

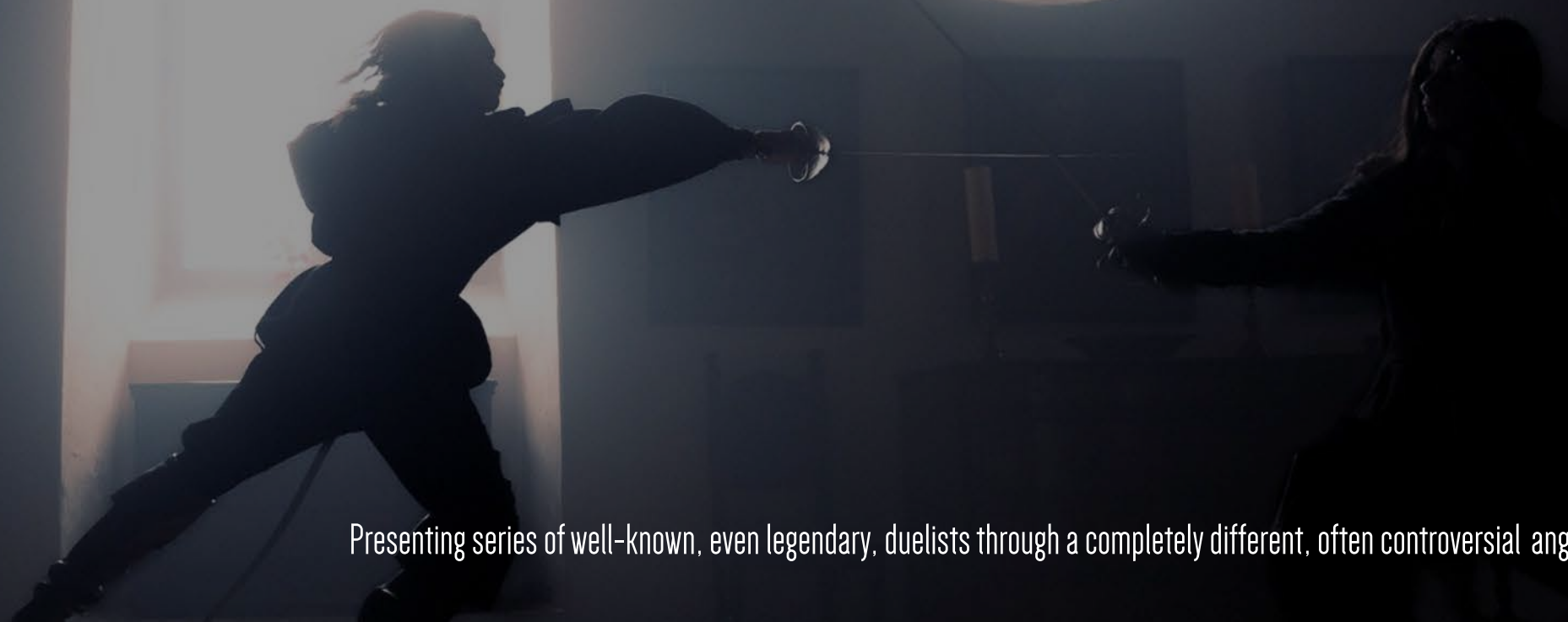
PICASSO^{film}

&
presents



The DUELISTS

6 x 48 min.



Presenting series of well-known, even legendary, duelists through a completely different, often controversial angle

CONCEPT

Presenting a documentary series that delves into the intriguing lives of renowned swordsmen and duelists, offering a fresh and often controversial perspective on these legendary figures. In each episode, we immerse ourselves in the life story of a genuine historical figure, viewing their journey through the eyes of a swordsman and duelist. Our narrative draws from a diverse range of sources, including personal diaries, contemporaneous documents, literary works, iconography, and cutting-edge research.

These were men who served their country, yet led a clandestine life as duelists, navigating the murky waters of illegality. What motivated these individuals to embrace this dual existence, knowing that the stakes often involved not only their lives but also their wealth and social standing?

Our duels are meticulously choreographed, based on a deep understanding of the fencing schools and styles prevalent during their time. In each episode, our panel of experts provides historical context, shedding light on when and where they acquired their combat skills, the identities of their fencing mentors and teachers, the specific fencing school they practiced, and the weapons they wielded. These duels and conflicts are woven into the fabric of each character's biography, exploring the who, what, why, where, how, and the profound impact they had on the protagonist's subsequent life.

