



TERRANOVA

LES FILMS DU TAMBOUR DE SOIE
ET SARA M
PRÉSENTENT

LES OUBLIÉS DE L'HISTOIRE

Le XX^e Siècle

UNE SÉRIE DOCUMENTAIRE
PROPOSÉE PAR
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UNSUNG HEROES

This 20x26 min series offers new insights into 20th century history, revealing the forgotten faces of men and women who have helped forge our History. By taking part into collective adventures who shaped the 20th century, they stood up, took sides, made their voices heard. For better or for worse, their little known or forgotten destinies will be told by acclaimed Director Jacques Malaterre, casting history on a human scale.

arte

EPISODE 1 (PILOT EPISODE)

POLAND

[Jerzy Popieluszko \(1947-1984\)](#)

Martyr to Freedom

Jerzy Popieluszko was an ordinary priest in a working-class Warsaw parish. A thin, shy man with a soft voice, he did not exactly fit the profile of political agitator or charismatic leader. Yet in the early 1980s, he and his angelic face shook up the government of the People's Republic of Poland, which was not a republic and did not belong to the people. He was 37 years old, and he called himself "a friend of the truth." His sermons were condemnations of the communist regime, the omnipotence of the single party, martial law, and the absence of freedom. He was merely one of thousands of priests, but he was annoying the regime. He had to be silenced.

On October 30, 1984, Polish police divers pulled a body out of the waters of the Vistula. The death was not an accidental drowning; it was homicide. The victim's hands were bound behind his back; he had a rope around his neck, and a sack of stones weighing several dozen kilos tied to his feet. (*Overlapping footage of water with archives and films of the setting today*). Taken to the morgue in Bialystok, the body was dressed in a cassock and an immaculate alb embroidered with red crosses and green leaves. For the victim was a priest: Father Popieluszko, the most popular priest in Poland. But why did Jerzy Popieluszko die, and who had murdered him?

The reaction to the murder of Father Popieluszko showed the regime that Solidarity was a force to be reckoned with. Mikhail Gorbachev was trying to rescue the Soviet regime from economic collapse, and had to abandon its European satellites to their fate. Suddenly, the unthinkable became possible. In 1989, Lech Walesa and Jaruzelski negotiated Poland's peaceful transition to democracy.

Why is so little known in Europe today about Father Popieluszko's courage?

From the combat of this man of faith until his death, the film traces how his story is interwoven with Poland's history. Popieluszko came from a modest rural background, but he was outspoken. Shedding light on his amazing journey enables us to examine one of the major historical events of the 20th century, leading us to wonder why a hero who contributed to changing the world remains, posthumously, *In the Shadows of History*.

EPISODE 2

FRANCE

[René Dumont \(1904-2001\)](#)

Environmental consciousness in France.

Trained as an engineer in agronomy, René Dumont fought for Third World causes and helped found French political ecology. In the 1974 presidential elections, he was the first to run on an environmental platform; although he garnered only 2% of the vote, Le Mouvement Ecologique was founded in the aftermath of his campaign. His prophecies that boom would lead to doom were decades ahead of his time.

EPISODE 3

FRANCE

Louise Weiss (1893-1983)

Mother of Europe

Journalist, author, French suffragette, and politician, Louise had earned an advanced degree from Oxford University by the time she was 21. During World War I, she worked as a war nurse. Horrified by the devastation she'd seen, she became a proponent of lasting peace between France and Germany, and founded a weekly, *L'Europe Nouvelle*, in 1918.

EPISODE 4

FRANCE-SPAIN

Gala Dalí (1894-1982)

The Surrealist muse

Gala, a femme fatale, has been described as a greedy, cynical nymphomaniac. She nevertheless managed to bewitch three of the greatest artists of the 20th century. Few people are familiar with her personality, so she is a character who has the power to reflect the most prominent poets and painters, Eluard, Dalí, and their friends, their complicated love affairs, their strengths and weaknesses in new light for us to discover.

EPISODE 5

SPAIN

Manolete (1917-1947)

El Califa

Skinny as a rail, with a jug-eared, comical face, Manolete was nevertheless the darling and pride of the famished people of Spain, under Franco's yoke. On August 28, 1947, in the arena at Linares, the inventor of modern bullfighting was gored in the thigh by the bull Islero. Manolete yielded to a hemorrhage of the femoral artery the next day. At the age of thirty, one of the most emblematic, charismatic, and christic figures of post-war Spain had disappeared.

EPISODE 6

FRANCE

Matéo Maximoff (1917-1999)

The road without a caravan

A Romani born in Barcelona with a fascination for literature, he was inspired by his father's stories and by his own journey to publish a number of texts that blur the borders between written and spoken language, between folktale, novel, and

autobiography. Even after the horror of the camps, Maximoff remained committed to collecting, preserving, and passing on the Romani cultures he had inherited, for his own people as well as for the *gadjé* (non-Gypsies).

