

The Museum of Modern Art

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NO. 11
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FRANCESCO ROSI FILMS AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

The films of Francesco Rosi, all nine features made by the Italian filmmaker since he began his career in 1958, will be shown from February 27 through March 11 in the auditorium of The Museum of Modern Art

Mr. Rosi will be in New York to introduce his retrospective, which begins with "Hands Over the City," his prize-winning story of corruption in his native city of Naples. Rod Steiger, the American actor, stars in "Hands Over the City," which earned the Golden Lion of San Marco Award at the Venice Film Festival in 1963. Five years before, Rosi's first film, "The Challenge" ("La Sfida"), was recognized and given a special prize by the Venice Film Festival jury. In 1961 the director won the Silver Bear Award at the Berlin Film Festival for "Salvatore Giuliano," never released theatrically in this country though acclaimed internationally as a "masterpiece." It will be included in the Museum series along with the "The Mattei Affair," with Gian Maria Volunte, winner of a Grand Prix at the 1972 Cannes Film Festival.

Though Rosi has been widely praised by foreign critics for the aesthetics of his neo-realism and his cinema of conscience, he is not generally recognized in this country, and the present program, organized by Larry Kardish, Assistant Curator in the Department of Film, is designed to give American viewers an indication of the scope and talent of the Italian filmmaker, whose most recent work is "Lucky Luciano," currently in release. Of "Lucky Luciano," Norman Mailer writes: "It is the finest movie yet made about the Mafia, the most careful, the most thoughtful, the truest and most sensitive to the paradoxes of a society of crime."

Born in Naples in 1922, Rosi studied law, worked for Radio-Napoli during World War II, and later joined a theatrical company in Rome. He started his film career in 1948 as an assistant to Luchino Visconti, working on two of that director's most influential films: "La Terra Trema" and "Senso." Continuing both as

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a script writer and as an assistant director, he collaborated with Luciano Emmer, Michelangelo Antonioni, Ettore Giannini and Vittorio Gassman. His long and distinguished apprenticeship ended in 1958 with his first feature "The Challenge" ("La Sfida"), which was subsequently followed by similar themes deploring inhuman social conditions that debase man.

Typical of Rosi's style, called the reconstructed documentary, is "The Moment of Truth," made in color in Spain, starring the bull fighter Miguel Mateo Miguelin. It records a real-life episode that embodies the spectacle, folklore and contradictions that are characteristic of Spanish character. It was filmed in Pamplona, Madrid, Seville, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Villanueva, Algeciras, Malaga, Barcelona, La Linea and Toledo.

On the program are several films unreleased in this country: "The Swindlers" with Alberto Sordi and "Just Another War" with Gian Maria Volonte, are among them.

The program follows:

Thursday, February 27, 5:30 - LE MANI SULA CITTA. (HANDS OVER THE CITY.) 1963. With Rod Steiger, Salvo Randone. Italian; English subtitles. 105 min.

Thursday, February 27, 8:00 - SALVATORE GIULIANO. 1961. With Frank Wolff, Salvo Randone, Pietro Cammarata. Italian; English subtitles. 125 min. Filmmaker present.

Friday, February 28, 2:00 - LA SFIDA. (THE CHALLENGE.) 1958. With Jose Suarez, Rosanna Schiaffino. Italian; no English subtitles. 95 min.

Saturday, March 1, 3:00 - SALVATORE GIULIANO. (See Thursday, February 27 at 8:00.)

Saturday, March 1, 5:30 - LA MANI SULLA CITTA. (See Thursday, February 27 at 5:30.) Filmmaker present.

Sunday, March 2, 5:30 - IL MOMENTO DELLA VERITA. (THE MOMENT OF TRUTH.) 1965. With Mateo Miguelin. Spanish; English subtitles. (Macmillan/Audio-Brandon Films.) 110 min.

Monday, March 3, 2:00 - I MAGLIARI. (THE SWINDLERS/THE CON-MEN/THE HUSTLERS.) 1959. With Alberto Sordi, Belinda Lee. Italian; English subtitles. 107 min.

Monday, March 3, 5:30 - LA SFIDA. (See Friday, February 28 at 2:00.)

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Thursday, March 6, 5:30 - I MAGLIARI. (See Monday, March 3 at 2:00.)

Thursday, March 6, 8:00 - IL MOMENTO DELLA VERITA. (See Sunday, March 2 at 5:30.)

Friday, March 7, 2:00 - C'ERA UNA VOLTA. (MORE THAN A MIRACLE/HAPPILY EVER AFTER. 1967. With Omar Sharif, Sophia Loren, Dolores Del Rio. Italian; no English subtitles. 110 min.

Saturday, March 8, 3:00 - UOMINI CONTRO. (MAN AGAINST/JUST ANOTHER WAR.) 1970. With Mark Frechette, Alain Cuny, Gian Maria Volonte. Italian; no English subtitles. 105 min.

Saturday, March 8, 5:30 - IL CASO MATTEI. (THE MATTEI AFFAIR.) 1972. With Gian Maria Volonte, Peter Baldwin. Italian; English subtitles. (Paramount Pictures.) 118 min.

Sunday, March 9, 5:30 - C'ERA UNA VOLTA. (See Friday, March 7 at 2:00.)

Monday, March 10, 2:00 - IL CASO MATTEI. (See Saturday, March 8 at 5:30.)

Monday, March 10, 5:30 - UOMINI CONTRO. (See Saturday, March 8 at 3:00.)

Tuesday, March 11, 5:30 - A PROPOSITO DI LUCKY LUCIANO. 1973. With Gian Maria Volonte, Rod Steiger, Edmond O'Brien, Vincent Gardenia. In English. (Avco/Embassy Corp.) 110 min.

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