

DATE: 9th September 2009
DIRECTOR: OLIVER PARKER
SOUNDTRACK: CHARLIE MOLE
WRITTEN BY: OSCAR WILDE
DORIAN GRAY: BEN BARNES
BASIL HALLWARD: BEN CHAPLIN
LORD ENRY: COLIN FIRTH



The Plot

“The Picture of Dorian Gray” is one of the most important novel written by Oscar Wilde. The novel is set in London at the end of 19th century. The protagonist is Dorian Gray, a young dandy man. Dorian’s beauty fascinates a painter, Basil Hallword, who decides to paint his portrait. The Portrait satisfies the young man’s desires, including that of eternal youth; Dorian sells his soul to Devil, idea suggested by Lord Wotton, and he remains forever young; The signs of age, experience appear on the portrait. Dorian is deeply influenced by the speech, the thoughts and the life style of Lord Henry Wotton, a friend of Basil’ s. Dorian lives only for pleasure making use of everybody and even letting people die because of his insensitivity. In fact his girlfriend suicides herself in a lake, when she knows to be pregnant and Dorian doesn’t want to marry her. When the painter sees the corrupted image of the portrait, Dorian kills him. Later, Dorian wants to free himself of the portrait, witness to his spiritual corruption, and stabs it, but in doing so he mysteriously kills himself. In the very moment of his death, the picture returns to its original purity and Dorian’s face becomes withered, wrinkled and loathsome.

The director Oliver Parker tends to linger on the voluptuousness of the main character, his vices, his past, in a flurry of "pleasures" that speed increases at every turn, from the timid caresses to the orgiastic scenes with mothers and daughters, prostitutes and hustlers.

With every turn of the vortex , at each time step. the soul of Dorian becomes more and more putrid and filthy, despite the outward appearance which is always perfect, while the figure of his mentor, Henry Wotton, masterfully played by Colin Firth, gains more weight at the viewer’s eyes. Lord Henry Wotton is a friend and somehow the tempter devil. He has got a charming personality and always has a ready answer. It is he who, through his provocative words influences Dorian Gray, who becomes a ruthless person always willing to try new pleasures. It is he who makes him aware of what he could do with his reassuring innocent look and in the short spam of his youth.

The unexpected arrival of a figure of salvation, the daughter of Lord Wotton, interpreted by Rebecca Hall, unleashes a series of remorse in Dorian and the shock in the plot that will lead to the inevitable final confrontation between Dorian and Lord Wotton.

TRIUNFO ARUTA DI MEGLIO DI MATTEO D’ALESSANDRO BAVARELLA GUAGLIONE CHIARO CERULLO V E