

Pentola spills the beans

Psychedelic, jarring, quirky, off-the-wall, many of these adjectives could apply to Pentola, the short animated film by Italiano-slovenian director Leo Černic. After my first viewing, I didn't realize directly what kind of film I had just seen, but I knew that it was part of these movies which left a mark in minds. Pentola, with its eponym title, tells us the story of a man who doesn't have the life he wants to lead. He lives sadly with his scary wife, eating beans daily and thinking of the life he could have if he was brave enough to run away. But one day, Pentola spills the beans and reveals the truth to his wife : «I hate beans». Then, the story of a real superhero begins against a backdrop of homosexuality, identity, love, self-acceptance and emancipation : with an heaven-sent Batman, he plays, loves truly, learns to fly and discovers what complete happiness is : he shows us what happens to us when we are trying to find ourselves. There are only three characters in Pentola, but they all have singularities and are moulded precisely. Pentola's wife, Titti, looks like a scary ogress with her long teeth and nails and because the relationship between her and Pentola makes me think of the one between a prisoner and his gaoler. The fact that she reveals some emotions when Pentola tells her what he feels shows us that she is not as simple as we can think in the beginning of the film. Batman, Pentola's lover, made me laugh the first time I have seen him because I thought : “it doesn't make any sense !”. In fact, it does not make any sense that Batman plays a role in Pentola, but this is precisely why he is in it. Batman is the one who makes Pentola become aware of who he is and who he loves. Calm, patient and reserved, he looks like a parent with his child, but shows also love and emotions when he is with Pentola and becomes an endearing character. Endearing, is the word which suit perfectly with Pentola.

Pentola is a profuse story with twists and a lot of symbols. The scene which almost sums up the atmosphere of the film is when Pentola discover the joys of love with Batman in a psychedelic succession of explosions and planets in a colourful galaxy : love is a complex feeling which can't be summed up by words or images. Pentola's body is everything but not a dream's body but Leo Černic insists on it and especially on his legs, belly, butt and sex : the most unassuming parts of the human body. I loved these draws because, in this context of body-shaming, I think it is pertinent to create a hero with a body like Pentola's. Self-acceptance pass also through Pentola's attraction for Batman who helps him to accept who he is and to tell the truth to Titti. One more thing that pleases me in Pentola is the drawing technique, the image's grain. It makes me think a little of these from Max and the Maximons by Maurice Sendak. It confers a special atmosphere to the film, which makes it even more interesting. The animation style is also very interesting because it gives to the film a tale aspect. Lost, shy, strong, worried and brave, Pentola's evolution is wonderful. Although he has none of the superhero's characteristics, he touches us more than anyone of these ones, because we can see ourselves in him. Batman says him «You're my s(o)uperhero» but I think Pentola is everybody's superhero.