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FILM AND VISION TV (CANADA)

# SECRET FILES OF THE INQUISITION

HISTORICAL  
DOCU-DRAMA

4 X 1 HOUR MINI-SERIES



**BEYOND**  
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THIS IS A STORY OF EPIC PROPORTIONS AND POWERFUL THEMES – OF HOLY WARS AND CRUSADES, OF TORTURE AND TERROR, OF THE STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DIGNITY.



For centuries the historical records of the Inquisition have been locked away to become the subject of legend. In 1998, after years of pressure from historians, scholars and critics in search of the truth, the Vatican opened these archives for the first time ever. Now the voices they hold speak across the centuries in this major historical mini-series.

Secret Files Of The Inquisition unveils the incredible true story of the western world's most potent religion and its determination to maintain power at any cost.

From the pages of secret documents comes a tale of faith and fervour revealing how the most powerful church on earth created the Inquisition to preserve the unquestioned authority of the Pope.



Secret Files Of The Inquisition tells the true story of how a system of mass terror reigned for over half a millennium, Holy Wars and Crusades ensued, and thousands were subject to secret courts, torture and extermination.

This is the dramatic story of how tolerance was brought back to religion.



## EPISODE ONE: ROOT OUT HERETICS

France, 1308: Heresy has taken hold. In a time when the Church of Rome proclaims itself the one true religion, the Pope sends the Inquisitors of Heretical Depravity to exterminate the uprising. Non-believers are hunted down, condemned and burned.

The entire village of Montailou is taken prisoner of the Inquisition. No one is safe – not even the village priest and the chatelaine of its castle.

## EPISODE TWO: THE TEARS OF SPAIN

Spain, 1468: The land where Christians, Muslims and Jews have lived in tolerance for centuries is changing. A young King and Queen bent on immortality proclaim themselves the Catholic Monarchs and start an Inquisition. Jews who had converted to Christianity are accused of secretly sabotaging the Christian faith. Thousands perish in a ritual called the Act of Faith.

In Zaragoza, mothers die to protect their children, the highest in the land pay the ultimate price and the Inquisitor is assassinated, setting off a wave of reprisals. It is the beginning of the Spanish empire... and a long dark night that will last for centuries.

## EPISODE THREE: THE WAR ON IDEAS

Italy, 1522: The decadence of a Medici Pope in Rome outrages Martin Luther, a devout priest in Germany. In the face of the Protestant Reformation, a fanatical monk sets out to exterminate the heresy. On his path to power he will create the Roman Inquisition and become the most hated Pope in history.

Powerful leaders of the Catholic Church are arrested and imprisoned, accused of reading books banned by the Church. Free-thinking students are silenced. Darkness descends on the centres of learning and Renaissance. The Roman Inquisition will leave a legacy that lasts into the 20th century.

## EPISODE FOUR: THE END OF INQUISITION

Napoleon spreads the ideas of the Enlightenment, conquers Italy, abolishes the Inquisition and orders its files sent to Paris. Spain's greatest painter, Goya, will depict the Inquisition for the first time – and then run for his life. A Spanish priest devotes his life to exposing the brutal historical records. The Secret Files of the Inquisition are locked away for centuries.

The kidnapping of a young Jewish boy secretly baptised will be one of the desperate last attempts at exerting the power of the Inquisition. A devoted father fights to get back his son. The boy becomes a symbol for a Pope who is about to lose his dominion on earth.