



Ferlinghetti

Paolo Fresu: trumpet, flugelhorn, effects - Dino Rubino: piano
Marco Bardoscia: double bass - Daniele Di Bonaventura: bandoneon

The soundtrack to the docufilm "The Beat Bomb" by director Ferdinando Vicentini Orgnani continues the collaboration begun several years ago with the soundtrack to the film dedicated to Italian journalist Ilaria Alpi and is one of Fresu's best recordings in recent years.

Sunny, sharp, introspective and intelligent, the trumpeter's musical analysis with his trusted new trio with Dino Rubino and Marco Bardoscia manages to offer - especially on live occasions - profound perspectives on such a beautiful and controversial theme as the much-loved beat generation. Daniele Di Bonaventura, whose bandoneon gives deep pictorial nuances to the thematic scenario and offers a rare totality of proposition to such a positive and peculiar theme.

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In 2005, during the filming of a documentary on 68' commissioned by Cinecittà-Luce, I had the opportunity to meet Lawrence Ferlinghetti for the first time in his City Lights bookshop in North Beach, San Francisco. From that meeting a friendship and collaboration was born, which led to various interesting consequences, as well as the construction of a film that uses unpublished material composed of fragments of 'family' footage shot randomly, without a defined program or idea.

With Ferlinghetti's surprising longevity and after his last meeting in San Francisco during his 100th birthday celebrations (24 March 2019), I thought the time had come to give meaning and form to these precious fragments which, enriched by new footage and archive images, now become a documentary film entitled Poets don't pay.

Paolo Fresu and I had been talking about the soundtrack for this work few years ago, and finally, in the midst of the pandemic, we recorded the specially written music and performed it with a quartet of the most extraordinary musicians.

This project marks twenty years of our collaboration, which began in 2002 with the film on the story of Ilaria Alpi, the young Italian journalist murdered in Mogadishu.

Thank you, Paolo!

It has been a great journey that I hope will continue in the name of experimentation and the human and musical adventures we have shared.

(Ferdinando Vicentini Orgnani)

Link to the teaser of the film work:

<https://vimeo.com/761900803>



THE BEAT BOMB

a feature-length documentary by Ferdinando Vicentini Orgnani

Synopsis

Starting from the celebrations for the 100th anniversary of Lawrence Ferlinghetti, this film intends to retrace the extraordinary adventure of his life, focusing on the themes that make the experience of the lost world of the Beat extremely topical. A close confrontation with the values and dynamics that from California in the 1950s triggered a cultural revolution throughout the world that has brought to the surface the contradictions of globalization.

From the streets of San Francisco, we will fly to Rome, to tell the story of Ferlinghetti's special bond with Italy, which in addition to the surname of his father from Brescia, had many stages and two fundamental moments.

On 28, 29, and 30 June 1979, in a very particular political climate (just one year after the kidnapping and execution of Aldo Moro) on the beaches of Castel Porziano in Lazio Region, there was a quite extraordinary event, born almost by chance, sponsored by Renato Nicolini, the then Councilor for Culture of the Municipality of Rome: the International Festival of Poets. It was a sort of 'local Woodstock' with an extraordinary public participation of about 30,000 people.

Word had spread that Patty Smith would sing, but it wasn't true... People were not disappointed, however, as they found themselves involved in an epoch-making event that, in addition to Lawrence Ferlinghetti, saw poets and writers from halfway around the world come onto the stage, including: George Baker, Amiri Baraka (LeRoi Jones), Dario Bellezza, Gerald Bissinger, William Burroughs, Victor Cavallo, Gregory Corso, Maurizio Cucchi, Milo De Angelis, Evgenji Evtušenko, Allen Ginsberg, Brion Gysin, Dacia Maraini, Aldo Piromalli, Fernanda Pivano, Marcelin Pleynet, Antonio Porta, Jaqueline Risset, Denis Roche, Amalia Rosselli, Marialuisa Spaziani, Sebastiano Vassalli, Cesare Viviani, Valentino Zeichen.

We will meet and interview the survivors who participated in and witnessed the event, using archive images and photographs from the time.

Many years later, in May 2008, the municipality and the theatre of Rome invited Ferlinghetti to honor him with a whole week of events in the capital's theatres and libraries.

On 17 May 2008, at the Tor Bella Monaca theatre, Ferlinghetti gave his last public reading: his eyesight had already deteriorated and gradually led him to see only shadows. On stage to translate his poems into Italian were Giorgio Albertazzi and Michele Placido.

In the days of Ferlinghetti's Roman "carte blanche" there were other unique moments, such as the performance/happening "Underware" in the courtyard of the Teatro India, with the participation of the American actress Amanda Plummer who, projected on a large screen, read the poem of the same name from the City Light bookshop in San Francisco.

The dream of the Beat Generation, like that of other epochal movements, clashes today with a reality that enjoys and suffers from an exponential evolutionary speed. The San Francisco of the golden years, which saw the Beats, Hippies and Black Panthers living together in a sort of open-air laboratory, has now become a city literally colonized by the large corporations of the new economy, with one of the highest real estate markets in the world, while the 'downtown', the district nicknamed "Tenderloin", has been occupied by thousands of homeless, desperate people and junkies, due to a series of other contradictions. It's as if we've suddenly stepped into a scene from John Carpenter's film "1997 - Escape from New York".

These very heterogeneous realities, between the present and the past, will give this film an original key to trying to better understand the contemporary: a historical and cultural process that, like a speeding train, is dragging us along too.

Note

Lawrence Ferlinghetti is America's greatest poet (New York 2019 - San Francisco 2021), publisher and catalyst of the Beat Generation. In 1956 the City Lights bookshop published Allen Ginsberg's "Howl", an epoch-making event, and then in 1957 Jack Kerouac's legendary "On the Road". His poetry collection "A Coney Island of the Mind", with over two million copies in the United States, is the best-selling book of poetry in history.