

BORGI A

BORGIA



BORGIA 12 x 52'

Creator / Writer Tom Fontana ("Homicide", "OZ", "Bedford Diaries")
Director Oliver Hirschbiegel ("Downfall", "Five Minutes of Heaven", "The Experiment")
Philippe Haim ("Secret of State", "Barracuda")
Photography Ousama Rawi ("The Tudors")
Production Design Bernd Lepel ("Downfall", "Pope Joan")
Costume Design Sergio Ballo ("Vincere", "The Legend of 1900")
Budget 30 Million \$
Start of shooting 4. October 2010
Delivery September 2011

Produced by Atlantique Production, EOS Entertainment and Canal+

THE BORGIA FAMILY

B O R G I A



VANOZZA
Assumpta Serna

JUAN
Stanley Weber

LUCREZIA
Isolda Dychauk

RODRIGO
John Doman

GIULIA
Marta Gastini

CESARE
Mark Ryder



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John Doman



LUCREZIA
Isolda Dychauk

RENAISSANCE

In the last decade of the 15th century, Leonardo da Vinci began working on his Last Supper, Michelangelo created the Pietà, and Dürer painted his self-portrait. Commerce was flourishing in Europe's cities, and at the universities, pioneering scientific discoveries were being made. The 1490s are without a doubt a high point in the cultural history of humanity.

ROME

Rome, however, does not fit into this picture. The darkest Middle Ages still hold sway over the Eternal City. The ruins of the former capital of the world are crumbling, and at the Forum Romanum, sheep and cows graze amidst moss-covered marble columns. The city's mighty families are at war with each other and live in dark towers that have nothing in common with Florence's splendid palaces. The streets are controlled by unruly mobs that will do anything for money.

Yet Rome is still the mightiest city in the world. For this world is profoundly religious - and religion is overseen by the Bishop of Rome, the Pope, the leader of the Catholic Church. The Basilica of St. Peter, over a thousand years old, may be a ruin, and the grand new structure still only a utopian dream - but it is the Pope's church and the rulers and princes of Europe still defer to his authority. The papacy is a lucrative post that showers the Pope with unimaginable wealth through the sale of indulgences and administrative posts, as well as through the sinecures from monasteries and dioceses from all over Europe. However, the Pope cannot bequeath the throne of St. Peter to a successor of his choice. This is why every Pope attempts to enrich as many members of his family as possible during his lifetime, for after his death, everything falls to his successor. No wonder that every papal election is a hotly contested affair, and the candidates are ready to do anything and everything to accede to this holy post. The discrepancy between, on the one hand, a high clergy that lives in the lap of luxury in Rome, and, on the other, a pious lower clergy along with the masses of the faithful, plunges the Church into a serious crisis which inevitably leads it to the edge of the abyss.

BORGIA

No one sees this more clearly than the Spanish Cardinal Rodrigo Borgia, whose name is to become synonymous with the darkest chapter of the history of the Church. Himself the nephew of a Pope, he holds the post of Vice-Chancellor for decades, and is thus the most important man in the Vatican after the Pope. Though he is both a part and an expression of this corrupt system, he realizes that only radical reforms can save the Church from downfall. This is why Rodrigo has to become Pope himself. He wants to reform the Church while at the same time establishing his family (he has several children from various mistresses) as the political rulers of Italy. Rodrigo will stop at nothing to reach his goal - just as his opponents, the old, established families of Rome, will try to foil Rodrigo's plans with every means possible...



THE BORGIA FAMILY

RODRIGO BORGIA

Later Pope Alexander VI. A patriarch obsessed with power, a man of the church and father of many children from many women. For him blood is always thicker than water, even if it is holy.

JUAN BORGIA

Rodrigo's eldest son with Vanozza de Cattanei. His father has his future laid out for him disregarding his weaknesses.

CESARE BORGIA

The youngest son and most gifted too he is very intelligent and charming, and constantly torn between religious fanaticism and uncontrollable lust for brutality.

LUCREZIA BORGIA

As Rodrigo's only daughter, she is used for his power schemes and constantly engaged to someone new until she becomes a woman and learns how to use her splendid beauty.

VANOZZA CATTANEI

Rodrigo's long time mistress and mother of Lucrezia, Juan and Cesare. Although they don't share a bed anymore, she is still his confidant.

GIULIA "LA BELLA" FARNESE

Rodrigo's current mistress. As the lover of the pope she is very powerful and in constant competition with Lucrezia to win his favour. Is married to Orsinio Orsini Migliorati.



THE OPPONENTS

VIRGINIO ORSINI

Duke of Bracciano and cousin of Orsinio Orsini Migliorati. As thus he is Rodrigos most natural enemy.

FABRIZIO COLONNA

As Prefect of Rome and old roman nobility like Orsini he is one of Borgia's strongest enemies.

CARDINAL GIULIANO DELLA ROVERE

Nephew of Pope Sixtus IV with the same ambitions as Rodrigo. He will succeed Borgia as Pope Julius II.

SAVONAROLA

A fanatic Domenican monk in Florence with ties to the French throne. A powerful preacher against the rotten state of clergy in Rome. His destiny is to be burnt at the stake.

THE RULERS

FERDINAND OF ARAGON, KING OF SPAIN

A very pious regent. It's very convenient for him to have a Spanish compatriot ruling in the Vatican. Though he often is embarrassed by Borgia's behaviours.

CHARLES VIII., KING OF FRANCE

Marches with his army into Italy supported by Borgia's adversaries. Fights a fierce diplomatic battle against the Vatican, but looses his strength against Borgia and dies unexpectedly and very young.

FERRANTE OF ARAGON, KING OF NAPLES

Bound to the Spanish throne by family ties and thus loyal to Borgia, but the takeover of Naples is strategically the first step to Borgia's power expansion plan.



CAST



JOHN DOMAN
(RODRIGO BORGIA)

"The Wire", "Damages", "ER", "Oz"



ASSUMPTA SERNA
(VANOZZA CATTANEI)

"Matador" by Pedro Almodovar,
"Wild Orchid", "I vicerè"

ISOLDA DYCHAUK
(LUCREZIA BORGIA)

"Faust" by Aleksandr Sokurov



MARTA GASTINI
(GIULIA FARNESE)

"Il bene e il male", "L'uomo che cavalcava nel buio",
"The Rite" by Mikael Hafström



STANLEY WEBER
(JUAN BORGIA)

"The First Day of the Rest of Your Life",
"Luis XV. Le soleil noir"

MARK RYDER
(CESARE BORGIA)

"Five Minutes of Heaven"



UDO KIER
(POPE INNOCENT)

"Breaking the Waves", "Dogville"



SETDESIGNS



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