EPISODE 7

IRELAND

Bobby Sands (1954-1981)

"Our revenge will be the laughter of our children."

Sentenced to prison as a member of the IRA, Bobby Sands undertook a hunger strike to protest the denial of his status as a political prisoner. However, despite widespread support from public opinion, PM Margaret Thatcher refused to give in. Bobby Sands died on May 5, 1981, after 66 days without food. He became the symbol of Northern Ireland's struggle for independence.

EPISODE 8

IRELAND

George Best (1946-2005)

The Fifth Beatle

This Northern Irish footballer heralded the popstar phenomenon in his sport. Playing for Manchester United, he was named European Footballer of the Year in 1968, and is remembered as Northern Ireland's all-time best striker. Best became a legend by retiring at age 27, when his career was at its peak. Belfast Airport is named for him. One of the banners at his enormous funeral read "Maradona good, Pelé better, George Best."

EPISODE 9

UNITED KINGDOM

Tom Simpson (1937-1967)

Death at the peak

Raised in poverty in England's mining country, Tom Simpson went down in the history of bike racing less for his accomplishments than for his tragic death on Mont Ventoux during the Tour de France in 1967. Comatose, he wobbled up the slope, collapsing unconscious at the peak. Tom Simpson, a victim of doping, was nevertheless an extraordinary champion: elegant, a bit nonchalant, and full of stamina and charm.

EPISODE 10

ROMANIA

Matei Pavel Haiducu (1948 - 1998)

The spy who refused to kill

Son of a founder of the Romanian communist regime and high official dignitary of the party, he became an agent for Foreign Department of the terrifying Securitate (secret services and political police). Based in France since 1975, he regularly changed of name and activity so that the French counterespionage loses sight of him. At the time, France is the land of exile for Romanian political refugees, intellectual dissidents who continue, through their books and articles, their undermining work against the Ceaucescu regime. In 1981 Haiducu ordered to physically eliminate two of the leading Romanian intellectuals who used to live in Paris: Paul Goma and Virgil Tanase. Instead of complying, he warned the DST.

The attack against Goma is foiled and in order to protect Tanase, the DST organizes his false kidnapping, causing angry reactions in the Romanian community in France that believes in a political assassination. Simultaneously, President François Mitterand cancels his visit to Bucharest. The Tanase case becomes a political matter that fundamentally changes the vision of the Ceaucescu regime and radically upsets the French and European diplomacy.

Haiducu, meanwhile, definitely new life in France, moved to Britain under a false identity, married and had two children, without ever talking to him. Beyond the trajectory of this secret agent, are the themes of the cold war and dissent intellectuals to be addressed. Paul Goma and Virgil Tanase, are still alive and living in Paris.

EPISODE 11

GERMANY

Mustapha Müller (1926-1993)

In Algiers, March 18th, 1962, the Évian Accords were signed in France and each fighting side tallied up its fatalities. Among the Algerian soldiers was an Austrian who decided to count the total survivors. (42) This man led a psychological commando to an unknown victory: thanks to him, almost 4,000 legionnaires laid down their weapons in order to leave Algeria in peace. His name was Si Mustapha-Müller.

EPISODE 12

GREECE

Nikos Beloyannis (1915-1952)

Athens, Sunday 30th March 1952. At 4:10 in the morning, four Greek communists were gunned down, despite appeals for clemency from Charlie Chaplin, Jean-Paul Sartre and General de Gaulle. Despite Picasso's 'Man with a Carnation' drawing, which turned one of the prisoners into a global icon. The man with the carnation was called Nikos Beloyannis. Who was he? Why was the world so moved by his sacrifice? Why did he agree to die for his beliefs?

EPISODE 13

GERMANY

[Carl Lutz \(1895-1975\)](#)

Budapest, 1944. When the sudden deportation of hundreds of thousands of Hungarian Jews to Auschwitz began, a Swiss diplomat was brave enough to rebel. Disregarding the orders he received from his superiors, he openly defied the Nazi regime and its Hungarian ally, saving more than 60 000 Jews from a certain death, sometimes even putting his own life in danger. (49) This man who dared to rise against brutality, indifference and legalism, was Carl Lutz, an astute diplomat driven by an uncompromising moral conscience, who would later be awarded the honour of Righteous Among the Nations.

EPISODE 14

GERMANY

[Sylvin Rubinstein \(1914-2011\)](#)

Dolores & Imperio

In the 1930s, when they were still teenagers, Sylvin Rubinstein and his twin sister Maria, the offspring of a Russian prince and a Polish Jewess, were famous throughout Europe as the flamenco duo Imperio & Dolores. Maria was murdered at Treblinka. Sylvin managed to escape from the Warsaw Ghetto and join the partisans. Disguised as "Dolores," he successfully carried out anti-Nazi missions. The one-of-a-kind *danseuse* had a Wehrmacht officer wrapped around his little finger.

