



OFFICIAL SELECTION
CANNES CLASSICS
FESTIVAL DE CANNES

ORSON WELLES

Shadows & Light

A film by
Elisabeth Kapnist



Orson Welles would have been one hundred this year. The anniversary is an ideal occasion to celebrate and examine the genius of this cinema magician, exploring both the dark side of his life and his sheer brilliance.

A man of a thousand faces, any portrait of whom is necessarily a multi-pieced puzzle to put together. In this case, we have the film « Orson Welles, Shadows and light », by Elisabeth Kapnist, and the multimedia portrait designed for internet by France Swimberge, Samuel Pott and Antoine Silvestri.

« It's no way to spend a life. It's about 2% movie making and 98% hustling. »
Orson Welles

THE FILM

ORSON WELLES, SHADOWS & LIGHT

A film by Elisabeth Kapnist,
co-produced by the Compagnie des Phares et Balises and ARTE France

SYNOPSIS

Orson Welles was a true giant in the history of the cinema, the epitome of the artist-creator and the man who reinvented the language of cinema at the age of 24. This film is a journey to meet the man behind the legend, a voyage leading us into the labyrinth of his fantasies, talents and moods.



A FILM WITH

- **David Thomson**, film historian ; he devoted several years to writing a biography of Orson Welles, « Rosebud ». « I think his tragic dimension comes from the fact that he's not an ordinary human being. From his birth, he was so precocious and brilliant that he never really had a childhood, and that affected him all his life. »
- **Henry Jaglom**, Independent film-maker and friend of Welles. He published a book recounting his memorable lunches with him. «He was the least complicated man I've ever known. All he wanted was to make films".
- **Joseph Mc Bride**, film professor at Berkeley, he has written three books about him and is working on a fourth. « He was always independent in his own mind, making films his own way and not in the Hollywood way. »

INTENTIONS

How can we define or describe the most multi-faceted and versatile of artists? Who really hides behind the many theatrical masks and disguises? Conceiving of a film about Orson Welles immediately means deciding not to make a standard, classic biography. We have to break the mould and the chronological structure, and profile him through games, surprises, the unexpected, the metaphorical and allegorical, tales and fable... The film basically tells the story of a fall, reflected in the lucid but melancholic words of Orson Welles himself :

« I started at the top and worked my way down. »



ELISABETH KAPNIST

Writer and director, and founding member of the Ateliers Varan, Elisabeth Kapnist began her career in 1982 with « *Diadia Pavlik, my uncle from Russia* ». A first film and a first success. Retracing the history of her family during the Russian Revolution, the film won the Special Jury Prize at the Festival de Belfort. Fascinated by the complexity of great artists' work and lives, she has worked on portraits of Jean Cocteau, Nathalie Sarraute, Louise Weiss, Isadora Duncan, Carolyn Carlson.

A MULTIMEDIA PORTRAIT

THE OTHER SIDE OF ORSON WELLES

By France Swimberge, Samuel Pott and Antoine Silvestri,
co-produced by the Compagnie des Phares et Balises and ARTE France

SYNOPSIS

« *The Other Side of Orson Welles* » is a portrait in the form of a kaleidoscope, a game of mirrors, based on audio and visual archives. Seven key words are proposed to outline the profile of an extraordinary man : extraordinary for both his artistic production and the construction of his own character.



WELLES IN 7 KEY WORDS

Chameleon, derisory, committed, fabulator, magician, rebel, literate : The hidden face of Orson Welles revealed through video animations and unseen archives.

All the facets of the portrait have one common denominator : his voice.

><http://www.arte.tv/orson-welles>
(available in early May)

ORSON WELLES - Shadows & light

A film co-produced by Compagnie des Phares et Balises and ARTE France
With the participation of RTS Radio Télévision Suisse, ORF and YLE
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ORF

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RTS

CNC

PROCIREP

ANGOA



A film by Elisabeth Kapnist,
French narrator: Céline Sallette
English narrator: Sharon Mann Vallet
Camera: Thomas Bataille
Editor: Dominique Faysse

Original music composed and performed by: Samuel Hirsch
produced by Fanny Glissant and Jean Labib
for Compagnie des Phares et Balises with ARTE France
HD - 16/9 - Stereo - Versions : French, English - 56 minutes - France

The other side of ORSON WELLES

Co-produced by Compagnie des Phares et Balises and ARTE France
Authors and Creative Designers: France Swimberge, Samuel Pott and Antoine Silvestri
HD - 16/9 - Stereo



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