

Play Me Something

A film made by writers must be exceptional. The best example may *Play me Something* by Timothy Neat, a Scottish poet, author of books on Scottish literature, as well as documentary maker and... bee-keeper. To cooperation in the film he invited John Berger, the author of *G.* (Booker Prize in 1972) and critical essays *Ways of Seeing*. He was the co-author of the screenplay, and played the lead role. As a mysterious Stranger, Berger tells a story to a group of passengers waiting for their flight to Glasgow. It is a story of an Italian peasant Bruno (Charlie Barron), leaving for a weekend trip to Venice, and of his acquaintance with beautiful Marietta (Lucia Lanzarini). Berger adapts the plot of one of his stories from *Once in Europa* (published in 1987) into a screenplay. Apart from the story of Bruno and Mariette, we get to know the life stories of the passengers – of a hairdresser (Tilda Swinton) and of a schoolteacher (Margaret Bennet). Many things can happen before the plane leaves...

The film produced by the British Film Institute attracts attention with its remarkable black-and-white photos by Chris Cox and the intriguing temporal arrangement of story material. An exceptional drama, definitely worth seeing.