Charles de Batz de Castelmore

Renowned as D'Artagnan, our documentary delves deep into the authentic life of the Captain of the Royal Musketeers, celebrated as one of the greatest duelists not just in France but throughout all of Europe. We unravel the complexities of the existence behind this iconic figure, who is primarily known through the works of Alexandre Dumas, which only scratched the surface of the true adventures this charismatic character experienced in his lifetime. Additionally, we explore the intricacies of his dual life as a skilled swordsman, a master of dueling, and a military commander.

D'Artagnan's roles comprised a rich tapestry of experiences:

Captain of King Louis XIV's Musketeers.

Operative under Cardinal Mazarin's command.

Revered as one of the most celebrated duelists in France and across Europe.

Distinguished commander of the royal armies.

A loyal friend and trusted confidant of the French monarchs.

Beyond the pages of the novel, D'Artagnan was a legend in his own right, and our documentary reveals the full scope of his extraordinary life.



The DUELISTS



James Bowie

An American general and hero, who stands as a rare duelist on American soil, is a figure of exceptional distinction. Influenced by European mentors in his youth, he developed a profound interest in fencing and exhibited unwavering courage when engaging in combat with edged weapons.

His remarkable exploits have solidified his legacy, with the Bowie knife, a weapon crafted by his own brother, serving as an enduring symbol of his legend. This iconic blade was wielded by Bowie in numerous duels and eventually became his steadfast companion until the very end.

Bowie's life was marked by a multifaceted array of roles, including involvement in land trading and the slave trade. He ascended to iconic status as a hero and colonel in the Texas army, firmly establishing himself as one of the few duelists in American history.

His early immersion in fencing under the tutelage of European mentors ignited a lifelong passion for combat with edged weapons. The Bowie knife, a legendary weapon fashioned by his brother, continues to be in use to this day and enjoys enduring popularity.

