

*The toast of the cinema lighting world, Vittorio Storaro, has revolutionised the industry by introducing lighting controls and dimmers into film studios. Lights! caught up with him, appropriately, in the hallowed confines of The Vatican, where he is currently...*

## IN SEARCH OF THE MEANING OF LIGHT

*Richard Humphries reports*

**T**o watch three times Oscar winning cinematographer Vittorio Storaro at work is to be in the presence of the proverbial Maestro. He has about him the air of a navigator; someone engaged on a permanent quest, sailing the uncharted seas of life in search of profound meanings. And his image and reality are totally in accord.

Currently working on a 15 part series on the history of Rome, sponsored by the Italian Government and Industry, Vittorio has a string of historic films to his credit. These include *Apocalypse Now*, *Reds* and *The Last Emperor*, for which he won Oscars, and more recently, *Dick Tracey* and *The Sheltering Sky*.

In film lighting circles he broke new ground some years ago by introducing Strand dimmers into studio and location lighting.

To him it was not so much a technological revolution as part of his search for the inner quality and meaning of light.

Taking a break from filming ancient statues and priceless mosaics in the Vatican Museum for the new film series, he expounded his theories over a Roman working lunch of tomatoes, cheese, fruit and local wine.

'I think that life is a kind of journey. We are going in one



direction, whether you are conscious of it or not, so we have a choice of selecting the people we want to work with and the medium we want to work in.'

His theories dictate totally his approach to his work. Work and relaxation, duty and pleasure are all the same to him.

He said, 'Before I can begin work on any new project I have to find out if the person who will lead the project and the project itself belongs to my own inner feelings. If it is something that belongs to me, something I can be part of, then it is something that can be part of my own journey through life.

'For me sometimes there