



## „HOMAGE ...“: BIOGRAPHIES

### Marie Versini

The actress was born in Paris on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 1940. She began her artistic training at the Conservatoire National d'Art Dramatique in 1954 and continued at the Actors Studio in Paris, where she became a student of the legendary Lee Strasberg and became acquainted with his principles of "never pretend". Marie Versini debuted at the Paris Théâtre Antoine at the side of Jean Louis Trintignant in 1956. Here she met Gérard Philipe who highly influenced her acting. At the age of 17 Marie Versini joined the ensemble of the Comédie Française as the youngest member ever. She played leading roles in plays by Molière, Racine, Beaumarchais, Hugo, Labiche and Shakespeare. Engagements at theatres and festivals all over France were to follow.

In 1958 Marie Versini appeared in her first major film role in the Charles Dickens adaptation "A Tale of Two Cities" with Dirk Bogarde. Numerous national and international productions alongside renowned actors followed, "Le chien de pique" (F 1960 - with Eddie Constantine), "Paris Blues" (USA 1961 - with Paul Newman, Sidney Poitier, Louis Armstrong) and "Paris Brûle-t-il?" (F / USA 1966 - with Jean Paul Belmondo, Yves Montand, Alain Delon, Orson Welles, Gert Froebe), among others.

Marie Versini became very popular in Germany primarily due to her role in five Karl May adaptations: in 1963 she played the role of Nscho-tshi alongside Pierre Brice and Lex Barker in "Winnetou Part 1". "The Schut" (1964), "Through Wildest Kurdistan", "In the Realm of the Silver Lion" (1965) and "Winnetou and his friend Old Firehand (1966) followed. In addition, she appeared in leading roles in various films such as the war drama "Password: Heron" (D 1963 - with Peter van Eyck, Fritz Wepper), "Vacation with Piroshka" (A / D 1965 - with Götz George) and "Love nights in the Taiga"(D 1967 after the novel by Heinz G. Konsalik - with Thomas Hunter).

Her popularity with the German audience earned her the Bravo magazine's golden "Otto" four times in a row from 1965 to 1968 and the silver "Bambi" award from the magazines "Freundin" and "Film-Revue". In 1961 Marie Versini met French writer and director Pierre Viallet, whom she married in 1974. Under his direction she made films such as "Jacqueline Pascal" (F 1963), "La foire (3 Parts F 1977 - with Curd Jürgens) and "Les pieds en novembre poussent "(F 1978). Since 2003 Marie Versini realizes book projects with Pierre Viallet ("I was Winnetou's sister" [2003], "Mystery of N.T." [2008], "N.T. going cinematic" [2009]).

Marie Versini lives and works with her husband Pierre Viallet in Paris and on the Île de Ré.



## Pierre Viallet

The author, screenwriter and director was born the son of an authoritarian father and an eccentric mother from wealthy background in Paris on Mai 6<sup>th</sup>, 1918. The great French critic Paul Guth aptly describes Pierre Viallet's individual style as "...cinematic contrast. This is what the real literature of our days is about: provided with latest technology of our media time that builds upon the great art of past centuries when literature alone dominated the scene."

Viallet gave his directorial debut in 1953 in Jean Anouilh's "L'invitation au château" with Brigitte Bardot in the leading role. This was followed by roughly 70 films where, on several occasions, he worked with the great names in literature (i.e. Eugène Ionesco, Georges Simenon, Marguerite Duras, Truman Capote) and cinema history (i.e. Brigitte Bardot, Curd Jürgens, Orson Welles).

Pierre Viallet wrote screenplays for film and television such as „Les tentations de Jean de la Fontaine“ by Jean Giraudoux, Honoré de Balzac's „La maison du chat qui pelote“ and „Les faux nez“ by Jean Paul Sartre. He also wrote several novels some of which are available in German and English translation: „La foire“ (1973 - „Ach Pierre“), „Juliette ou l'insolation“ (1974 - English "Juliette" at Ballantine Books, New York) and „Les pieds poussent en novembre“ (1975 - "Feet grow in November"). The author was nominated as 'Fellow of The International Napoleonic Society' for his book „Un rêve de Napoléon“ (2001). He also wrote the screenplays and directed the movies for the film versions of his novels „La foire“ (1977) and „Les pieds poussent en novembre“ (1978).

Music and dance are priorities in Viallet's work. The impetus was film producer and longtime president of the International Cannes Film Festival, Robert Favre le Brêt, who asked him to make a film about Maurice Ravel. Viallet made chandeliers dance to his famous "Waltz" - a filming that was so extraordinary that the director was appointed by the Paris Opera and later on by Bolshoi Theatre Moscow.

He staged a total of 30 ballets and scenarised them.

In the period that followed he dedicated himself as a screenwriter and director to multi-part film and television series about famous composers and litterateurs, to ballet and the movies. Some of his films were shown in cinemas and on TV worldwide and awarded with national and international prizes.

Pierre Viallet whose multifaceted oeuvre includes about 250 works, lives and works with his wife Marie Versini in Paris and on the Île de Ré.



## Timur Sergeyenia

Timur Sergeyenia was born in Minsk, Belarus on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 1969. He received his first musical education at the early age of three at a special school for talented children at the National Conservatory Minsk.

At the age of four he gave his first public concert with his own compositions. At seven he performed as a soloist for the first time with the National Chamber Orchestra of Belarus.

Timur Sergeyenia has been educated by outstanding teachers such as, Prof. Irina Tswetajewa, Prof. Valerij Schatskij (National Conservatory Minsk), Prof. Naum Starkman (National Tchaikowsky Conservatory in Moscow).

Today Timur Sergeyenia looks back on 30 years performing in public concerts. He has given more than 1500 concerts in Germany, England, France, Monaco, Mexico, Spain, Switzerland, Belgium, Holland, Italy, Sweden, Denmark, Poland, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Romania, Russia, Belarus, the Ukraine, Lithuania and Latvia.

The pianist has successfully combined his concert work with his pedagogical and scientific activities.

From 1996-1999 he worked as a piano teacher at the National Conservatory Minsk and at the same music school for talented children he himself had been educated at.

From 1995 to 1998, within the scope of his cooperation with the Institute of Scientific Research for problems of culture at the Academy of Sciences of Republic of Belarus, he wrote a book titled: "The psychological and physical training of musicians for the performance of public concerts".

Timur Sergeyenia lives and works in Belgium with his wife.

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