

FULVIO LUCISANO presents

THE INQUIRY



ITALIAN INTERNATIONAL FILM



FULVIO LUCISANO
AND
RAI RADIOTELEVISIONE ITALIANA
PRESENT
A COPRODUCTION
ITALIAN INTERNATIONAL FILM
RAI FICTION



ENRIQUE CEREZO PRODUCCIONES CINEMATOGRAFICAS
FOREIGN SALES NU IMAGE - MILLENNIUM FILM

THE INQUIRY

Original story by
Ennio Flaiano and Suso Cecchi D'Amico

Screenplay by
Valerio Massimo Manfredi and Andrea Porporati

Directed by
Giulio Base

This film was supported by



SYNOPSIS

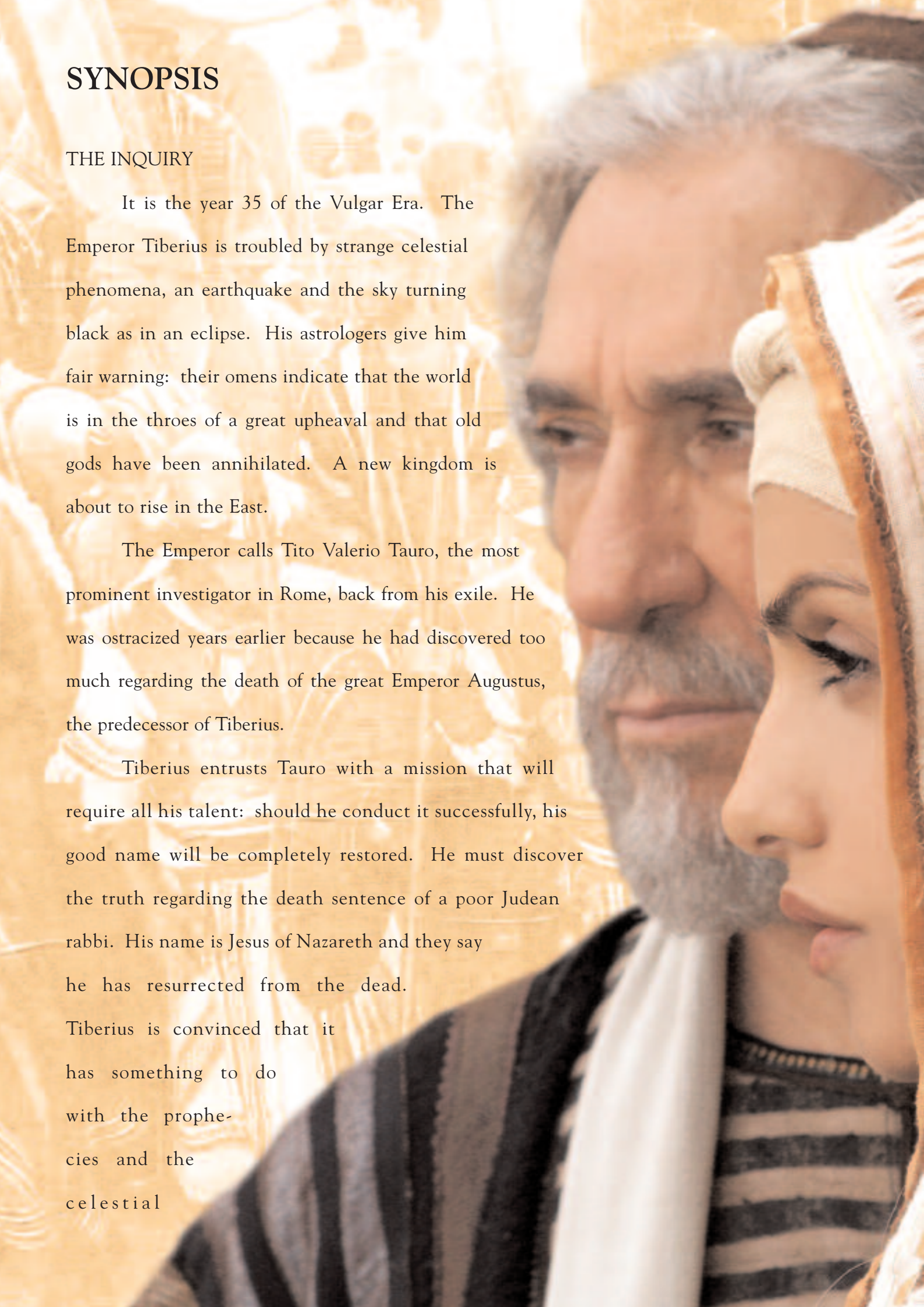
THE INQUIRY

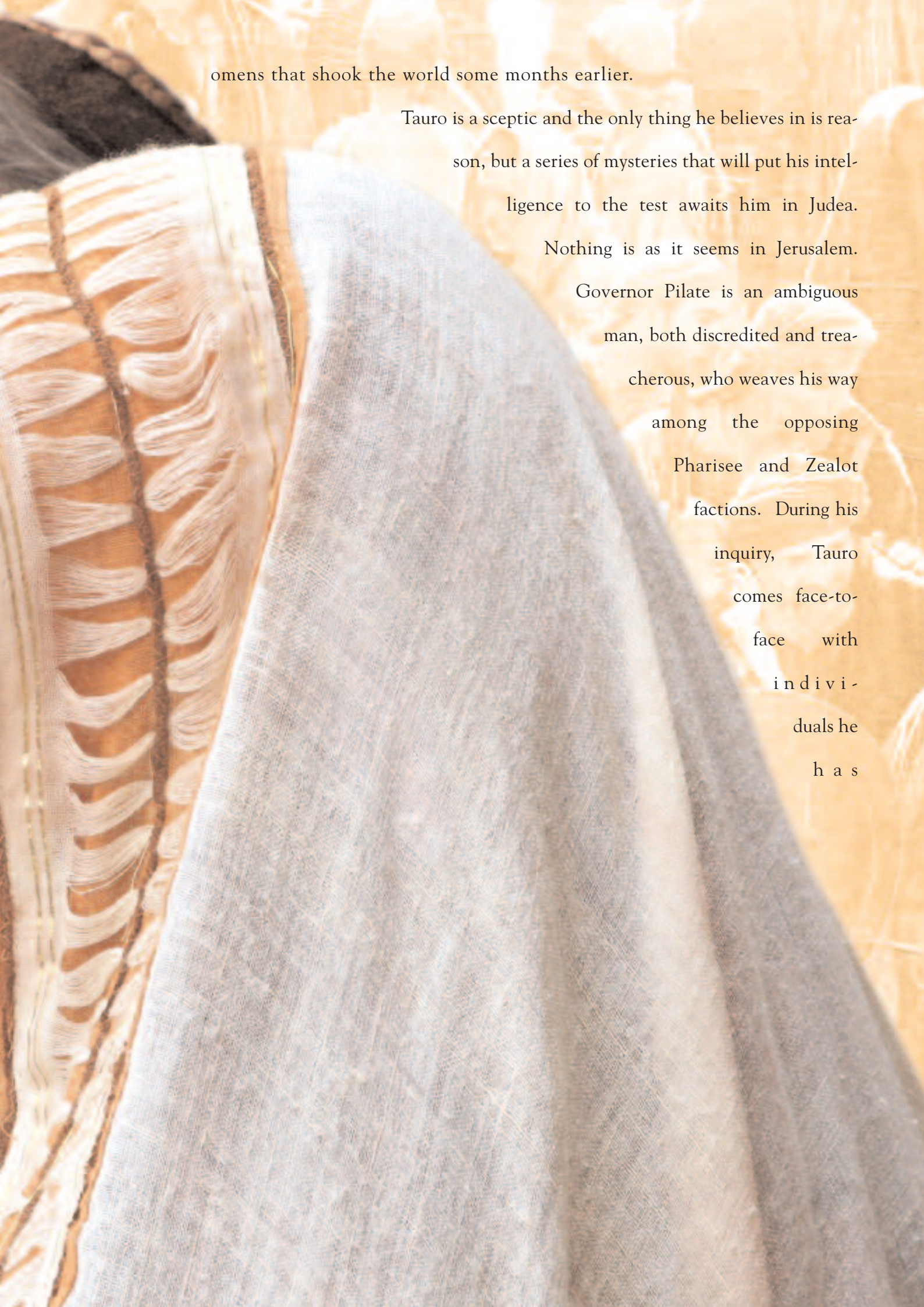
It is the year 35 of the Vulgar Era. The Emperor Tiberius is troubled by strange celestial phenomena, an earthquake and the sky turning black as in an eclipse. His astrologers give him fair warning: their omens indicate that the world is in the throes of a great upheaval and that old gods have been annihilated. A new kingdom is about to rise in the East.