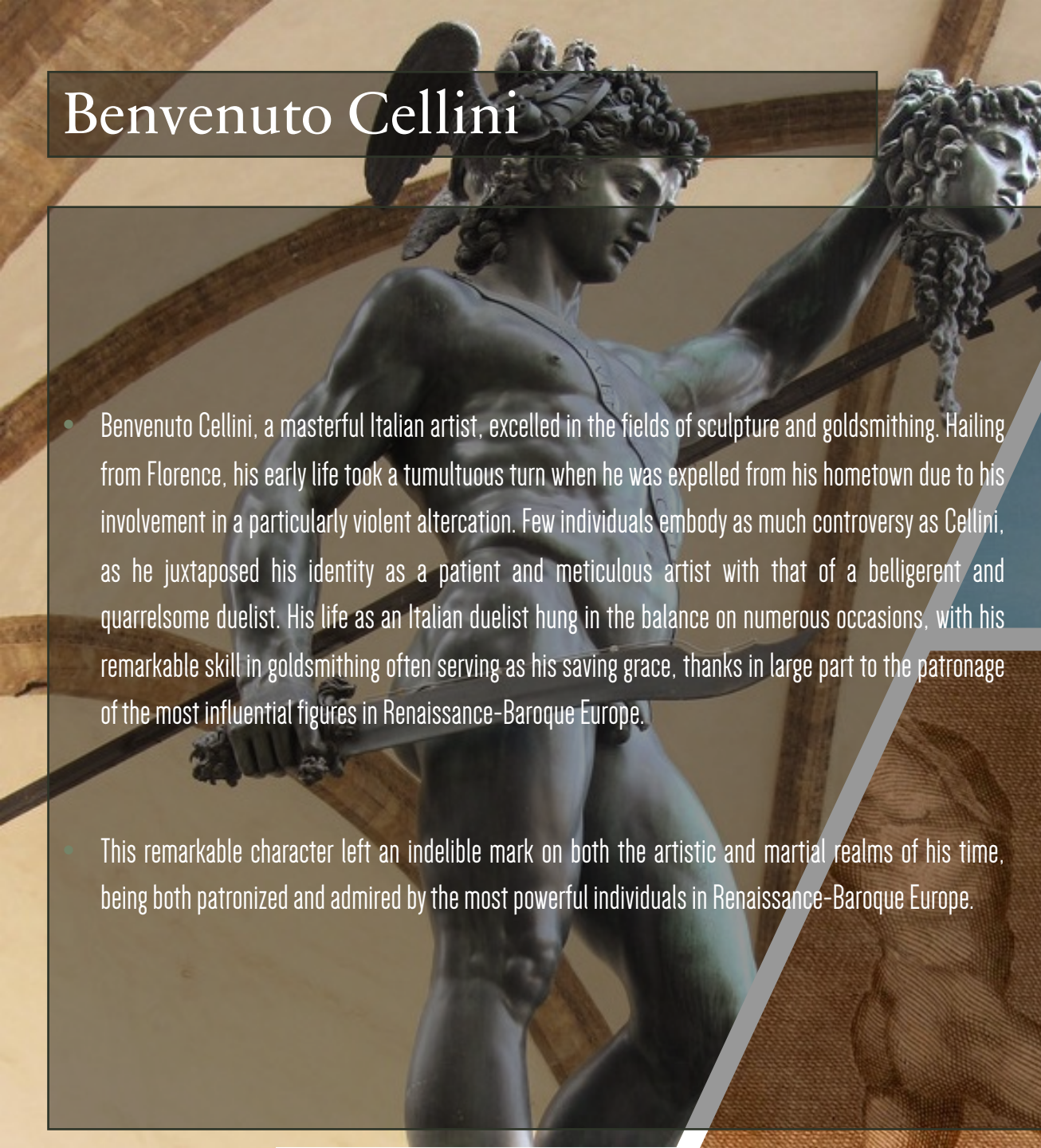
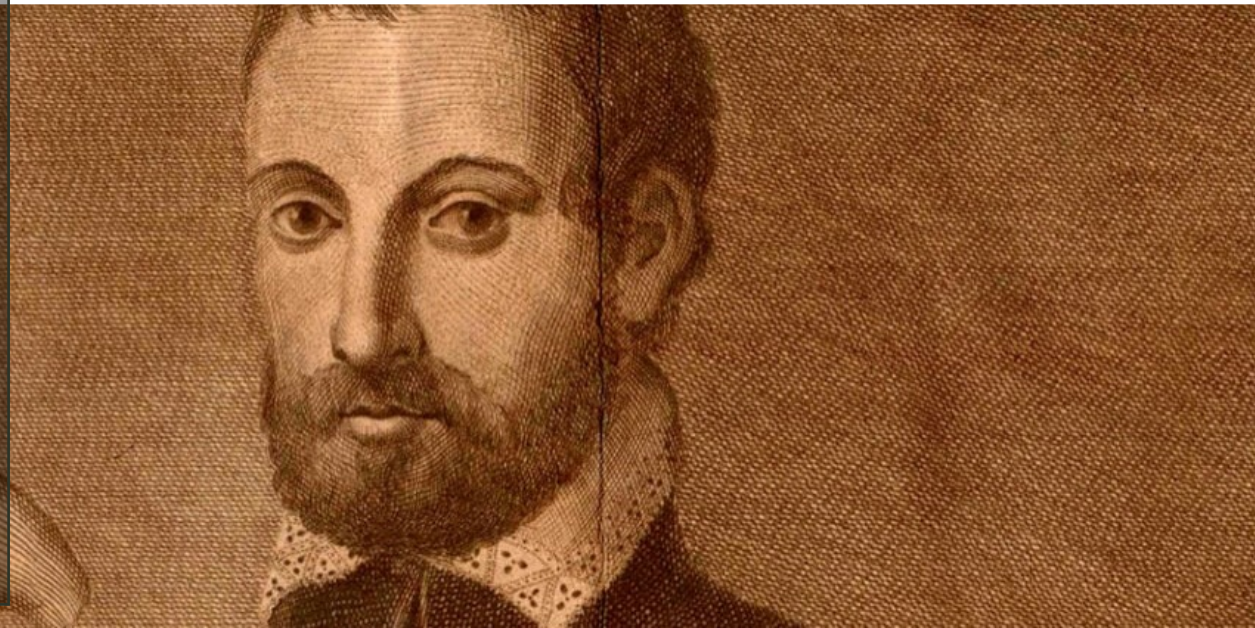
James Bowie met his heroic end with this very knife in hand at the Battle of the Alamo, a testament to his indomitable spirit and unwavering bravery.



