

Art critic Elena Salza:

*“Stabat Mater is a prayer from the XIII century attributed to the Italian Franciscan friar Jacopone da Todi.*

*The musical composition was commissioned to Pergolesi in 1734 by the brotherhood of Our Lady of Sorrows, and thanks to its rather joyous tones, represents a remarkable innovation in the genre of Sacred Music.*

*Stabat Mater dolorosa iuxta Crucem lacrimosa dum pendebat Filius.*

*In these words from the first stanza of the prayer, the suffering of Mary mother of Jesus standing at the cross, gets revealed.*

*The film Stabat Mater by Marina Sagona represents, on a personal, private and collective level, a new interpretation of iconographic and traditional themes.*

*Beyond the religious connotation, the themes of Pietas and Crucifixion are re-connected to the visual contemporary culture and re-sanctified into the human experience to which they belong, in a correspondence between male and female identity.*

*To complete and complement the visual component, the choice of the first movement of Pergolesi's Stabat Mater offers to the audience multiple ways of participation and gives the project a connotation of immediacy.*

*In addition the film Stabat Mater offers, in a totally secular way, the theatricalization and updating of a piece of utter importance in the history of Sacred Music."*