EPISODE 15

GREECE

[Aléxandros Panagoulis \(1939-1976\)](#)

The Blood of Greece

The Greek hero par excellence, a free spirit, in his youth he joined the party of the Union of the Centre Papandreou. He became a fierce opponent of the colonels' junta. In 1968, he decided an attack against the dictator Papadopoulos. He failed and was arrested and sentenced to death. Hideously tortured, he never delivered any names. And from his prison, he wrote his best poems on the walls of his cell or on microscopic ink papers, often from his own blood.

Released with the return of democracy in 1974 he became deputy and continues the fight against his former torturers. On 1 May 1976, at the age of 38, Panagoulis dies in a car accident, trying to escape from enforcers and this, a few days before the revelation of an explosive issue on security agents of the military junta...

EPISODE 16

GREECE

Theo Sarapo (1936-1970)

What Good Is Love?

Theophanis Lamboukas is the son of a Greek immigrants Orthodox couple. The young Theo began singing early and participated at the age of eighteen years in singing competition. A friend introduced him to Edith Piaf, who employs him quickly as secretary.

The great singer, divorced since 1956 from her first husband, is seduced by the remarkable voice of the young man. She encourages him and gives him the stage name "Theo Sarapo" (Sarapo means "I love you" in Greek), which are the only Greek words she knows. On 9 October 1962, Theo Sarapo, aged 26, married Edith Piaf who is twenty years older than him. The religious wedding was held at the Greek Orthodox Church. He sings a duet with Edith Piaf. The couple gets a worldwide success; especially thanks to the song *What Good is Love*, written by Michel Emer. But Edith is very seriously ill and died in 1963. Theo will not remarry, and it was only, after a long period of mourning that he begins to play and sing for, among others, in order to pay the debts of Edith Piaf.

On 28 August 1970 his car left the road and hit a plane tree on a high speed. He died at the age of 34 and is buried in Paris at Père-Lachaise cemetery alongside Edith Piaf. It is mentioned in the 327th of 480 memories quoted by Georges Perec in *I remember*.

EPISODE 17

FRANCE

Jeannette Mac Donald (1918-1999)

The first Lion tamer

On the Amar circus ring, in 50 years, Jeannette Mac Donald was at the height of his glory. It is one of the first women tamers to present a number with ten caged lions. White silk blouse, black boots polished and white gloves, she fascinated the public as much as his wild animals. At the time, Pierre Lartigue, founder of Cirque du Grand Toulouse, reports: "She was really beautiful and we did not know if there were ten or eleven lions, as she appeared to be a wild animal with her tawny body." ... Daughter of a showman tamer, she was born May 3, 1918, in Montrouge. She was 6 years old when his father brought for the first time in the cage of lions. She was 15 when she presents her first public number. It will foam the cities of France with its circus temp. This mountebank of life until the lead in North Africa, where a day in 1967, her circus temp burns. Jeannette loses everything. Remain only her animals. Jeannette MacDonald moved to Easter 1973 with her last animals to Buzet-sur-Tarn (Haute-Garonne). She lives 25 years in miserable conditions without water or electricity. Before knowing the ultimate misfortune, with the burning of the caravan where she lives. This great figure of the track, which had always predicted it "would not survive the death" of his last lion after a outdoor life, is in a nursing home. Jeannette MacDonald died on 1 May 1999, with a small stuffed lion on the heart.

EPISODE 18

ITALY

Salvatore Giuliano (1922-1950)

Sicilian Robin Hood

A legend in his own lifetime, Salvatore Giuliano was a Sicilian peasant, bandit, and nationalist whose life story was the stuff of myth, after his death. Sicilian folklore compared him to Robin Hood. Giuliano was also an active member of the Sicilian separatist movement.

EPISODE 19

SWITZERLAND

Griselidis Real (1929-2005)

Prostitute Pride

Trapped in Munich an abusive relationship with a schizophrenic husband, Griselidis Real decided to become a prostitute in order to support herself and her children. In the 1970s, as an activist, she pioneered the sex workers' rights movement. Jailed in Germany for selling marijuana to US soldiers, she began to write her autobiography. She always insisted that her profession was a noble one, and when she died, she insisted on having the word "Prostitute" carved on her tombstone.

EPISODE 20

FRANCE

Jacqueline Auriol (1917-2000)

Faster than the wind

Aviatrix Jacqueline Auriol, severely injured early in her career when a plane in which she was a passenger crashed, studied to become a test pilot while recovering from multiple surgeries. A plucky woman in a man's world, she was the first female test pilot in France. Her professionalism, dignity, charm, and courage attracted widespread admiration, and between 1951 and 1963 she was world's fastest woman five times. In her prime, she was the beautiful face of French aeronautics.