

INTERVIEW WITH MOVIE PRODUCER ANGELO SCONDA

In the wonderful setting of Beit Al Nur ; an Arabic-style residence in the heart of Babtouma made to host important artistic and cultural activities, took place on the 16th of June the second shooting scenes of "7 Km from Jerusalem" and as the What's On team we went on the set to have an interview with the cast. Here I had the pleasure to meet with the movie's producer; Angelo Sconda.

Is this a 1st time production for Italy? Did you shoot other movies here in Syria?

For sure it's the first time for Italy to produce such a movie and in a setting filled with history such as Syria. In fact "7 Kilometers from Jerusalem" is a unique production , unique for its wonderful settings and unique for its theme where certain aspects of life and humanity are looked at from a different point of view.

Give me names of the cast. Are there Syrian actors?

Main actors are Luca Ward, Alessandro Etrusco representing Jesus, Isa Barzizza, a legend of the Italian cinema, and other famous actors like Alessandro Haber and Eleonora Brigliadori.

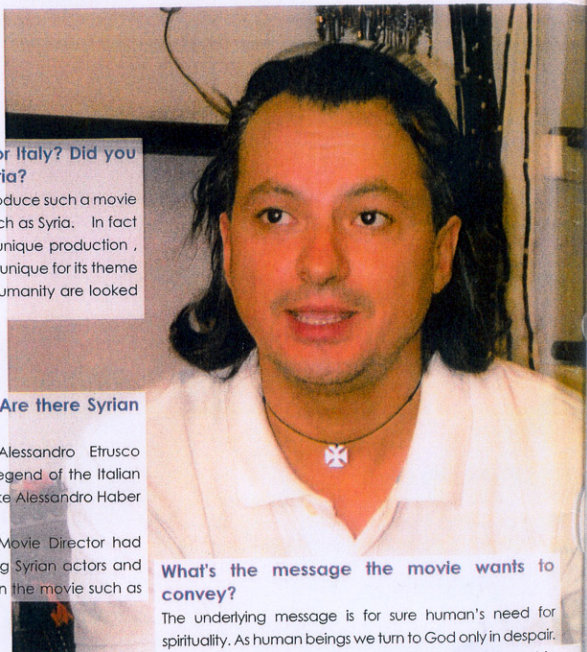
Abdeghani Ballat, Syrian TV and Movie Director had in important role in recruiting young Syrian actors and actresses for other important roles in the movie such as Virgin Mary and Mary of Magdala.

Is the movie a result of Syrian-Italian collaboration?

How did you find Syria and all the Syrian Team?

Yes, this movie is a result of Syrian-Italian collaboration. In fact the Orient Production worked with us in this great venture providing us locations, actors and technical support.

About the Syrian team, we were really surprised and delighted for the way they welcomed us. In fact, as soon as we stepped out of the plane we found waiting for us a bouquet of roses for each one. We are really happy about shooting our scenes here in Syria and we want to thank everyone for the warmth and cordiality typical of this culture.



What's the message the movie wants to convey?

The underlying message is for sure human's need for spirituality. As human beings we turn to God only in despair. The protagonist wrapped by a major depression and in the midst of a shattering life crisis flies off to Tel Aviv and walking in the desert has an encounter with someone who he does not recognize at first and who later reveals himself as Jesus. Jesus becomes the protagonist's answer to all his life crisis and doubts.

The movie's prestige is in the dialogues; fantastic dialogues written by the author Pino Farinotti, meant to reach everybody with no exception of religion or culture.

Is the movie only distributed in Italy?

No, they are hoping to distribute it internationally, bringing it also in the Middle East cinema halls. The Berlin Movie Festival hopefully will make the movie known on a larger scale.