

The Museum of Modern Art

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FACT SHEET

EXHIBITION COMEDY, ITALIAN STYLE

DATES May 9 - August 10, 1986

ORGANIZATION Adrienne Mancia, Curator, and Stephen Harvey, Assistant Curator, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art; Graziella Lonardi, Adriano Aprà, and Patrizia Pistagnesi, Incontri Internazionali d'Arte, Rome

SPONSORSHIP Made possible by Missoni; additional support from the Italian Ministry of Entertainment and Tourism, the Italian National Tourist Board (C.I.T.), and the Ente Gestione di Cinema

PROGRAM A program of more than sixty films, COMEDY, ITALIAN STYLE is the first comprehensive survey of the genre ever organized in the United States. While such classics as Divorce, Italian Style and I Vitelloni will be included, the emphasis is on films that have seldom if ever been available in this country.

During the three decades after the postwar years, the Italian cinema was dominated by the commedia all'italiana. This genre of satirical comedy was both an outgrowth of, and reaction to, the neorealist school of the late forties. Neorealism, characterized by an un-sparing vision of the harsh recent past and uncertain present, was lauded by critics but ignored by the film-going public. Commedia all'italiana successfully substituted irony for lamentation, proving to audiences both at home and abroad that Italian movies could be pertinent as well as funny.

As the genre developed during the fifties and sixties, Italian comedy cast a withering gaze at every aspect of contemporary life, including consumerism, sexual hypocrisy, and political mendacity. The vitality of this new brand of Italian comedy spawned a generation of directors such as Luigi Comencini, Mario Monicelli, Dino Risi, and Pietro Germi, and screenwriters such as Sergio Amidei, Suso Cecchi d'Amico, and the team of Age and Scarpelli. Yet commedia all'italiana is above all an actors' cinema. Such established performers as Toto, Vittorio De Sica, and Eduardo De Filippo became mainstays of the genre, and the inimitable Alberto Sordi came to epitomize the tragicomic Everyman. Both Vittorio Gassman and Marcello Mastroianni found their screen niches as complex comic personalities, after indifferent early film careers. Commedia all'italiana was primarily a male genre until, in the mid-fifties, both Sophia Loren and Gina Lollobrigida were launched as major film personalities. A decade later, Monica Vitti demonstrated that her

skills, far from being limited to playing the heroines of Michelangelo Antonioni's films, would come to fruition in satirical comedies.

- WALL EXHIBITION An exhibition of original film posters and film stills enlargements will accompany the film program. Organized by Mary Corliss, assistant curator in the Department of Film, the exhibition is drawn from the collections of the Department of Film, Incontri Internazionali d'Arte, and Martin Scorsese.
- PUBLICATIONS The exhibition catalog will contain essays written by two of the exhibition curators, film scholars Adriano Aprà and Patrizia Pistagnesi, as well as interviews, filmographies, and numerous still photographs. The catalog is being published by ERI Edizioni RAI, Rome.
- OPENING/GUESTS Monica Vitti and Alberto Sordi will be in New York to introduce the opening night film, Polvere di Stelle, on Friday, May 9, at 6:00 p.m. The film stars Ms. Vitti and Mr. Sordi and was directed by Mr. Sordi.
- TRAVEL After its New York showing, the exhibition will be seen at the Pacific Film Archive at the University Art Museum, Berkeley; the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the UCLA Film, Television, and Radio Archives in Los Angeles; the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston; the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston; and The Art Institute of Chicago.
- SYMPOSIUM In conjunction with the exhibition, a symposium on Italian comedy will be held in late May or early June at the Italian Cultural Institute, 686 Park Avenue. Included on the panel are Masolino d'Amico, a film scholar and critic who has written a book on Italian comedy in Italy; Stephen Harvey, co-organizer of COMEDY, ITALIAN STYLE; and one of the filmmakers whose works are represented in the exhibition. For information on the symposium, contact the Italian Cultural Institute after May 1 at 212/879-4242.
- FILM TITLES A tentative list of films in COMEDY, ITALIAN STYLE is attached.
- PRESS SCREENINGS Monday, April 29 - Friday, May 3, The Museum of Modern Art, fifth floor, Warners Screening Room

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For further press information or photographic materials, contact Howard Feinstein, film press representative, The Museum of Modern Art, 212/708-9752.

