

# GEBRÜDER BEETZ FILMPRODUKTION

## THE PASOLINI FILES

A Film by Andreas Pichler

52 min

Idea by Christian Beetz / Funded by Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg

In co-production with ZDF and ARTE

Funded by MDM & MEDIA

In the night of November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1975, the Italian film director and writer Pier Paolo Pasolini is brutally murdered on the outskirts of Rome. The 17-year-old gigolo Pino Pelosi is found guilty of the crime and sentenced to maximum penalty, despite countless contradictions in the evidence. Decades later, Pelosi withdraws his testimony and the case is re-opened. How is it possible that the murder of the world famous Italian filmmaker has never been solved? Why have so many pieces of evidences and traces been ignored? And why did Pasolini have to die in the first place?

THE PASOLINI FILES investigates the circumstances of Pasolini's murder from today's perspective and draws a sinister picture of Italy in the 20th century. By the early 70s, Pasolini had turned into the most provocative and inconvenient voice in Italy, receiving a lot of attention by his contemporaries. His politically controversial texts and socio-critical films frequently shocked the Italian public and questioned the moral conventions of the country. Did Pasolini go too far in his criticism? Did he make too many enemies along the way?

Pasolini-experts, like the writer and close friend of Pasolini, Dacia Maraini, the sociologist Peter Kammerer, Pasolini's cousin Nico Naldini and the literary scholar Barbara Castaldo share their insights and speak about the influence of Pasolini's work and the conceivable circumstances of his murder. Lawyer and university professor Guido Calvi, who played a crucial role in the re-opening of the case, is convinced that the motives behind Pasolini's murder are political.

Text samples and film quotations taken from his rich oeuvre will add to Pasolini's profile. Many of Pasolini's ideas are still valid today, a startling number of his predictions have turned out to be true: the secret police plotting the series of bombs that hit Italy in the 1970s, the mafia's growing influence on politics, the rise of Silvio Berlusconi and finally the collapse of Italy's political system in the early 1990s.

The film is completed by the artful animations of Ali Soozandeh („The Green Wave“), visualising Pasolini's daily prowls around the city and reconstructing his last day.

A film about the intellectual's role in society and a tribute to the life and work of Pier Paolo Pasolini.

The film THE PASOLINI FILES is one episode of the 5-part TV-series "The Culture Files" which will be broadcasted in October 2013 on ARTE. Based on the aesthetics and storytelling of modern day crime scene investigation series, it captivates the audience by exploring the unsolved mysteries revolving around many of Europe's greatest artists and thinkers. The vivid pace and investigative story line is designed to engage a younger audience with personalities whose work shaped our cultural perceptions of today.