

RAPHAEL REVEALED

DIRECTOR **PHIL GRABSKY**

From the Director:

Five years ago I travelled to Rome to meet with a major institution and to request access to what I was sure would be a ground-breaking Raphael exhibition in 2020 – the 500th anniversary of his death. Luckily they knew all about Exhibition on Screen and granted us privileged access. From that point I thought all I needed to concentrate on was the research and film-making.

Jump forward to early 2020 when I went to film the final preparations for the show's opening. The Scuderie del Quirinale – led by the indomitable Matteo Lafranconi – had pulled off coup after coup to secure major loans and could honestly claim this would be the most significant Raphael exhibition ever. By the time they opened, it was drowning in 4 & 5-star reviews. And then 'Boom!' Covid shut it down and the lights went out.

Nevertheless, neither they – nor we – gave up. Permissions were granted to extend every single loan. And the day lock-down ended, I flew to Italy with a superb crew, masked and gloved up, and set to work. As ever, the ambition was to use a wonderful show as a springboard to a fresh look at a biography.

Just who was Raphael – one of the three Renaissance greats alongside Leonardo and Michelangelo – and what makes him so significant?

This became a really tough project but my team and I have done our best to answer those questions.

I hope you enjoy the film. More importantly, I hope you really enjoy this opportunity to look at some length at the works of Raphael.

Phil Grabsky

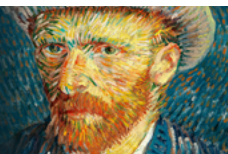
Filmed at the Exhibition: 'Raffaello 1520-1483'. Scuderie del Quirinale, Rome.

"Superb... This wide-ranging documentary relays the full breadth of Raphael's achievements."

The Guardian



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