



War in Films

LITTLE COMRAD
MOCHNIKA-SIIMETS
TEHNIPOL MOVIE NIGHT
(03.05.18 AT 18:00)



The setting

The story unfolds during World War II in our homeland, on the island of Kefalonia, on the Ionian Sea. A nice backdrop for a story of war and love.

The film has many historical references of Greece's involvement in the devastating World War II, capable to capture Greece's vigorous resistance first to the Italian attack and then against the German one.



The setting

With the Italian capitulation in 1943, the Germans occupied Cephalonia. After a long battle with 12,000 Italian soldiers of the Division "Acqui", who wished to return home, Germans executed most of them. This slaughter of thousands of Italian soldiers in Cephalonia is one of the largest crimes committed by the German Vermacht during World War II.

The story of the film is based on a real event.





The setting

Argostoli, the capital of the island, suffered two bombardments.

The first one at the beginning of the war in November 1940 and the other on September 16, 1943 when German planes dropped hundreds of bombs on the town and the disaster were also extended to places where Italian arms were based.





It should also be mentioned that many buildings were damaged, such as the "Kefalos" and "Apollo" theaters, institution buildings, many churches and entire neighborhoods, such as Saint Paraskevi district.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF 'SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE'
NICOLAS CAGE PENÉLOPE CRUZ JOHN HURT



