

The Red Violin

Directed by Francois Girard. Starring Samuel L. Jackson, Greta Scacchi, Carlo Cecchi, Jason Flemyng, Jean-Luc Bideau, Sylvia Chang.

An epic adventure of mystery and obsession unfolds when Charles Morritz (Samuel L. Jackson), an appraiser of rare musical instruments, discovers a one-of-a-kind, blood-red violin at a prestigious Montreal auction house. Convinced he's found an authentic long-lost masterpiece, Morritz uncovers the spectacular journey of the priceless violin, how it changed hands and the lives of all who touched it. When the violin's shocking secret is finally revealed, Morritz must wrestle with his own demons and choose between burying the truth, and risking everything.



Please answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper as the film progresses.

17th Century Cremona, Italy

1. Describe the workshop and city of Cremona, Italy (1681). Focus on the types of tools, working conditions, architecture, equipment, power structure, roads, clothing, class system, etc...).
2. How much were the instruments being sold for at the Duval auction?
3. What role did superstition play in the 17th Century?
4. What role does Nicolo Bissotti's servant play throughout the film?

18th Century Vienna, Austria

5. Who is Kaspar Weiss? How is Vienna different from Cremona? Why do you think that Weiss suffers?

19th Century Poland - England

6. What is portrayed and inferred about the lifestyle of the Gypsies?
7. Why is Frederick Pope described as a devil?

20th Century Shanghai, China

8. Describe life in Communist China for the people. What does this scene tell you about the Cultural Revolution?
9. What is the attitude toward music?
10. What are the "Great Olds"?
11. How was the personality cult of Mao manifested? What symbols were used?
12. What foreign leaders are pictured in the Communist symbols? Why?

Conclusion

13. What is the source of the "Red" in the Red Violin?
14. Describe modern sources, ideas or movements that inspire the passion in the film.