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present



JON VOIGHT IN
POPE JOHN PAUL II

DIRECTED BY JOHN KENT HARRISON



POPE JOHN PAUL II

A Polish boy in love with his homeland, passionately fond of literature, the theatre and poetry. He had no idea where this love was to lead him. It was to ask him to abandon his friends and his country and become the reference personality not only for the Christian Church, but for all mankind. Symbol of irrepressible trust in God, he's given his life for his mission and despite his illness, he's taken up his cross, leading the crowd of those who believe, along the path toward God and salvation.

When he arrives in Krakow with his father, Karol is still only eighteen years old. But he already is familiar with the dull pain caused by the void

left by death, which first took his mother and then his beloved elder brother from him. In this new city, however, life is brightened everyday by his father's love and teachings, deep-rooted in profound faith. In the lively university world of Krakow, it is easy for Karol to become a reference figure.

And yet the light-heartedness and the plans of his generation were destined to disintegrate; in 1939 the Nazis invade the country. Feeling the urgent need to preserve Polish culture from systematic destruction, Karol joins the clandestine Catholic resistance.

However, it is another tragic event that affects his youth: his father's death, accompanied by the rending solitude he experiences, reveals to him his priestly vocation as clear and unescapable.

At the end of the war, Poland falls into the vise of new Soviet totalitarianism.

Once he becomes a priest, Karol understands that his interlocutors are the new generations and their future.

Now a cardinal, Karol becomes more uncompromising in the spiritual guidance of his city, to the extent of becoming a real thorn in the flesh for the communist government, which tries in vain to eradicate the country's Catholic roots. The entire Christian world starts to become aware of him.

So in 1978, following the death of John Paul I, it is Karol who the voting cardinals acknowledge as the man most suited to lead the Church into the new millennium. Karol abandons his beloved Poland and becomes the Supreme Pontiff taking the name of John Paul II.

He is an unconventional pope who immediately clashes with the Curia and its rules. As always, impervious to protocol and formality, his attitude ends up by alarming more than one prelate. But from the very start he conquers the hearts of the people.

Once again his attention is addressed to the young. Again he does his utmost to put an end to all conflicts, starting with the one between the East and the West. His appointment makes a breach in the Iron Curtain of the socialist countries.

Surviving a ferocious assassination attempt, Karol personally confronts the tension opposing the West to communist Europe. And, with implacable tenacity and spiritual determination, he contributes to changing the course of history. In 1989 the Berlin wall falls. Over a ten year period the breach is widened, eliminating the divisions that lacerated the world.

The Great Jubilee of the year 2000 is the expression of the irrepressible and memorable perseverance of his unlimited positive outlook. Crowds of enthusiastic young people acclaim him. The whole world looks to the old trembling Pope as a glimmer of light in the heart of darkness.

In spite of all the horrors, all the divisions and conflicts, it is always he alone who continues to insist untiringly that peace is possible. It is he who continues to give us hope by saying to us "Do not be afraid".



FORMAT: MINISERIES 2x100'

GENRE: DRAMA

DIRECTED BY JOHN KENT HARRISON

STARRING: JON VOIGHT, CARY ELWES,

CHRISTOPHER LEE, BEN GAZZARRA, JAMES CROMWELL

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