

ELEVEN ITALIAN FILMS PROGRAMMED AT MUSEUM INCLUDING ROSSELLINI'S "SOCRATES" AND FELLINI'S "THE CLOWNS"

Several of Italy's leading filmmakers, including Roberto Rossellini, Federico Fellini, Ermanno Olmi and Bernardo Bertolucci, will be represented in a special program, from February 18 to March 3, at The Museum of Modern Art. The program consists of eleven recent films produced for RAI--Radiotelevisione Italiana, the state-owned network, which has given a free hand to creative film talent.

"Socrates," directed by Rossellini, will initiate the series on February 18, at 8:00 p.m., when the director will be present to introduce his recent film to the audience. The film deals with the latter part of Socrates' life and illustrates, according to José Luis Guarner, author of the book Roberto Rossellini, "Rossellini's insistence during the sixties and his current phase of didactic cinema that the greatest of virtues is knowledge--exactly as Socrates expounded."

"The Clowns," directed by Fellini, is also on the program, and, like "Socrates," it will have its first public viewing at the Museum. Both films were shown at the last Venice Film Festival.

"The Clowns" is a re-evocation of three stolen days when at age eight Fellini ran away from his home in Rimini. Besides clowns, his circus memories are of freaks and dwarfs and monsters. According to the director it is "an unstructured story, a diary of notes, profiles and sketches." It started out as a simple documentary, but "the imagination and enthusiasm of Fellini enlarges the scope of the subject to masterful proportions," it is reported. One foreign critic calls "The Clowns" a "splendid, exuberant reminiscence, and high-

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spirited reverie about clowns of the past and present." In the first section, the director recalls his astonishment at the mixture of comedy and cruelty in the various circus acts: in the second part Fellini appears in the film with his camera crew in search of circus survivors; and in the final and third part Fellini has an allegorical ending to prove that clowns don't die.

Adrienne Mancina, Associate Curator of the Department of Film, is responsible for assembling and selecting the program of Italian films produced for RAI, which has made it a policy to work with recognized motion picture directors and to encourage new talent. RAI not only provides the financial resources but it gives complete autonomy to the filmmakers it engages. Bertolucci has said that with RAI "for the first time I have been able to work with complete freedom." The films, moreover, are made for theatres as well as for the television screen. Consequently, for the first time, they were admitted to the competition at the Venice Film Festival.

On the Museum program is a second Rossellini film, "The Acts of the Apostles," which dramatizes the origin and spread of Christianity from Jerusalem. The picture, in which Paul, the missionary, is destined to spread the faith, consists of five parts and is almost six hours long. It will be shown continuously starting at 2:00 p.m. on March 3.

The films scheduled also include "The Tenth of June, 1940," a three-part picture interweaving documentary footage and fiction to reconstruct the events of that day when Italy entered the war. It was made by three directors: Franco Rossi, Florestano Vancini and Alessandro Blasetti.

"Poverty By Choice" is a documentary on the American Dorothy Day, social activist and founder of "The Catholic Worker;" Gianni

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Amico's "The Inquiry," co-authored by Bertolucci, deals with an American who is an involuntary patient at a mental health clinic; and "Olimpia to her Friends" is a film by Adriano Apra in which the characters grow from a lack of self-understanding to inner vision.

In addition, the series will feature: "Francis of Assissi," by Liliana Cavani, which recalls the experiences of St. Francis before his vows to embrace poverty; "The Scavengers," by Ermanno Olmi, known for "Il Posto" and "The Fiancés;" and Nelo Risi's "The Diary of a Schizophrenic Girl," an Allied Artists film, which is the only picture on the program to have been shown theatrically in this country. Two of the films, "The Spider's Stratagem" by Bertolucci, and "The Scavengers," were shown at the recent New York Film Festival. Also shown there was another film by Miss Cavani, "The Cannibals."

The complete schedule follows:

Thursday, February 18 (8:00)

SOCRATES. Directed by Roberto Rossellini. English titles. 120 min.

Friday, February 19 (2:00 & 5:30)

OLIMPIA TO HER FRIENDS. Directed by Adriano Apra. No titles. 90 min.

Saturday, February 20 (3:00 & 5:30)

THE SCAVENGERS. Directed by Ermanno Olmi. English titles. 104 min.

Sunday, February 21 (2:00 & 5:30)

DIARY OF A SCHIZOPHRENIC GIRL. Directed by Nelo Risi. English titles. 108 min.

Monday, February 22 (1:30)

THE SCAVENGERS (see February 20).

Wednesday, February 24 (2:00 & 5:30)

THE INQUIRY. Directed by Gianni Amico. English titles. 120 min.

Thursday, February 25 (2:00, 5:30 & 8:00)

THE SPIDER'S STRATAGEM. Directed by Bernardo Bertolucci. English titles. 110 min.

Friday, February 26

2:00 only: THE TENTH OF JUNE, 1940. Directed by Alessandro Blasetti, Franco Rossi and Florestano Vancini. No titles. 90 min.

5:30 only: POVERTY BY CHOICE: AN HOUR WITH DOROTHY DAY. Directed by Alfredo Di Laura. No titles. 52 min.

Saturday, February 27 (3:00 & 5:30)

THE CLOWNS. Directed by Federico Fellini. English titles. 91 min.

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Sunday, February 28 (2:00 & 5:30)
SOCRATES (see February 18).

Monday, March 1 (12:30)
FRANCIS OF ASSISSI. Directed by Liliana Cavani. No titles.
127 min.

Tuesday, March 2 (5:30)
THE CLOWNS (see February 27).

Wednesday, March 3 (2:00)
ACTS OF THE APOSTLES. Directed by Roberto Rossellini. No titles.
5 hours and 42 minutes. (Note: The film is in five parts. There
will be a ten-minute intermission between parts 3 and 4).

Additional information available from Lillian Gerard, Film Coordinator,
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