

## TRANSLATION

From Lithuanian language

### Wooden Staircase to the Past

At the end of May one more first-night is awaiting for the Lithuanian cinema fans i.e. the director's Vidas Rasinskas film "Wooden Staircase". Vidas is not new in the cinema. However, this is his first author film. The music was created by the composer Faustas Latenas. The sound which is as important as the visual was created by the master of the Lithuanian cinema sound editing Romas Federavicius. His name is seen in the most Lithuanian film titles.

"Wooden Staircase" should have a success among those who like serious, poetic cinema. The film relates to what is really difficult to retell – the process of inner life. The plot of the film is minimal as the exterior action is not important here. It gives sense to the inner situation of two young protagonists Monica and Vilius, their collision with the fate and the efforts to understand it.

In the face of the fate the love story of those young people is being developed. However, it does not reach the culmination in the film as the director's attention goes even deeper. It reaches the emotional problems.

A fragile love story of the two young people becomes a painful drama of their emotional migration. It is being concentrated in the unborn child's voice sadly sounding behind the still. This is the request for love and help. The call to look back to oneself and listen to the life wishing to fulfill on the Earth needs human soul's space. It is necessary to safeguard it as the memory of the past. Otherwise the world will turn to the fruitless desert and all the ways out will be covered up with deep sand of the lost time.

At first sign the composition of the film is very simple. Monica and Vilius enter the ferry-boat. It departs. The aim of their trip is to celebrate Monica's birthday in Nida. But observing the ferry-boat going away one's inner voice says that this trip will be somehow special as not only the ferry-boat is empty (there is only the policeman's forgotten horse on it), but not a single man can be seen on the way leading to Nida. They stop in Nida but it seems that nothing special happens here. Even Monica's birthday is not being celebrated. They just stay there and then leave the next day.

But something happens in the collision with the past in this clear space which is important both to Vilius and to Monica not only in the sense of their fate trail but even more in the sense of the existence that express the value of their inner world.

Half mystical character of Thom (maybe the writer's Thom Mann's spirit living beyond the bounds of the time?) formally incarnates the passage from the exterior reality to the inner world. It creates symbolic situations which returns separate fragments of the past, poetic visions to the present times.

Vilius' dream or the visions exist so realistic in the film as the way, the wooden staircase, the sea, "the perch", naked feet disappearing in the white distance. These are the signs that help Vilius to perceive his own fate.

Vilius is grappling with the fate looking for his inner truth, which could help him to make up his mind (he is going to leave his Motherland), to calm down the conflict with himself. Maybe he will have enough strength to say farewell to his fate, to the woman who is still waiting for him, to the forgiving sea. This will happen at the end of the film "Wooden Staircase" – he will take Monica by hand and go away.

Monica in some way is a contrast to Vilius – maybe there is no longing for home in her emotional attitude or she is trying to create it artificially. Her space is the continent of America with the boundless Pacific Ocean. She is Lithuanian who comes from America, she was born there, her past, her present and even the future of her happy life are there. In Vilius farewell scenes that are practically depicted in the film Monica participates only like an observer or an attendant. The anxiety of a loving woman reflects in her inner situation.

The director of the film put up the main idea of his film like this – “the film is about the importance of the past in our life”. It may happen so, that the past may completely destroy the present.

However, Vilius has the right to make up his mind only after evaluating his past in their fatal collision though being unable to resist his fate. On the whole time is not a simple duration in the film.

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