

AUDIO/VISUAL ROMANS: WOMEN SPEAK UP!

Auditorium, British School at Rome, Via Antonio Gramsci, 61

Tuesday 3 maggio 2022, ore 18.00

Enrico Guazzoni's *Agrippina* (1911)

With original piano score by

Michele Sganga

performed live by the composer

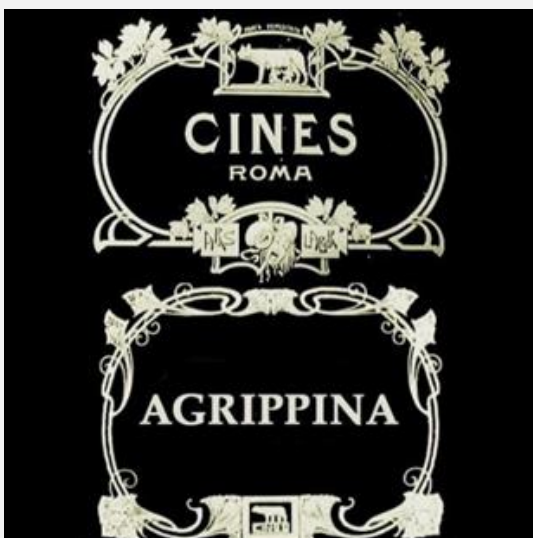
18.00-18.10 Introduction to the film & to the composer

18.10-18.30 Michele Sganga – Guazzoni's *Agrippina* 1911 screening

18.30-18.50 Q&A with the composer and discussion of the role of music & intertitles in giving women a 'voice' in silent cinema

The film

Drawing on the conventions of theatre and the Italian operatic tradition as well



as the Roman sources of Tacitus' Annals 14 and the pseudo-Senecan drama *Octavia*, the short film *Agrippina* (dir. Enrico Guazzoni, Cines, Italy, 1911) represents the close involvement of the Roman empress in the accession to power of her son Nero. She is even shown crowning him with a laurel wreath before the anxious senate. But, later, the mother cannot prevent her son from neglecting his wife Octavia and succumbing to his mistress Poppea. Without Agrippina's knowledge, Nero next arranges for his rival

Britannicus to be poisoned at a banquet. Finally, now fully independent of his mother, Nero cruelly demands her murder. The assassin given this terrible assignment first attempts unsuccessfully to make her drown and later succeeds in stabbing her to death. Agrippina's dying moments are performed with pathos and dignity by the actress Maria Gasparini Caserini.

The musician

Michele Sganga graduated with honours in piano at the Santa Cecilia Conservatory in Rome. He continued his composition studies there, also



graduating in History of Music at Sapienza in Rome. He authored essays on Chopin, Rossini, Nono, Tarkovsky and educational texts on opera. From 2013 to 2015 he collaborated with Paolo Terni on the cycle “The breath of music” for La Milaneseana, a festival where he is a regular guest every year as a classical piano interpreter and composer. Among his most recent productions are: two solo albums *Animale*

Musicale - Biodiversità for piano and *Le ragioni del canto: Franz Liszt*; the soundtrack for the documentary *Il testimone passato* (Rai Storia 2015); and the stage music for the shows *La casta morta* (2015) and *Anamoni* (2017). Included among his piano recitals are: *EuroPiano* (performed at the opening of the 2014-2015 season of the Krakow Philharmonic); Enrico Guazzoni’s *Quo vadis?* (2016), with his own original score; and *Magnificat* (2017). In 2018, Sinfonica Edizioni published the score and CD of his composition *Biologie per chitarra*. Since 2017, he has been collaborating with the poet Ocean Vuong (T.S. Eliot 2017 Prize) to put his lyrics to music (as a duo with Riccardo Primitivo Fiorucci). Commissioned by University College London, in 2019 he composed an original score for the silent feature film *Caio Giulio Cesare*, performed in recital at the British School at Rome. In 2020, he released a new album of original music for solo piano, *Canzoni senza parole*, for the LUMI Edizioni Musicali, and participated with an original arrangement for piano in the film *Extraliscio. Punk da balera – Si ballerà finché entra la luce dell’alba* directed by Elisabetta Sgarbi.



The event is free, but to attend please register at BSR site:
www.eventbrite.it/e/audiovisual-romans-women-speak-up-tickets-308578746337