Benvenuto Cellini

- Benvenuto Cellini, a masterful Italian artist, excelled in the fields of sculpture and goldsmithing. Hailing from Florence, his early life took a tumultuous turn when he was expelled from his hometown due to his involvement in a particularly violent altercation. Few individuals embody as much controversy as Cellini, as he juxtaposed his identity as a patient and meticulous artist with that of a belligerent and quarrelsome duelist. His life as an Italian duelist hung in the balance on numerous occasions, with his remarkable skill in goldsmithing often serving as his saving grace, thanks in large part to the patronage of the most influential figures in Renaissance-Baroque Europe.

- This remarkable character left an indelible mark on both the artistic and martial realms of his time, being both patronized and admired by the most powerful individuals in Renaissance-Baroque Europe.



Jakub Ferdynand Boguslawski

Jakub Ferdynand Bogusławski, a celebrated Polish officer, distinguished himself through a storied career marked by participation in numerous conflicts. Notable chapters of his military journey include the Polish-Russian War of 1792, the Kościuszko Uprising of 1794, and service as an officer in the French Napoleonic army within the Polish Legions from 1797 to 1801. His service even took him to distant lands, including deployments in Santo Domingo in 1803 and Italy from 1804 to 1807. Assuming a role as an officer of the Warsaw Principality from 1809 onwards, he commanded in pivotal battles. By 1813, he had taken charge of the Corps of Invalids and Veterans of the Polish Kingdom.

Notably, Bogusławski carved a reputation as one of the most renowned Polish duelists, engaging in over 60 duels and regrettably ending the lives of more than 15 individuals. His mastery extended to a diverse range of weapons, encompassing firearms and close combat armaments. His unwavering dedication to honor and his exceptional courage earned him the prestigious Virtuti Military, the highest Polish military decoration.

One of his most infamous duels unfolded in Verona, where he confronted four French officers who had taunted him over his supposed timidity. In a high-stakes showdown, Bogusławski formally challenged them, declaring that one among them must face the consequences. In this extraordinary sequence of duels, he emerged victorious against all four adversaries. With precise marksmanship, he fatally shot the first officer with a headshot, while two others succumbed to their wounds. The last officer, displaying less offensive behavior, suffered a leg wound.

Bogusławski's extraordinary character left an indelible impression, to the extent that he was immortalized by the renowned Polish novelist Henryk Sienkiewicz in his work 'Legiony.' He epitomized the qualities of a man akin to Wotodyjowski from Sienkiewicz's Trilogy, characterized by a calm demeanor and modest stature, all the while holding his honor in the highest regard.

Throughout his military career, Bogusławski ascended to the ranks of captain and colonel, leaving behind a lasting legacy that serves as a testament to his unmatched courage and unwavering commitment to honor.



