



Ettore Fieramosca:

- belonged to the noble and ancient family of The Fieramoscas, he was born in Capua in 1476.
- Very soon he started a military career and was introduced at the court of Ferrante d'Aragona.
- In 1493, very young, he was the commander of a company of crossbowmen, whom he fought for a long time,
- Fieramosca also fought in other parts of Italy: Marche, Ascoli and participated the defence of his hometown in 1501 from the French Army.
- He joined the military bands of Prospero Colonna in order to occupy the south of Italy, Puglia, defeating Taranto and then occupying Andria, Canosa and Barletta.
- Set in Barletta, Fieramosca participated many expeditions .
- One of these ambushes a French knight was taken prisoner : Charles de Torques called De la Motte, who accused the Italians of betrayal and challenged Fieramosca for a duel.
- 13th february 1503 ,13 Italian knights led by Ettore Fieramosca and 13 French knights led by De la Motte were in a duel in the famous" Challenge of Barletta". The Italians finally won.
- In 1504 he was awarded earl and lord of his hometown. Died in 1515 when he was only 39.



“Ettore Fieramosca”

- film dated 1938
- directed by Alessandro Blasetti
- from the novel written by Massimo D’Azeglio, published in 1833
- inspired to the challenge of Barletta.
- The director’s intention was mainly nationalist. He thought that was necessary to make a film that could talk about Italy to 50 million foreigners.
- The film celebrates the figure of Ettore Fieramosca as a national glory and underlines the French as the enemies in a period of great tensions between France and Italy,
- Many years later Blasetti said that in making this film he didn’t want to exalt the Italian population but just focus the attention on the unity of the Italians.
- Ettore Fieramosca was the celebration of the national pride, it was a spectacular film, with big costs, assisted by the government .
- Today it is still appreciated for its propagandistic vein
- Very interesting to focus the sense of unity of the Italian people is the monologue proclaimed by Ettore Fieramosca in front of his knights in order to invite them to fight together against the enemy

The plot of the film

In 1503, the French and the Spanish contend the region surrounding the Sicilian castle of Morreale.

Joanna, the beautiful lady-in-waiting, wants to free herself from the foreign domination , she decides to marry a brave knight who could be able to help her in this aim.

Graiano from Asti, deceives her

forces another knight to fight against the enemies, a man called Ettore Fieramosca, this way to brag of the feat with the woman , and convincing her to marry him.

After the wedding Graiano reveals his real intentions and let the French enter the castle, he becomes Duke of Morreale for the betrayal.

Fieramosca is the only one who opposes the invasion even if h is wounded seriously.

Assisted by Joanna , who is very attracted by him, he is brought to his companions of army in Puglia.

There Graiano and the French arrive too, led by Guy de la Motte. They are prisoners by the Spanish , who Ettore Fieramosca is fighting with.

Even if a prisoner, De la Motte mocks and taunts the Italian knights who fight with the Spanish.

This behaviour causes a reaction among the Spanish soldiers and a challenge rises where thirteen knights each part are involved.

Among the French there is also Graiano who tries to kill Ettore Fieramosca. But the Italians win and Fieramosca kills Graiano

So Fieramosca will marry his beloved Joanna and reign with her in the castle of Morreale.

VIDEO 1 :

We are the moment when Charles De la Motte challenged Ettore Fieramosca for a duel . He accused him and the Italians of betrayal.



BE ITALIAN Ettore
Firamosca (Gino Cer

BE ITALIAN

(Ettore Fieramosca is introduced.....)

Man: Monsieur De la Motte..... this is Ettore Fieramosca.

De la Motte: the young man arrived to make me speak.....

Fieramosca: no, you're wrong. I came to advise you to speak, if you are able, with more care.

De la Motte: my only indiscretion is I thought you were worthy to fight against me. But my idea was just to respect memory because I believed you were dead.

Fieramosca: beware if someone says that people from my land (Italians) are dead. They walked along in the world, for centuries, and sometimes they feel tired because of their efforts. But the right moment they're always ready, they wake up. And nothing can come to an end without us. It could be a game.....but it's history!

De la Motte: too many words!!

Fieramosca: here I am!

De la Motte: come down

Fieramosca: me!?why do you want me to come down if I invite you to come up!

De la Motte: you offend all French nobility

Fieramosca: and you offend my commons (Italians)

....(the knights come around Ettore Fieramosca).....

De la Motte: Behind you I can see the Captain Prospero Colonna .and in front of him I hope you won't avoid a fight

Fieramosca: (putting his sword into the sheath) so there! I came just to say it's enough! A duel between you and me is useless...but between my knights and yours!!.....we're just 13 ! And here we are to fight and die if it is necessary.therefore I call all the men of my Nationality ...even if we're just 13. I ask them to fightspears and swordsyour knights and mine.....on an open field.....

VIDEO 2:

we are in an open field, the fight is starting. There are the two factions one in front of the other. The armies are lined up.

Each French knight is called and asked to prepare, his banner is risen. Fieramosca is wearing his helmet to fight.



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Man: let be proclaimed the names of the Italian knights.....!

Prospero Colonna: no!! Names are meaningless . let all knights come and move together with a unique nameItalians!!!

(the flags of the single knights are risen in the same moment to testify the unity of the army. They arrange for the fighting