CAPTAIN CORELLI'S MANDOLIN

BASED ON THE INTERNATIONAL AWARD WINNING NOVEL BY LOUIS DE BERNIERES

WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENTS

A FILM BY JOHN DAHL

CASTING BY JANE WOODS

EDITED BY JAMES HARRISON & JONATHAN HARRISON

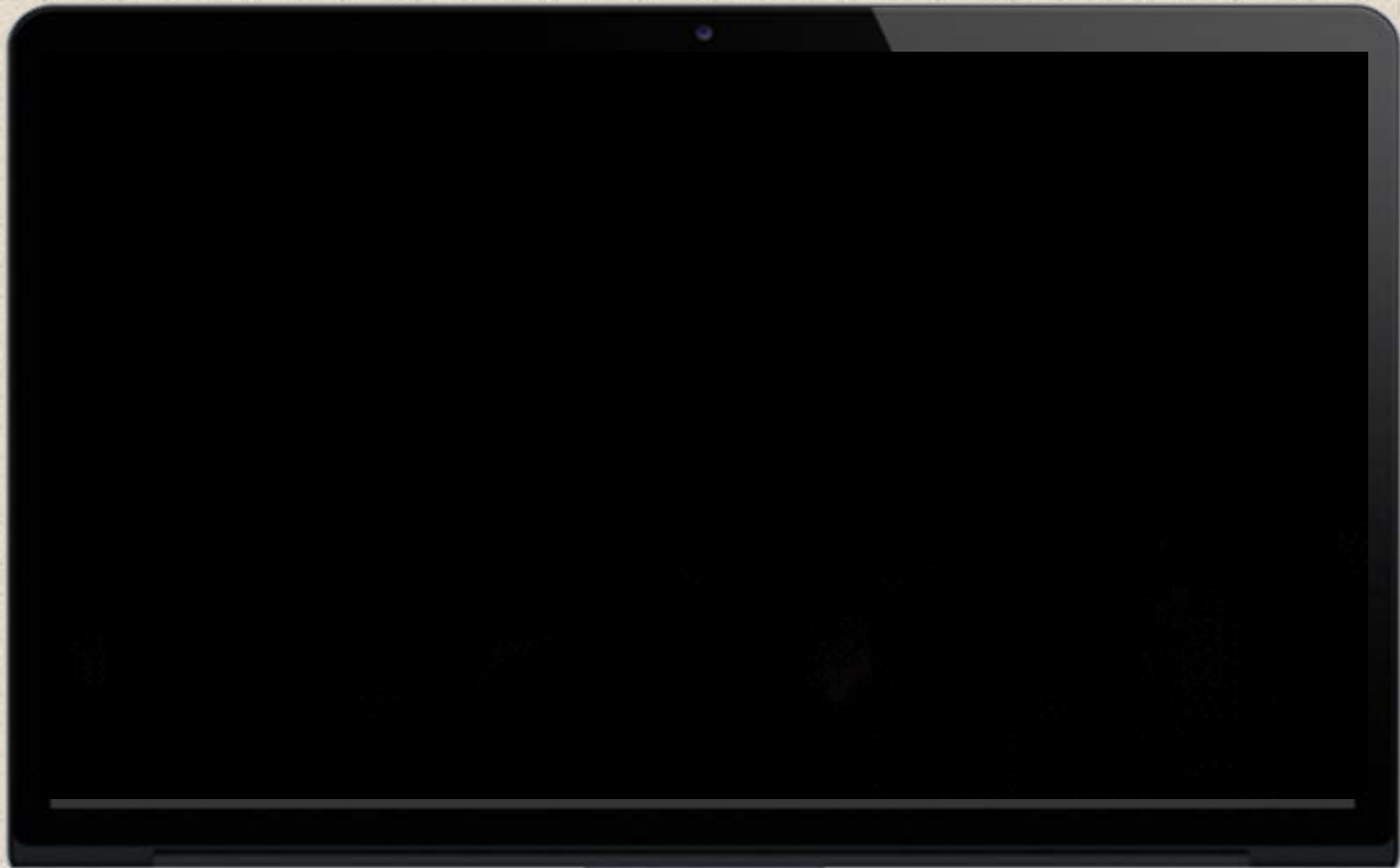
PRODUCTION DESIGNER: JAMES HARRISON

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: JAMES HARRISON & JONATHAN HARRISON

WWW.THEFILMFACTORY.CO.UK

MAY 4

Captain Corelli's Mandolin



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xjjGrxipPGQ>

Captain Corelli's Mandolin

The main characters

Captain Corelli

an officer of the
Italian army



Pelagia

the doctor's daughter

Mandras

Pelagia's fiancé,
a local fisherman



Dr. Yannis

the doctor and
Pelagias' father

Günther Weber

an officer of the German army



Captain Corelli

A cheerful Italian Captain, who found himself on an island as a conqueror, without ever having fought before. When Carlo, who fought in the Julia Force in the Albanian front, introduces himself, Corelli says: 'then you fought for all of us'. This is why he is cheerful, he eats, drinks, sings with his comrades, flirts and plays with the young Lemoni.



Captain Corelli

He believes that 'at war we should enjoy all the little joys of life' and admits that 'we are Italians; we drink, we sing and we fall in love'. Pelagia says 'you take everything as a joke'. Above all, he loves music and his mandolin. He introduces himself first as Breve and says 'on other respects, I am a Captain'.



Captain Corelli

He is discreet. He feels uncomfortable to invade in the doctor's family space and to make their daily routine difficult. 'It will be hard for you to put up with me' he tells Pelagia.

But he also enters her life with the same discreetness, without taking advantage of his conqueror identity. With music and love. He writes a song for her, Pelagia's song. And he plays it with his mandolin in front of everyone.



Captain Corelli

He surrenders to her love without being arrogant, without making a fuss.

His relationship with the doctor is flawless. He listens to him as if they were equals, in all their discussions, even in the doctor's monologues. With his soldiers he is friendly and comfortable. As he also is with the German officer who seeks his company.



Captain Corelli

He is anti-racist and a man of moral values. His words towards the German officer prove that: 'if I see someone in need, I will consider him my brother', and asks him about his own moral values.

But things take a different turn when, during disarmament by the Germans, he sees his co-patriots being killed for no reason. Then he realizes the seriousness of the situation and takes dynamic decisions. He reacts strongly to the incident, but also with sensitivity.



Captain Corelli

He works together with the Greek guerillas and gives them, after communicating with Mantras, the equipment he was supposed to deliver to the Germans, and fights on the Greek side. However, he is caught prisoner and is led with his men to the execution site. His last hope is the German officer. He calls him, but there is no response.



Captain Corelli

He is shot, but not deadly, since Carlo puts his body as a shield in front of him, keeping his promise to Pelagia that he will look after Corelli. With dignity, he asks the German soldier to kill him. He hesitates, and Corelli is saved. He flees back home, but he returns – because he tried to live without Pelagia, but did not make it.



Pelagia

Pelagia is a slim brunette girl, smart, with Mediterranean beauty. She is the doctor's daughter, with many talents and skills. Next to her father she learns Medicine, which she wants to study. She is compassionate towards everybody, giving medical care wherever needed. And she does it right. 'You are a woman and you know so many things' Mantras' mother tells her when Pelagia treats her son.



Pelagia

She also deals with the housework. She is a good housewife who cooks, washes, picks plants and sews. She is self-sufficient and sure about her movements.

She respects and loves her father, and carefully listens to his advice. She lives her love with the young fisherman Mantras. She is engaged to him before he lives for the front. But, for her father, he is not a suitable groom, one who is right for his daughter.





Pelagia

While Mantras is away, she writes to him and waits for him patiently. But things are turned upside down in her emotional world when she meets Captain Coreli. She is surprised by his behavior, which she considers shallow. 'Why don't you go on holidays to another island?' she asks him, annoyed by the frivolity with which he faces life, partying and having fun, at the same time when her co-patriots suffer without having the absolute necessities.



Pelagia

Day by day she knows him better, and finally falls in love with him.

Even in this case, she wants to be honest with herself, her feelings and other people, like Mantras and his mother. She is sincere towards them.



