

Pédra. A reporter without borders

The Adventure of Jean-Pierre Pedrazzini, a giant of *Paris Match* reporting
A film by Villi Hermann, 2006

The photographer Jean-Pierre Pedrazzini was born in Paris in 1927, to parents from Locarno. Emigrating with his parents to Switzerland in 1943, he starts taking photographs in Davos. By the end of the war, he is taking up a job offer with *Paris Match*, and beginning his short career as a photojournalist. Little more than a decade later, while capturing enduring images of the Budapest uprising of 1956, he is fatally injured.

I meet people who shared his photo-reporting, his trips and his adventures: photographers **Russ Melcher, Willy Rizzo, Benno Graziani** and **Erich Lessing**.

And I speak to his colleague **Mario De Biasi**, present in 1956 on Republic Square in Budapest when Jean-Pierre Pedrazzini falls under a hail of bullets on the Battle of the AVO party headquarters.

I visit **Dominique Lapierre**, too, with whom Jean-Pierre Pedrazzini published a book about the trip they made through the USSR in early 1956, accompanied by their wives: at that time a first. In Tbilisi (Georgia) I meet the surgeon Dr. Georgi Mossechvili who hosted them during their trip.

The film broadens our perspective on Pedrazzini's work, exploring not only drama of the famous Budapest pictures, but the full scope of his earlier work which led him there.

An photo exhibition on Jean-Pierre Pedrazzini was organized in Chiasso (Switzerland), for the '*Biennale dell'immagine*' (23.09. - 11.11.2006).

Lugano, Villi Hermann