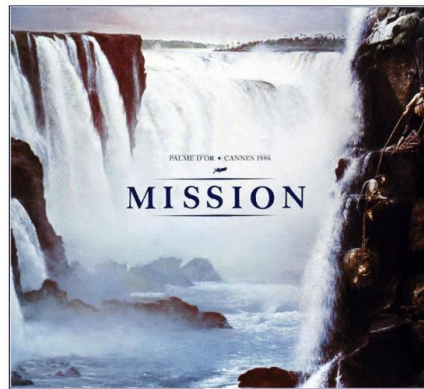


ROBERT DE NIRO

JEREMY IRONS



ROLAND JOFFÉ

COLEMAN ET ASSOCIÉS PRÉSENTENT
UN FILM DE CANNES 1986, PALME D'OR
♦ ROBERT DE NIRO ♦ JEREMY IRONS ♦
♦ MISSION ♦
♦ MUSIQUE DE ENNIO MORRICONE ♦ ÉCRIT PAR ROBERT BOLT ♦
♦ PRODUIT PAR FERNANDO GHA ET DAVID PUTTNAM ♦
♦ RÉALISÉ PAR ROLAND JOFFÉ ♦

One of my favourite scenes is from a movie called “The Mission”. This came out in 1986. It was directed by Roland Joffé and written by Robert Bolt. It starred Jeremy Irons and Robert de Niro. Jeremy Irons played the Jesuit father Gabriel and Robert de Niro played Rodrigo Mendoza, a slave trader. The famous soundtrack of the movie was done by Ennio Morricone. It was awarded an Oscar for the best picture. The movie is set in the 18th century. Spanish Jesuits try to protect a remote South American tribe in danger of falling under the rule of pro-slavery Portugal. The movie shows the cruelty of politics against indigenous tribes. The final scenes of the movie are very sad.

The scene I would like to talk about takes place at the beginning of the movie. The Jesuit priest, Father Gabriel (Jeremy Irons), tries to go to the tribe village at the top of Iguazu Falls, and the only way to get there is by climbing the rocks and cliff next to the falls. He gets to the bottom of the falls by paddling upriver in a small boat, and from there he climbs up the rocks. In the scene you see a bare-footed man with just a small bag tied to his back risking his life without fear as he attempts to climb the rocks to the top, with water running continuously over his body and face. It is very dangerous. He almost falls down the falls several times. Meanwhile, the music gets stronger as he climbs, and seems to be pushing him up the falls. When he gets to the top, he starts playing the beautiful sound of his flute that was carefully packed in his bag. A large crowd of native Indians surrounds him, attracted by the soft music coming from his flute.

This scene shocks me. Every time I think or I talk about this movie it is the scene that comes to my mind. It is a beautiful cinematographic scene, with no dialogue, but the images of the waterfalls and the struggle to climb up it are great. The view of the Iguazu Falls is so amazing, breathtaking, the grandeur of the picture compared with the person trying to climb them makes you think about Nature and the special places that are in the world that I would like to visit. The deafening sound from the running water of the falls is similar to the strong decision of Father Gabriel to carry out his objective of reaching the Indian village on his religious mission. It is like the two forces are combined together in the picture. Then, after he gets to the top of the falls, the noise disappears, and the scene becomes quiet and relaxed. As he starts playing the beautiful flute music, it is like the calm that comes after a terrible storm.

In my opinion, this scene at the very beginning of the movie is a mixture of everything: the sound of the water, the strength of the priest and the beautiful music, which together makes this scene very emotional and exciting. Those are the reasons why I like the scene so much.