Pelagia

She is compassionate with others, like with young Lemoni, who is an orphan after the Germans kill her parents, and takes her under her protection. She is bold and also restrained in every case, ready to risk her life for the man she loves.





Pelagia

When he is heavily wounded she treats his wounds, nurses him and says goodbye, sad but decent. She avoids extracting some promise during the emotional moment of goodbye. But there are so many things that brought them together, and Coreli returns at a time of peace, to his favourite Pelagia. Forever!





Mandras

The young, handsome fisherman who is in love with Pelagia, as she is with him, and they both enjoy their love.

He is illiterate. He cannot read and write. His life is without worries or thoughts, full of fun at fanfares, dancing and making jokes.

Mandras

He is a child inside, as his mother says. And she behaves accordingly towards him. But the war breaks out and he leaves the island to defend his country, after being engaged to Pelagia first. Before leaving, he honestly confesses: 'We are different, I know. I haven't seen the world, I haven't been anywhere'. His world has so far been his island.. The differences between him and Pelagia are huge.





Mandras

After returning from the war, he is serious. He wants to be a rebel, to resist the conqueror. 'I cannot stay here. If I die, it will be worth it, and if I live I will walk with my head up high', he tells Pelagia.

And he leaves once more. He kisses her in front of Coreli, as if wanting to show she is his.





Mandras

He returns again. Now he is serious, responsible, risky and a fighter. He asks Coreli to give him his equipment, setting his own ego aside. The country comes first. The superiority of his emotional world is shown by the fact that he finds Coreli deeply wounded and brings him to medical care. And not only that; he also helps him return safely to his country, so as not to be captured by the Germans.



Mandras

With superior feelings and no drama, he accepts his love defeat. He emotionally releases Pelagia, to live the way she wants.





Dr. Yannis

Pelagia's father is the doctor on the island. He treats people and souls. Without personal interest, he gives them advice to improve their daily lives and sometimes brings them back to order. He doesn't hesitate to state his opinion in every case, without prejudice and stereotypes. He is educated. His words are a relief, a piece of wise advice, and sometimes a prophecy: 'there will be terrible things' .

Dr. Yannis

He is known for his courage. When Coreli decides to leave the house, he insistently asks him to stay so as not to break the agreement for medicine delivery, which were necessary for his patients.

He is bold enough to scold the conqueror for the monument inscription written in Latin.



Dr. Yannis

He is progressive, not hesitating to play the role of the mother as well and to discuss matters of love and romance with his daughter, matters that even a mother would not do in those years.

He supports Pelagia, by sending a letter to Coreli and asking him to cure 'the tears that wouldn't fall from her eyes' .





Dr. Yannis

He raises his daughter in a way which is original for the social customs of the island. 'I will not give you dowry' , he says, maybe because he thinks that Mantras is a man wishing to be better than his wife. His only daughter, however, is way better than him.

He makes her practice the doctor' s profession, because he understands her skills and abilities. When she successfully treats Mantras, her father tells her: 'now I can even retire' .



Dr. Yannis

He is rational. ' We shouldn' t ask why we have been wounded but only if the wound can be cured' .

He also has an effect on his relationship with Coreli. He talks about his own life and shows him the way for the choices he has to make. In essence, he is the protagonist in people' s decisions, both in his immediate but also in his wider environment. His figure is dominant everywhere and always.



Günther Weber

Through his title and his role as a conqueror, he finds the identity and the glamour he had been longing for, after his ancestors' defeat. He wants the war because it makes him feel worthy.

As a racist, he believes in the superiority of his race and supports it through science. He is lonely, constantly seeking the company of the Italians and Coreli. Around them, he gets to know the bright side of life, and sings 'Santa Lucia' with them. But again, he feels lonely. He hesitates even when he likes to dance with the pretty girl, and sends someone else to ask her.



Günther Weber

When the Italians are ready to leave, he asks Coreli to keep in touch after the war. He is a coward and indifferent; he does not respond to Coreli's call when he and his comrades are taken to the execution site. In fact, he even maliciously shoots the final shots. Luckily, not at Coreli. But, being a coward with no sign of compassion, he leaves him to his fate.



Many human values go through this film, such as the cohesion of the Greek family, solidarity, love, self-sacrifice, the power of man in multiple difficulties.

The Kephalonians seemed strong. Despite repeated strokes of war and earthquake later in 1953, they rebuilt their island and prospered.



War in Films

There is no glory in battle
worth the blood it costs.

Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1890-1969

All the war-propaganda, all
the screaming and lies and
hatred, comes invariably from
people who are not fighting.

George Orwell, *Homage to Catalonia*

All wars are civil wars,
because all men are
brothers.

François Fénelon, 1651-1715