PICASSO film

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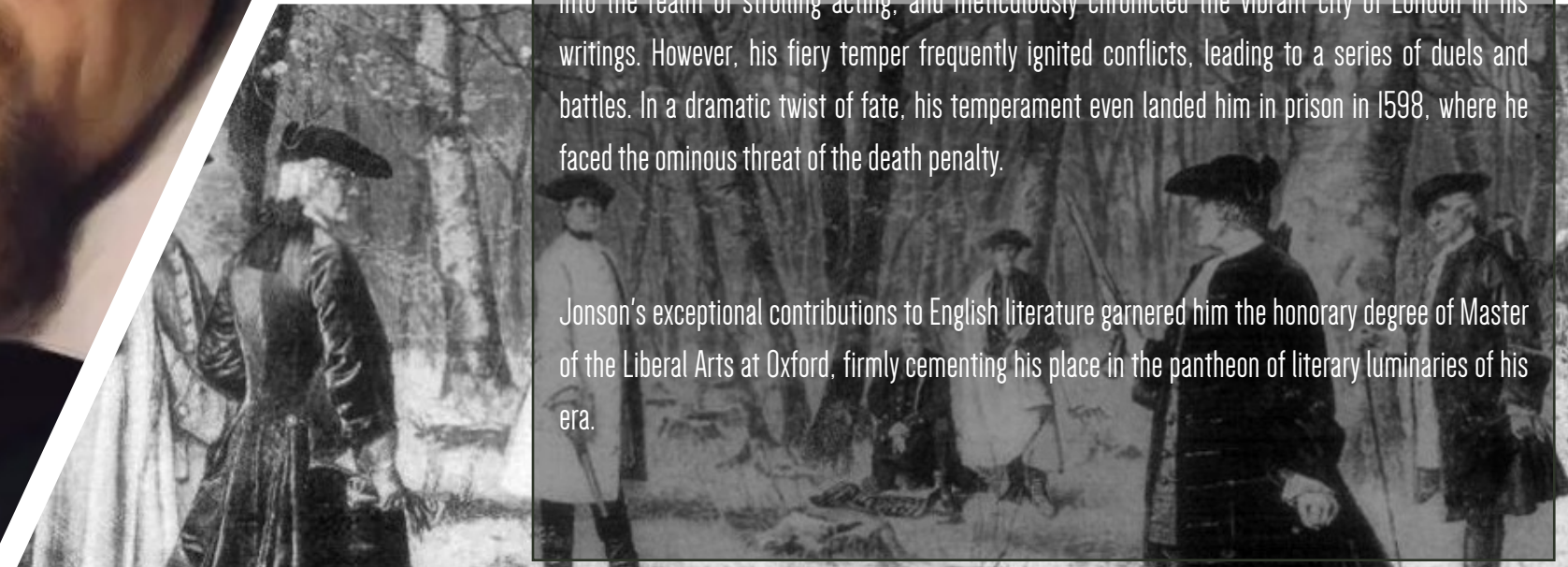
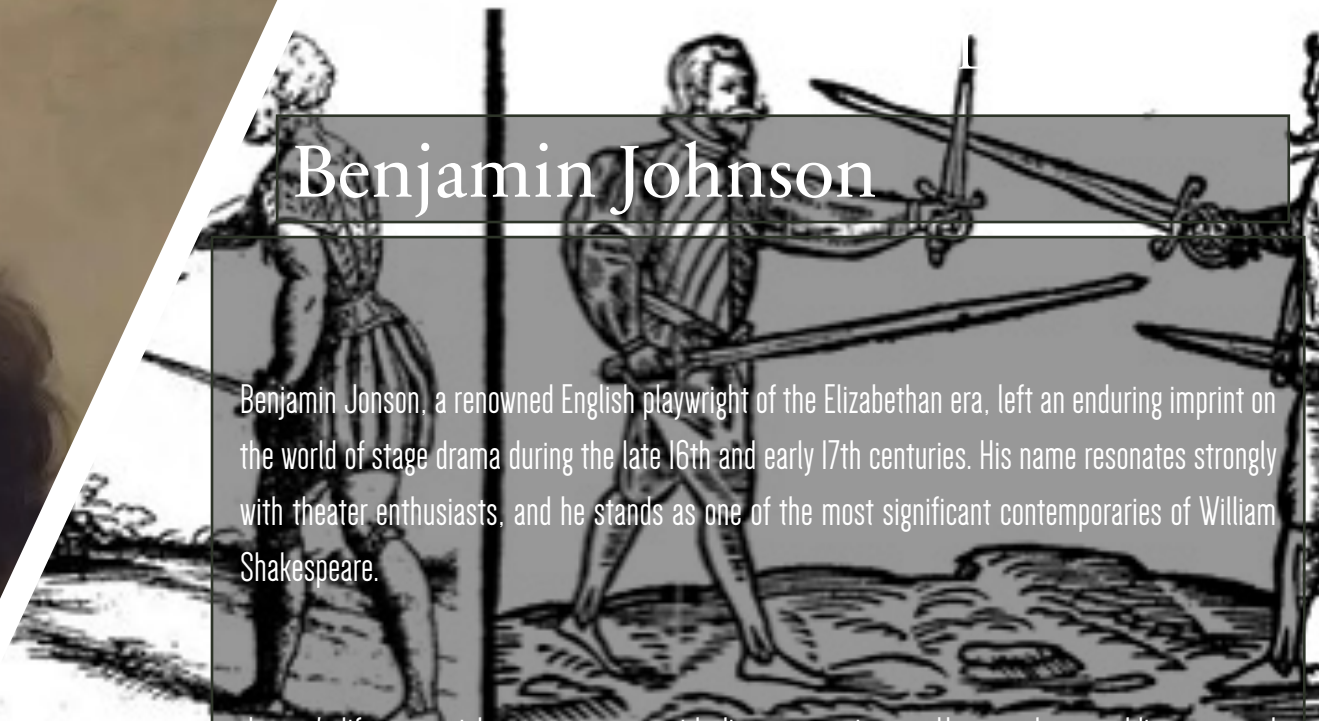


Benjamin Johnson

Benjamin Jonson, a renowned English playwright of the Elizabethan era, left an enduring imprint on the world of stage drama during the late 16th and early 17th centuries. His name resonates strongly with theater enthusiasts, and he stands as one of the most significant contemporaries of William Shakespeare.

