



Mysteries of Lisbon (Mistérios de Lisboa)

Autumn
Season
2012

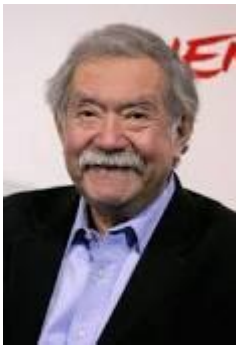
Release: 2010

Cert (UK): 15

Runtime: 272 mins

Director: Raoul Ruiz

Cast: Adriano Luz, Ricardo Pereira and Maria João Bastos



Raoul Ruiz has left a huge body of work – he has written over 100 plays as well as directed over 110 films. He fled Chile in 1973 and settled in France. For years he made films on a shoe-string until his reputation began to attract money and stars. Our Film Festival Patron, John Hurt, was one of the first international stars to appear in a Ruiz film – the 1992 film *'Dark At Noon'* (*'L'oeil qui ment'*). Ruiz was also a passionate teacher of film, and taught in Universities across the world, including Aberdeen. His death in 2011 sparked a National Day of Mourning in Chile.

'Mysteries of Lisbon' is an (amazing) adaptation of Camilo Castelo Branco's 1854 novel. Branco was a prolific Portuguese novelist but remains virtually unknown in the English speaking world as few of his novels have ever been translated. Spun around the tale of a young orphan discovering the truth about his heritage, this rich tapestry of interweaving narratives (a "diary of suffering") addresses issues of class, warfare, religion, redemption, love and death, heaven and hell, all with a deceptively deft touch. *'Mysteries of Lisbon'* is a subtle delirium, and a magnificent late magnum opus from a director who was one of a kind.

Roger Ebert describes the film – 'The movie is long — 272 minutes. It doesn't hurtle through its plot, nor does it seem to dawdle. It immersed me, it wove a spell, it was very serious about its absurd coincidences, about characters who might almost be shape-shifters. If occasionally you are not certain who is at the centre of a scene, do not be concerned; more likely than not, that person will turn out to be someone you remember from earlier in the film, under another name and with a different identity.' What spell will it weave for you?

