



**FILMS RECOMMENDED BY THE CINEMA DEL CARBONE**

**Zarafa** by Rémi Bezançon and Jean-Christophe Lie — France/Belgium, 2012, 78' Trees, with their branches and thick foliage, are often the ideal spot for gathering together and listening to stories and adventures. That is exactly what happens in this film, where under the shade of a baobab tree, one of the largest in the world, in the heart of Africa, a wise old man tells a group of children the tale of the friendship between Maki, a ten-year-old boy, and Zarafa, and orphan giraffe who was given to the King of France by the Pasha of Egypt in 1827 to gain his support against the Turks who were besieging Alexandria.

**Princess Mononoke** by Hayao Miyazaki, Japan, 1997, 133' After killing a boar god, Prince Ashitaka finds himself stuck with a curse. He decides to move away from his village, hoping to understand the origin of the curse and to find a cure. He reaches Irontown, a place led by Lady Eboshi, which turns out to be a real fortress and whose principal industry is iron and weapon production. Eboshi's main goal is to exploit the resources of the sacred forest that surrounds the settlement, reigned over by the spirit protector of the forest, aided by San, Princess Mononoke, who was raised by wolves. The prince finds himself in the centre of a terrible battle between mankind and the inhabitants of the forest, a battle which reveals the director's willingness to tackle such a fundamental and primitive theme as the conflict between man and nature.



**MANTUA TREES**

Trees have inhabited our planet for millions and millions of years. They are the largest living things on earth, the tallest standing at 115 metres and the oldest ones have been here for more than 5000 years. Trees are the measure of our lives. They nourish and heal us, they take the waste from our breath and turn it into oxygen. They protect and welcome us, they give us the gift of paper which we use to write our own stories. They stay with us for an entire lifetime, and they will accompany our children through theirs. Trees stop time. They listen to us. They bear witness to our human vicissitudes. And with us, in our mind and in our spirit, there stands a big tree.

**WHAT IS MANTOVA PLAYGROUND?**

Mantova Playground is a project promoted and supported by the Comune di Mantova and is born with the aim of transforming the city into a playground that children will use to approach the complexity of the world. Workshops, maps, events to help discover the city from unusual and unexpected viewpoints or to rediscover what you already know by suggesting a new perspective. **website** mantovaplayground.it · mantova2016.it **fb** mantovaplayground

This guide comes from the project curated by Tiziano Fratus for Festivalletteratura 2013 edition. Special thanks to the Festival!

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**BOOKS RECOMMENDED BY BIBLIOTECA MEDIATECA G. BARATTA**

**Raccontare gli alberi** by Pia Valentinis and Mauro Evangelista, Rizzoli, 2012

A magical book that unveils the beauty of trees, the life that they give to us and the poetry that they have inspired, and continue to inspire. Through poetry, myths and legends, trees tell us about and unveil the profound relationship that exists between the plant world and the human one.

**Come un albero** by Rossana Bossù, Camelozampa, 2016

Stunning illustrations reflect on the symmetries and pairs found in nature. Through actions that are common to all living things, we discover the process of growth and the discovery of life. The book invites us to observe the natural world and find out how it contains all the actions that make us alive.



Tiziano Fratus (Bergamo, 1975) coined the concept of *Homo Radix*, the practice of *Alberografia* and the discipline of *Dendrosafia*. His entire editorial output comes under the umbrella of *Arborgrammaticus*, and it consists of: *Manuale del perfetto cercatore d'alberi* (Feltrinelli), *Ci vuole un albero* (Araba Fenice), the trilogy for Laterza - *L'Italia è un giardino*, *Il libro delle foreste scolpite*, *L'Italia è un bosco*, the novel *Ogni albero è un poeta* (Mondadori), the trilogy for Ediciclo - *Il sussurro degli alberi* and *Il sole che nessuno vede*, the poetry collections *Un quaderno di radici* (Feltrinelli) and *Musica per le foreste* (Mondadori). He writes the "Il cercatore di alberi" column for La Stampa. His poetry has been translated into eight languages and he has been published in international magazines and anthologies. He organizes small acts of dendrosafia under the name *La procreazione del bosco*, accompanying groups of people as they get to know trees, nature and meditation. [www.homoradix.com](http://www.homoradix.com)





