

PAVAROTTI

Director/Producer : Ron Howard

Producers : B. Grazier N. Sinclair M. Rosenberg J.Effent Festa

Written by Mark Monroe

Editor : Paul Crowder

***Pavarotti* is a 2019 documentary film by Oscar winning director Ron Howard. He examines the life of the celebrated Italian operatic tenor Luciano Pavarotti. It is an American-British venture, featuring never-before-seen footage, concert performances and intimate interviews with professionals, friends and family, Pavarotti was born into a poor middle-class family in Modena. His father was a local baker and his mother a housekeeper. As a teenager, he becomes a member of the same choir to which his father belongs. His career develops with his capacity to sing high C and he soon becomes an international star singing alongside Joan Sutherland. Pavarotti tells vibrant tales. He used to bring suitcases of tortellini on tour with him to combat his loneliness and recreate the home cooking of Modena. He is good on the technicalities of his talent, explaining his mastery of breathing, his virtuoso ability to hit a run of high Cs and his talent for making the tenor range sound warm and organic. He did recitals in rural America where there are no opera houses, this brought him to the attention of a much wider audience. He said “he wanted to give back to people what God had given to him” His agents Herbert Breslin and then later James Goldsmith opened the way for him to acquire colossal pop-classical stardom, most notably with the Three Tenors with whom he sang sensationally at the 1990 World Cup and many times thereafter. Pavarotti’s mass appeal**

created an entirely new market for classical music and opera singing. Classical music became the hottest music in the market.

Later in life he began to lose his direction and his interest in straight opera singing. He looked for a different stage. His second wife encouraged him to join up with pop singers, such as Bono and he performed at pop concerts, albeit much to the disapproval of the opera elite. He amassed enormous wealth and set up charities and foundations which have raised millions of dollars for children in conflicts around the world, building aid centers in Bosnia, Guatemala, Kosovo, Tibet, Cambodia, and Angola. This work continues to this day through La Fondazione Luciano Pavarotti. He sang with Bono at a concert in aid of the children of war torn Sarajevo. Audiences loved him wherever he performed.

Howard's film glosses over criticisms from the elite classical world, and equally the controversy generated by his ex marital affairs. His wife and daughters offer a respectful, if regretful understanding of the double life required of a great artist.

This is an entertaining portrait of a generous, loving, funny, larger-than-life figure with an exceptional ability to interpret some of the world's most beautiful music. And the music is sublime. He died of pancreatic cancer in September 2007.

===== Film Notes : Jane Campbell

Pavarotti was presented by the HFS on 17th December 2020

Our next film will be shown on 21st January 2021 at 8pm and the Film Talk discussion is on 22nd January at 5pm

WOMAN AT WAR Iceland/Ukraine 2019 101 minutes
Dir. Benedikt Erlingsson

