

***The Full Monteverdi* wins critical acclaim across Europe**

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John La Bouchardière's stunning debut film, featuring I Fagiolini, has been received with wide-spread praise by the press at home and abroad. No stranger to awards, ***The Full Monteverdi*** project has built on its success as a ground-breaking live show with a wealth of plaudits for the film, including a prestigious ***Choc du Monde de la Musique***, a five-star feature in ***ClassicFM Magazine***, highly recommended by ***Gramophone*** and triple five-star review in Germany's foremost classical music magazine ***Fono Forum***.

The film has been broadcast in Norway (NRK), New Zealand (Arts Channel) and Czech Republic (CTV) and is scheduled for transmission by S4C (Wales), SkyArts (UK), YLE Teema (Finland), SVT (Sweden), RTVE (Spain), Canada (ARTV) and SBS (Australia).

Review highlights :

"This brilliant film... is superbly acted, beautifully sung ...almost unbearably moving. Bravos all round."

Richard Lawrence, *Gramophone* (UK)

"...a brilliant film... a searing dramatisation"

Richard Morrison, *The Times* (UK)

"La Bouchardière's concept finds its ideal realisation in film. Brilliant." *****

Awarded *Sternes des monats*: Gerhard Persché, *Fono Forum* (Germany)

"The eye cannot tear itself away from these admirably constructed images and subtle glances... The *tour de force* of this film is to have given a dramatic coherence and dramatic tension to twenty madrigals, surely the most unlikely cinematic material. The universal theme of separation is ripe for a contemporary reading but it takes La Bouchardière's talent, leaning towards *cinéma vérité*, the typically British standard of I Fagiolini's performances and the musicianship of the whole team to convince and captivate.

Fascinating."

Awarded *Choc du mois*: Philippe Venturini, *Monde de la Musique* (France)

"...the film's raw impact comes from its unflinching exposure of the effects on flawed, vulnerable human beings of these devastating emotional rifts. Harrowing and haunting, the images uncover the naked truths of the madrigal poets... I Fagiolini's musical performances are peerless."

Graeme Kay, *Choir & Organ* (UK)

Continued...

“This brilliant film... sung with consummate artistry... The passion in the music is tellingly matched by the suffering on the faces of the characters. The film demands to be seen; but I won't be visiting that restaurant in a hurry.” *****

Richard Lawrence, *ClassicFM Magazine* (UK)

“After an hour, the pun in the title was vindicated: this was a raw, emotional striptease... the camera can follow the acrimonious lovers into bedrooms and bathrooms and there is a terrible truthfulness to its documentation of their misery.”

Peter Conrad, *The Observer* (UK)

“[La] Bouchardière's verité-style direction, reminiscent of Kieslowski in its bold opening silence and unrelenting in emotional delivery, has the makings of an award winner”

Andrew Stewart, *Early Music Review* (UK)

“This remarkable, intricately constructed film is aesthetically beautiful in every aspect: masterfully shot, sensitively arranged images, utterly glorious singing, impressive operatic acting, and a terrifyingly involving narrative flow. This encounter between yesterday's music and today's medium can't help but deliver Monteverdi's masterpieces to a new and deeply appreciative audience in a thoroughly spectacular fashion.”

Edward Lewis, *Classical Source* (UK)

“Outstanding directing”

Michael Bordt, *Klassisk* (Germany)

“Staggeringly inventive... The tricky job now is to ensure that this important film is made available on a mainstream TV channel at a sensible time of day.”

Andrew Benson-Wilson, *Early Music Review* (UK)

“...truly redefines what is and could be considered cinema.”

Svet Atanasov, *DVD Talk* (US)

“Devastating”

Jason Buchanan, *All Movie Guide* (US)

“...uniquely powerful”

Movies Unlimited (US)

Polyphonic Films is now planning to follow its sell-out screenings of *The Full Monteverdi* in London and York with public showings across the UK and beyond to include Berlin and Copenhagen.

Press contact, review DVDs and production stills :

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