



PUERI

concept for a mini (TV) series

GENRE: historical drama

PITCH: what if an atheist has to go to a holy war?

PREMISE: When a kid loses everything, he joins a crusade to the holy land, after the martyr of slavery, he finds peace in the (Mongolian-Manchurian) grasslands.

DESIGNING PRINCIPLE: An orphan trapped in the cage of medieval feudalism, meanders through Eurasia to find something to believe in.

CENTRAL QUESTION: Will the protagonist (Ferrán) finally find peace?

- professional cq: Will the crusade be successful?
- personal cq: Is Ferrán gonna commit to the catholic church and find his place in (European) society?
- private cq: Can Ferrán accept the beauty of creation?

Related: Oliver Twist, The Physician, Marco Polo, Kingdom of Heaven, The Pillars of the Earth

Arch(etypes): from Book of Job to prophet Elijah ("gods gentle whisper", 1 Kings 19)

THEMES: poverty, loneliness, despair, hope, exodus, false messiahs, frustration, prison, odyssey, new horizon

#cagot, #peregrinatio puerorum



OUTLINE

1.act

1212. France. Bordeaux.

Ferrán sits at his mothers deathbed. With her last breath she begs him not to loose hope and follow gods path.

As she passes Ferrán is forced to live on the street.

An old man tells him about a kid named Étienne de Cloyes who has seen Jesus and is now able to do miracles.

Ferrán decides to meet this chosen one and joins a pilgrimage to St. Denis. Their numbers grow and grow. Reaching the thousands.

Finally Ferrán reaches Étienne de Cloyes and is fascinated by his words and fate.

Not doubting that it is god himself talking through de kid, the crowd follows him on his expedition (to Jerusalem to free the holy sepulchre from the Saracen).

2.act

A odyssey through Europe begins.

The first euphoria clashes with reality (hunger, fatigue,..)

Is Ferrán following a false messiah?

In a dream he envisions crossing the sea.

Encouraged by this experience Ferrán starts to see the world in a new light, he starts to notice the little wonders along the way.

After a series of setbacks (loss of followers, mockery,...) the pilgrims reach the Mediterranean sea.

3.act

After finally finding boats willing to take them, the "crusaders" get sold into slavery in the middle east.

Ferrán ends up in a caravan of merchants.

They travel the Silk road through central Asia.



Slowly Ferrán is able to adapt to his new life and connect with members of the caravan. He is fascinated by the different worldviews and the ever changing landscapes they cross.

While taking care of the livestock, he (re)discovers his special connection with animals.

After a brutal attack by bandits, Ferrán finds himself alone in the grasslands.

After wandering through the endless unknown - like a miracle - a lone horse accepts his company.

Here Ferrán finally finds his freedom.

END

PROTAGONIST: Ferrán

a kid from the minority of the cagots,

Driven by a promise on his mothers deathbed, Ferrán goes on a journey to find god.

Weaknesses at the beginning: naive, paralyzed, no confidence

action: goes on a journey, he doesn't believe in (to "reconnect" spiritually with his family)

changed: an ambassador of many worlds, a place among the chosen few, itinerant preacher

ANTAGONISTS:

society, feudalism, city walls, borders, fanaticism ↔

skepticism, greed, limits of reality ...

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