

Sky and Quoiat Films
present



SYNOPSIS

For the first time in history, a team of distinguished Michelangelo experts retraces the steps that led to the creation of the Mausoleum of Julius II, finally bringing to light Michelangelo's original design and reconstructing it virtually with the support of the most innovative virtual reality techniques.

We all know Michelangelo's Moses, one of the most influential masterpieces of all time, but few know that this sculpture is only a fragment of a much more ambitious and revolutionary project shrouded in a thousand controversies.

"Michelangelo Saint or Sinner" is a documentary that follows the troubled history of the creation of the Mausoleum of Pope Julius II, a work that took 40 years to see the light, due to several vicissitudes and political shifts inside the Vatican, and which jeopardized Michelangelo's legacy and reputation.

The story takes the form of an investigation that, for the first time, offers a new perspective on the life of the great Master. Analyzing the documents of the time, the contributors try to find out the truth about the controversy surrounding the Mausoleum and Michelangelo's own work.

Pope Julius II commissioned the artist a giant work: a monument with more than 40 sculptures that was supposed to be erected inside St. Peter's. The initial project, however, derailed, due to Michelangelo's mismanagement of money and to the arrival of new commissions - including the frescoes for the Sistine Chapel - that distracted the Master from the request received from the now deceased Pope. This troubled process makes the Mausoleum a work studded with quarrels, public battles and accusations against Michelangelo, who was publicly denigrated as a usurer.

The documentary traces the entire affair, finally focusing on the virtual reconstruction of the Mausoleum in its original and later forms and, through the witnesses of several interviewees - all leading experts on Michelangelo's Art - helps us to define the different stages of its realization.

"Michelangelo Saint or Sinner" is a hymn to the revolutionary abilities of the greatest Master of all time. Taking the audience to some of the most evocative locations in the world - St. Peter's, the Sistine Chapel, the Medici Chapels, the Accademia Gallery - the documentary brings out how, behind the immense genius, there is always the man, with his frailties and insecurities.

CAST

MAIN CAST

KATE BRYAN | Art Historian

KATY HESSEL | Art Historian

CONTRIBUTORS

AMINA GAIA ABDELOUAHAB | Art Historian

CRISTINA ACIDINI | Art Historian, President of Accademia delle Arti del Disegno of Florence

MITCHELL BRONER SQUIRE | Production Manager 101% Studios

DANIELE DE BONIS | Contractual Lawyer

ANTONIO FORCELLINO | Restorer and Author of "L'ultimo Michelangelo"

CECILE HOLLBERG | Director of Galleria dell'Accademia of Florence

BARBARA JATTA | Director of Vatican Museums

LUCIANO MASSARI | Artist

WILLIAM E. WALLACE | Author of "Michelangelo: the artist, the man and his times"

CREDITS

Country and year: Italy, 2023

Duration: 84'

Language: English, Italian

Shooting format: digital, 4K

Produced by: Sky and Quoiat Films

Directed by: Chiara Battistini

Written by: Filippo D'Antuono

Produced for Sky by: Roberto Pisoni, Dino Vannini, Gaia Pasetto

Produced for Quoiat Films by: Federica Paniccia, Francesco Zippel

Executive producers for Sky Arte: Mariaromana Casiraghi, Laura Cavaletto

Executive producers for Sky UK: Benedetta Pinelli

Director of photography: Marco Sgorbati

Edited by: Christian Lombardi

Music by: Yakamoto Kotzuga for C.A.M. S.r.l.

Visual Effects: 101%

Scientific consultant: Simona Ciofetta,

Architectural consultants: Kostantin Brandeburg, Alberto Petroforte