The Emperor calls Tito Valerio Tauro, the most prominent investigator in Rome, back from his exile. He was ostracized years earlier because he had discovered too much regarding the death of the great Emperor Augustus, the predecessor of Tiberius.

Tiberius entrusts Tauro with a mission that will require all his talent: should he conduct it successfully, his good name will be completely restored. He must discover the truth regarding the death sentence of a poor Judean rabbi. His name is Jesus of Nazareth and they say he has resurrected from the dead.

Tiberius is convinced that it has something to do with the prophecies and the celestial





omens that shook the world some months earlier.

Tauro is a sceptic and the only thing he believes in is reason, but a series of mysteries that will put his intelligence to the test awaits him in Judea.

Nothing is as it seems in Jerusalem.

Governor Pilate is an ambiguous

man, both discredited and trea-

cherous, who weaves his way

among the opposing

Pharisee and Zealot

factions. During his

inquiry, Tauro

comes face-to-

face with

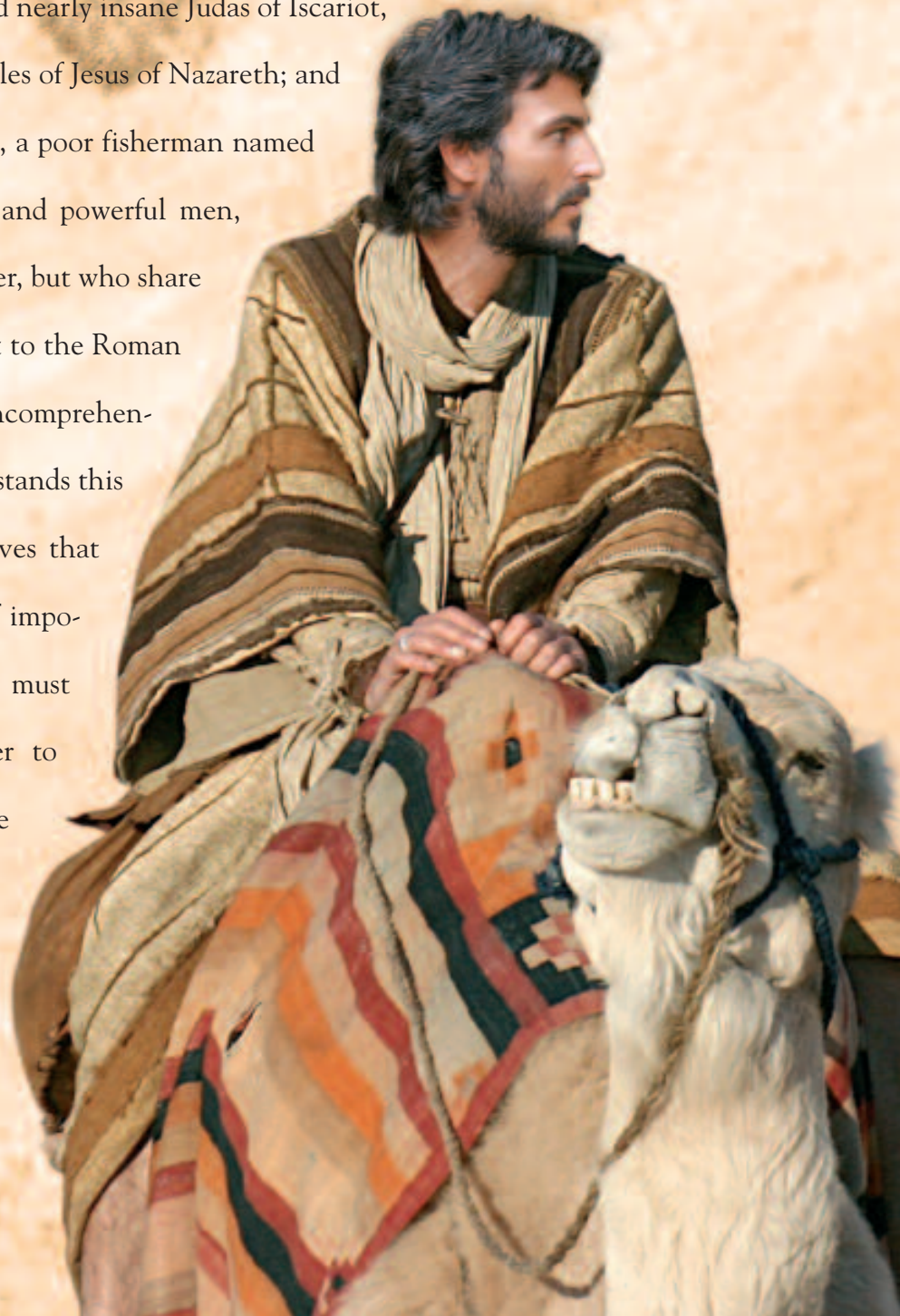
i n d i v i -

duals he

h a s



never met before: Saul of Tarsus, a valiant defender of Mosaic tradition and an unshakable prosecutor of Christians; the mysterious and nearly insane Judas of Iscariot, who is presumably one of the disciples of Jesus of Nazareth; and the alleged leader of the Christians, a poor fisherman named Shimon Peter. They are humble and powerful men, belonging to one faction or the other, but who share one obsession: an idea of faith that to the Roman eyes of Tauro seems to be simply incomprehensible and quite dangerous. He withstands this idea with all his might. He believes that Jesus is only a quack, some kind of impostor and his presumed resurrection must be a public hoax staged in order to exploit the credulousness of the poor lot, the first to be converted to the Christian sect, the followers of Jesus, nearly all of them belonging to the lowest social levels of society: fishermen, far-