## THE 150 YEAR TREE!

Giardini Nuvolari viale Piave

White poplars, hackberries, at the entrance to the roundabout, there is a Maclura pomifera with a bowed trunk, reported in the book Monumenti verdi di Lombardia (2004). At the time, it measured 330 cm x 17.5 metres in height; now its height is more or less unchanged, but the circumference of the trunk is around 370 cm. Clear buttress roots. Ivy has expanded along the trunk and it should be removed. It is not such a widespread exotic species, I remember a few specimens in the Botanical Gardens in Genoa producing very large, brain-shaped fruit. A young metasequoia, a horse chestnut with salmon-coloured flowers, a large ginkgo which is one of the oldest in the city, a double trunk that reaches 28-30 metres in height and with a circumference of 370 cm. The two ginkgo in the Orto botanico braidense in Milan were planted in 1775 and measure around 430 and 325 cm in circumference. The ginkgo in the Orto botanico in Turin, which is also forked, measures 493 cm, which is below the standard size, and it was planted in 1860. An educated guess would put its age at around 150 years. Paulownia, magnolias, a weeping beech, a hackberry with webbed roots around the base, the trunk measuring 380 cm in circumference, meaning it is centuries old.

## THE WIND IN THE LEAVES

Quartiere Belfiore

Plane trees, one with a bark-covered tube at the base. Next to the Monument to the Martyrs is a beautiful oak (Quercus robur), a harmonious circular crown, intricate branching and a canopy measuring 16 passes in diameter. Limes, black and white poplars and cypresses along the lake. On the square is the Villa al Lago nursing home, whose garden hosts some remarkable trees: a wonderful oak, the best seen in the city, which is more than 20 m in height has spectacular branching. The circumference of the trunk is around 300 to 350 cm. A Lebanese cedar watches over those who enter. Strolling around the ground, you meet runners, families piling up chairs and banquettes and solitary fishermen taking shelter in the reeds. The wind blows between the leaves, making them sing a pleasing, lulling symphony. It is the effect of the mechanisms of the poplar's turion leaves. Some poplars are truly majestic. Montpellier maples, ash and hackberry trees.

## TREES AND LOCOMOTIVES

Giardini del Te

Trees: limes, maples, hackberries, plane trees, Moroccan cedars, magnolias, poplars. Fine trees: false acacias (Robinia pseudoacacia) in front of the locomotive, 300 cm in circumference.

## A PIECE OF HIMALAYAS IN THE CITY

Piazzale Gramsci

Lime trees around the perimeter. A fine tree in the centre: Himalayan pine (Pinus wallichiana).

## THE JUDAS TREE

Giardini Valentini

corso Vittorio Emanuele II, 52

The gardens feature redbuds (Cercis siliquastrum), which are also known as Judas trees (legend has it that Judas kissed Jesus under one of them), with a large flowering cyclamen in the spring and rounded leaved. Yews, hackberries, a ginkgo with a circumference of 350 cm, oaks, limes, pecans and horse-chestnuts.

## VIRGIL'S GARDEN

Piazza Virgiliana

Conifers around the grand monument, Moroccan and Himalayan cedars and then rows of very tall Lombardy poplars at the back, with trunks around 2 to 3 metres in circumference. Trees already seen across the city: planes, hornbeams, maples and black poplars.

## THE CITY SENTINELS

Piazza Felice Cavallotti

Two evergreen magnolias (Magnolia grandiflora): the first in the centre, a young specimen. The second stands beside the Canale del Rio, at the beginning of corso Vittorio Emanuele, in front of the first one; this is a private space, but it can be seen from the bridge and it is certainly older than the other one.

## TREES CROWNS

Giardini at Campanile di San Domenico between Lungorio, via Matteotti, via Peschiera

Between the Lungorio, via Matteotti and via Peschiera, there is a hackberry (Celtis australis), which has a candelabrum structure and a circular canopy. From the bridge opens up a glimpse of the medieval city, and a dark green spot rises up between the houses: a Himalayan cedar.

## A POT-POURRI OF TREES

Bosco Virgiliano via Parma

Designed by Giuseppe Roda in 1929, based on an idea from the president of the Comitato Nazionale Forestale, Arnaldo Mussolini, the forest was inaugurated on 21 September 1930. Black poplars and cypresses, ailanthus, maples, hackberries, a Japanese pagoda tree, box elder, oaks, incense cedars, mulberries, plane trees and hornbeams. In the Parco balneo space there are two beautiful wisteria at the entrance to the greenhouse, where flowers are cultivated and butterflies are raised.

