

# RUMOR BECOMES A LINE (MOTHERS' DAY)

*after the poem "!" by Anne Simpson*



*Yasmina Rossi in Mothers' Day (2009)*





*Yasmina Rossi in Mothers' Day*



*Boy-Toy digitally altered product*

A black dog barking into Hekuba's eye  
*whimpering sniffing— barking furiously*

Hekuba stares at the calm, SFX: *muffled roar of marching*  
*Oars in and out of water* Child's laughter

Soldiers' boots on the beach  
 Bloody  
 Empty  
 Boots  
 landing on a sandcastle

Hekuba crowned  
 Greek ships bob. On waves

A girl's screech (yelp of fun)

Another time on a grassy cliff  
 A child queen frolicking . . .

at the edge  
 naked she leaps off of the cliff

splash  
 treading water.

smiling . . . grinning ear to ear

not even imagining

Miniature soldiers  
 on a beach  
 plastic warriors  
 in the palm of a Queen's hand

the girl flung her white robes away before she leapt

they landed elsewhere  
on the edge of white shrouds.

Blood-stained parcels dumped on a grey beach

SFX: *military fanfare*

Hekuba trembling at her window  
over her shoulder a ship edges onto the horizon

*old hands place the crown on her head old hands place the crown on her head  
old hands place the crown on her head old hands place the crown on her head*

and she smiles

her smile disappears.

soldiers marching

on a sunny, beautiful beach.

Priam (a king) appears  
behind Hekuba

his hand on her shoulder

her face terror

tenderly

Remember . . .

The girl queen screaming  
as she leapt into the water.

Priam takes what he needs  
Hekuba stares at nothing

Blackening clouds

SFX: *Priam's grunts become the sounds of battle*  
filling the beach

. . . toy soldiers

SFX: *War cries bruises*

A toy soldier has a spear through its chest

SFX: *silence.*

*Waves lapping children's voices*

*A caged soldier screams*

*A woman's scream*

Fallen toy soldiers in pools of blood

black dogs licking scarlet pools

A Queen ravaged

Ships bobbing in water

Blood stained water lapping

at heels

Rushing back and forth



*Rocca Sisto and Yasmina Rossi*





*Tom Della Fave in Mothers' Day*

DIRECTOR'S NOTES: In the film *Mothers' Day* (2009), I set out to do a brief motion picture sketch of the subjective image that exists in an audience's mind when a character (often a woman) melodramatically closes windows or doors behind her back. The intimate space between the door and the character's back and hands that we never actually see intrigued me. Somehow the image of those hands is present in the mind because of cinema's powerful influence on the psyche. Near the end of production I came across the actual roots of the holiday now celebrated as Mother's Day and it helped complete the story.

Founded by mothers who had lost their sons in the United States civil war "Mother's Day for Peace" was initiated with a proclamation written by Julia Ward Howe also author of the Battle Hymn of the Republic. Originally observed as a call to peace it was celebrated as such for thirty years until commercial enterprise started lobbying the government. Organizations like the Florists Association stated that "this was a day that could be exploited" and in 1914 Woodrow Wilson officially changed the holiday to "Mother's Day" honoring Mothers without any reference to peace.