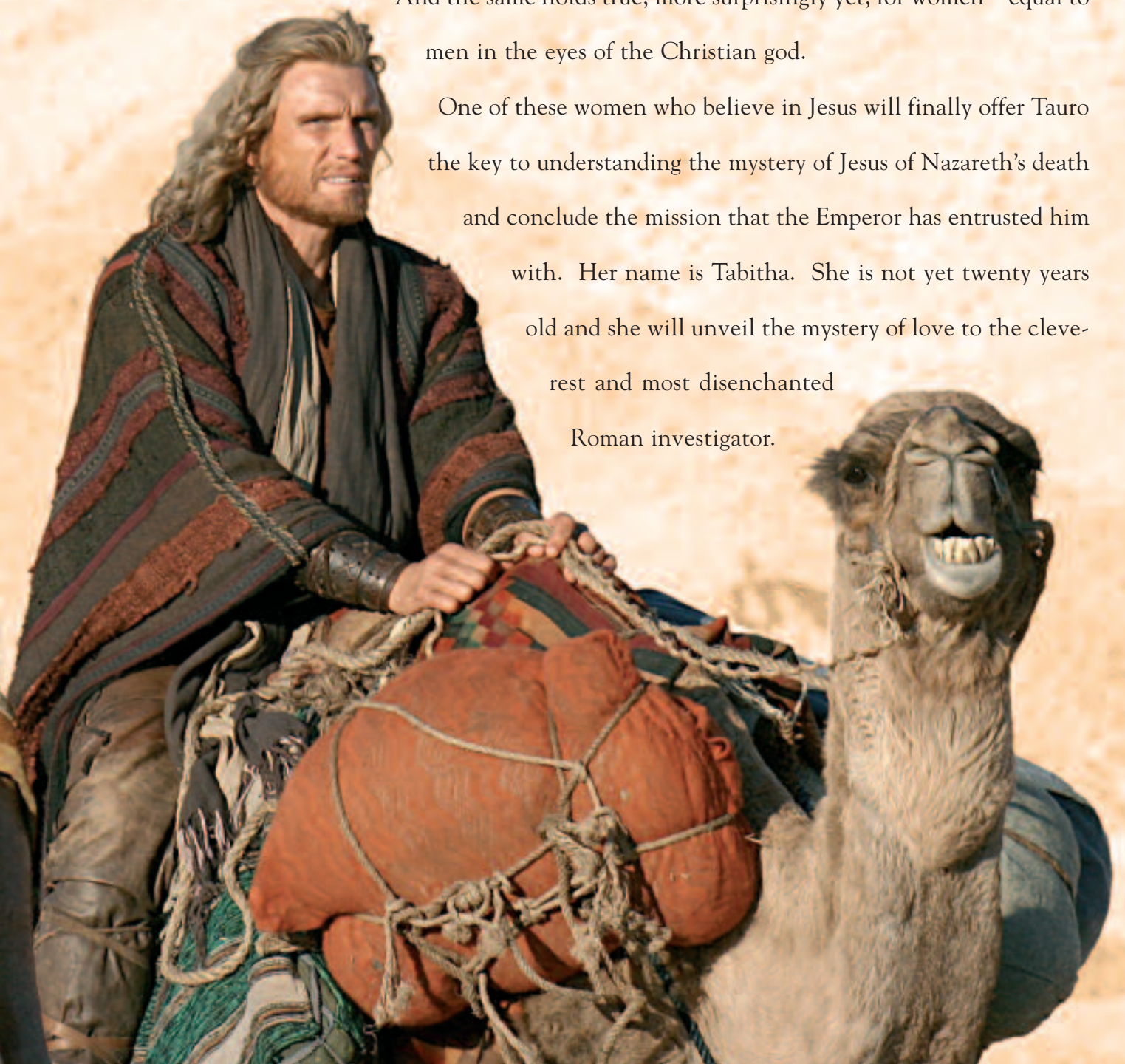


mers, even slaves – all of them treated as free men.

And the same holds true, more surprisingly yet, for women – equal to men in the eyes of the Christian god.

One of these women who believe in Jesus will finally offer Tauro the key to understanding the mystery of Jesus of Nazareth's death and conclude the mission that the Emperor has entrusted him with. Her name is Tabitha. She is not yet twenty years old and she will unveil the mystery of love to the cleverest and most disenchanted

Roman investigator.



CAST

Other than the leading character, there are many important parts and some prestigious cameo roles that may be assigned to outstanding European or American actors.



Daniele Liotti

TITO VALERIO TAURO:
35 years old. He is the strong,
intelligent, proud and honest hero.



Dolph Lundgren

BRIXOS:

He becomes Tauro's slave, only to turn into his
best friend and most loyal aide. A Germanic
giant with a strong face and intelligent blue eyes.



Monica Cruz

TABITHA:
She is very young and possesses a
pure and simple kind of beauty.



Hristo Shopov

PONTIUS PILATE:

Roman governor, ready smile, elegant,
shifty, gracious but his eyes reveal a
state of subterranean agitation.



Max von Sydow

TIBERIUS:

The Emperor. Hollow and stern face. He does not enjoy good health but his eyes are lively and give the impression of seeing beyond things.

F. Murray Abraham

NATHAN

Nathan, Tabita's father, is a rich and orthodox Pharisee, capable to kill his wife guilty of adultery, and to force his daughter to marry a man only for money.



Anna Kanakis

CLAUDIA PROCULA:

Beautiful, elegant, self-assured but intimately unsatisfied woman.



Ornella Muti

MARY OF MAGDALENE:

Dark-featured woman, with strong features and a proud expression.



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

First time I read the script of THE INQUIRY I was shocked, this is exactly the movie I was looking for.