Jonson's life was a rich tapestry woven with diverse experiences. He served as a soldier, ventured into the realm of strolling acting, and meticulously chronicled the vibrant city of London in his writings. However, his fiery temper frequently ignited conflicts, leading to a series of duels and battles. In a dramatic twist of fate, his temperament even landed him in prison in 1598, where he faced the ominous threat of the death penalty.

Jonson's exceptional contributions to English literature garnered him the honorary degree of Master of the Liberal Arts at Oxford, firmly cementing his place in the pantheon of literary luminaries of his era.

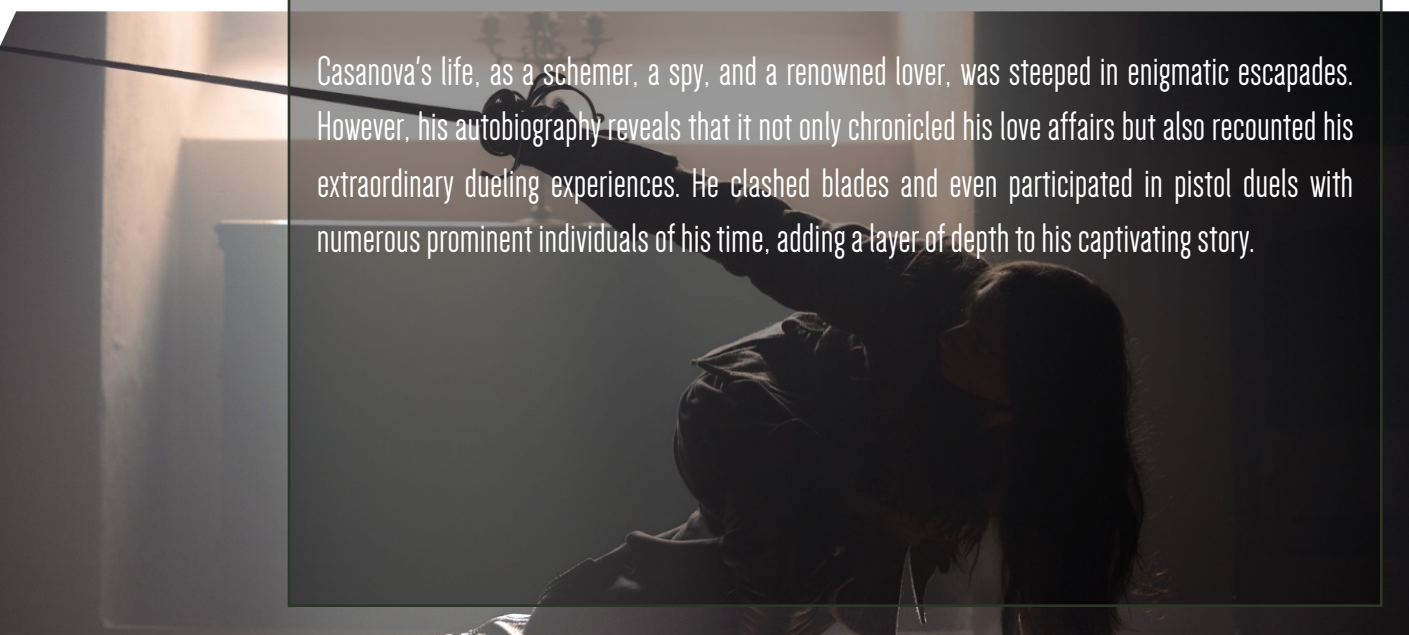




Giacomo Giorlamo Casanova



Giacomo Girolamo Casanova, a name synonymous with intrigue and romance, stands as an iconic figure from the 18th century, hailing from Venice. His reputation encompasses a multitude of roles, including that of a lover, a schemer, a spy, and an intrepid adventurer. Yet, amidst the legends that swirl around his name, the lesser-known fact is that he was a truly remarkable duelist, engaging in swordfights with multiple opponents during his extensive travels across Europe.



Casanova's life, as a schemer, a spy, and a renowned lover, was steeped in enigmatic escapades. However, his autobiography reveals that it not only chronicled his love affairs but also recounted his extraordinary dueling experiences. He clashed blades and even participated in pistol duels with numerous prominent individuals of his time, adding a layer of depth to his captivating story.

PICASSO^{film} &  TROY HORSE FILM

Dive into the world of
THE DUELISTS

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