, edited and produced by** Jean-Marie Straub and Danièle Huillet

Based on Joachim Gasquet’s conversations with Cézanne

**Director of photography:** William Lubtchansky.

## VOICE

**Julie Kotaï:** Paul Cézanne

## Biography

**Jean-Marie Straub** was born in 1933 in Metz, France and grew up speaking French and German during the German occupation of France. He studied in Strasbourg and Nancy and worked in Paris with, among others, Abel Gance, Jean Renoir, Alexandre Astruc and Robert Bresson before meeting and teaming up with his wife Danièle Huillet. In 1958, they moved to Germany where his film **Not Reconciled or Only Violence Helps Where Violence Rules (Nicht versöhnt oder Es hilft nur Gewalt, wo Gewalt herrscht, 1965)** caused a great scandal at that year's Berlinale. Straub and Huillet since then become prominent directors with such films as **Chronicle of Anna Magdalena Bach (Chronik der Anna Magdalena Bach, 1968)**, **Othon (1969)**, **History Lessons (Geschichtsunterricht, 1973)**, **Moses and Aaron (1974)**, **Class Relations (Klassenverhältnisse, 1984)**, **From Today Until Tomorrow (Von heute auf morgen, 1997)**, and **Sicilia! (1999)**, amongst others.