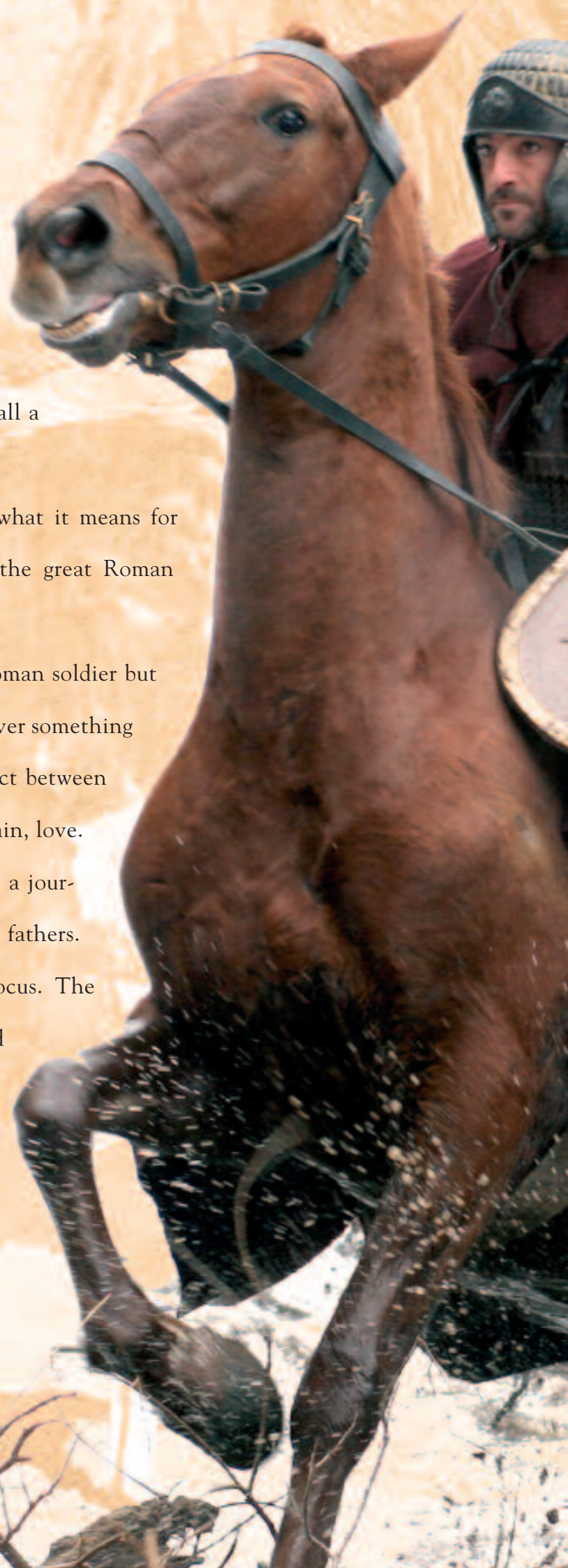
THE INQUIRY it's historical, it's epical, it's religious (in a very deep way), but it's first at all a story of love.

More: an Italian (as I am) knows very well what it means for Europe the born of the Christianity during the great Roman Empire. This movie tells that.

Taurus - our leading role our hero- is still a Roman soldier but it begins to believe that his empire has to discover something new if want to survive: loyalty, freedom, respect between human beings of every race and class. Once again, love.

Trough the love he lives in our tale, he passes a journey about the origin of our roots, our past, our fathers.

The beauty of the story will be my main focus. The beauty I will transfer in my images in any field of my job: visions, costumes, constructions, faces. The beauty...in every frame...



PRODUCTION'S NOTES

"THE INQUIRY" is a remake of the famous 1986 film directed by DAMIANO DAMIANI, starring KEITH CARRADINE, HARVEY KEITEL and PHYLLIS LOGAN.

As its predecessor, "THE INQUIRY" is based on an original story by ENNIO FLAIANO and SUSO CECCHI D'AMICO; the new treatment is by VALERIO MASSIMO MANFREDI, an archaeologist and the author of many internationally published best-sellers such as the "ALEXANDER" series and "THE LAST LEGION"; and the screenplay is by ANDREA PORPORATI, the author of "LA PIOVRA".

The original sound track will be filmed in English.

The location shots will be filmed for eight weeks in Tunisia and one week in Bulgaria.





ITALIAN INTERNATIONAL FILM