

TOTÓ- [WWW.CINEWORLD.CO.UK](http://WWW.CINEWORLD.CO.UK)

Three years after *Bellavista* (BIFF 2007), Austria's leading documentarian returns with another meticulous, monochrome, digital video masterpiece. Though still relatively unheralded outside his native land, Schreiner is regarded in certain critical quarters as one of Europe's most important filmmakers - and Toto looks set to win him new legions of fans. Taking a challenging and radically unconventional approach to seemingly unremarkable material - a middle-aged man travels from his Vienna home to his Italian birthplace - Schreiner's intense attention to detail yields startling sensory magic from everyday sights and sounds. He focuses minutely on his protagonist Antonio Cotroneo - quite literally so, as many shots are pore-examining close-ups - so that, whilst basic biographical data is thin on the ground, we feel like we're seeing the world through Cotroneo's poetic sensibilities. As we observe him take in the sun-dappled coastal ruggedness of his home town Tropea (a bathing and fishing resort in Calabria) we hear his ruminations on life and death, his probing self-analysis, or sometimes just his breathing. This is documentary elevated to an exquisite artform.