COMEDY, ITALIAN STYLE - tentative list of films

- Domenica d'Agosto. 1950. Luciano Emmer. With Marcello Mastroianni. 80 min.
- E' Primavera (Springtime). 1949. Renato Castellani. 92 min.
- Guardie e Ladri. 1951. Steno, Mario Monicelli. With Toto, Aldo Fabrizi. 106 min.
- Due Soldi di Speranza (Two Cents Worth of Hope). 1952. Renato Castellani. 101 min.
- Lo Sceicco Bianco (The White Sheik). 1952. Federico Fellini. With Alberto Sordi, Guilietta Masina. 113 min.
- I Vitelloni. 1953. Federico Fellini. With Alberto Sordi. 107 min.
- Pane Amore e Fantasia (Bread, Love, and Dreams). 1953. Luigi Comencini. With Vittorio De Sica, Gina Lollobrigida. 93 min.
- Pane Amore e Gelosia (Bread, Love, and Jealousy). 1954. Luigi Comencini. With Vittorio De Sica, Gina Lollobrigida. 98 min.
- L'Oro di Napoli (Gold of Naples). 1954. Vittorio De Sica. With Vittorio De Sica, Sophia Loren, Toto, Silvana Mangano. 131 min.
- Il Segno di Venere. 1955. Dino Risi. With Sophia Loren, Alberto Sordi, Vittorio De Sica. 100 min.
- Peccato che Sia una Canaglia (Too Bad She's Bad). 1955. Alessandro Blasetti. With Sophia Loren, Vittorio De Sica, Marcello Mastroianni. 95 min.
- La Fortuna di Essere Donna. 1956. Alessandro Blasetti. With Sophia Loren, Marcello Mastroianni, Charles Boyer. 100 min.
- Povere Ma Belli (Poor but Beautiful). 1956. Dino Risi. With Marisa Allasio, Renato Salvatori. 101 min.
- I Soliti Ignoti (Big Deal on Madonna Street). 1958. Mario Monicelli. With Vittorio Gassman, Marcello Mastroianni, Toto, Claudia Cardinale. 111 min.
- Il Mattatore (Love and Larceny). 1959. Dino Risi. With Vittorio Gassman. 104 min.
- La Grande Guerra (The Great War). 1959. Mario Monicelli. With Alberto Sordi, Vittorio Gassman, Silvana Mangano. 142 min.
- Giorni d'Amore. 1954. Giuseppe De Santis. With Marcello Mastroianni, Marina Vlady. 110 min.
- La Spiaggia. 1954. Alberto Lattuada. With Raf Vallone, Martine Carol. 107 min.
- Dov'è la Libertà ...? 1952-54. Roberto Rossellini. With Toto. 93 min.
- Tutti a Casa (Everybody Go Home). 1960. Luigi Comencini. With Alberto Sordi, Eduardo De Filippo. 120 min.
- A Cavallo della Tigre. 1961. Luigi Comencini. With Nino Manfredi. 110 min.
- Una Vita Difficile. 1961. Dino Risi. With Alberto Sordi. 118 min.
- Divorzio all'Italiana (Divorce Italian Style). 1961. Pietro Germi. With Marcello Mastroianni, Stefania Sandrelli. 118 min.
- Il Sorpasso (The Easy Life). 1962. Dino Risi. With Vittorio Gassman, Jean-Louis Trintignant. 104 min.
- Il Sorpasso (The Easy Life). 1974. Lina Wertmüller. With Mariangelo Melato, Giancarlo Giannini. 114 min.
- Le Farò da Padre. 1974. Alberto Lattuada. With Luigi Proietti, Irene Papas. 99 min.

- Mafioso. 1962. Alberto Lattuada. With Alberto Sordi. 104 min.
- La Voglia Matta (Crazy Desire). 1962. Luciano Salce. With Ugo Tognazzi, Catherine Spaak. 109 min.
- L'Ape Regina (Queen Bee). 1963. Marco Ferreri. With Ugo Tognazzi, Marina Vlady. 90 min.
- I Mostri (Fifteen From Rome). 1963. Dino Risi. With Vittorio Gassman, Ugo Tognazzi. 128 min.
- Sedotta e Abbandonata (Seduced and Abandoned). 1964. Pietro Germi. With Stefania Sandrelli. 123 min.
- La Donna Scimmia (The Ape Woman). 1964. Marco Ferreri. With Ugo Tognazzi, Annie Girardot. 95 min.
- Signore e Signori (The Birds and the Bees). 1966. Pietro Germi. With Virna Lisi. 118 min.
- Vedo Nudo. 1969. Dino Risi. With Nino Manfredi. 119 min.
- Io la Conoscevo Bene. 1965. Antonio Pietrangeli. With Stefania Sandrelli, Ugo Tognazzi. 120 min.
- Risate di Gioia. 1960. Mario Monicelli. With Anna Magnani, Toto, Ben Gazzara. 106 min.
- Boccaccio 70. 1962. Federico Fellini/Vittorio De Sica/Luchino Visconti/Mario Monicelli. With Sophia Loren, Anita Ekberg, Romy Schneider. 210 min.
- La Visita. 1964. Antonio Pietrangeli. With Sandra Milo. 119 min.
- Amore Mio Aiutami. 1969. Alberto Sordi. With Alberto Sordi, Monica Vitti. 125 min.
- Riusciranno i Nostri Eroi ... 1968. Ettore Scola. With Alberto Sordi, Nino Manfredi. 129 min.
- La Ragazza con la Pistola. 1968. Mario Monicelli. With Monica Vitti. 104 min.
- Una Vergine per il Principe. 1965. Pasquale Festa Campanile. With Virna Lisi, Vittorio Gassman. 113 min.
- Teresa la Ladra (Teresa the Thief). 1975. Carlo di Palma. With Monica Vitti. 124 min.
- In Nomo del Popolo Italiano. 1971. Dino Risi. With Ugo Tognazzi, Vittorio Gassman. 103 min.
- Lo Scopone Scientifico. 1972. Luigi Comencini. With Alberto Sordi, Bette Davis, Silvana Mangano. 119 min.
- Sono Stato Io. 1973. Alberto Lattuada. With Giancarlo Giannini. 98 min.
- La Tosca. 1973. Luigi Magni. With Monica Vitti, Vittorio Gassman. 103 min.
- Polvere di Stelle. 1973. Alberto Sordi. With Monica Vitti, Alberto Sordi. 140 min.
- Pane e Cioccolata (Bread and Chocolate). 1974. Franco Brusati. With Nino Manfredi. 104 min.
- C' Eravamo Tanto Amati (We All Loved Each Other So Much). 1974. Ettore Scola. With Vittorio Gassman, Nino Manfredi, Stefania Sandrelli. 121 min.
- Travolti da un Insolito Destino (Swept Away ...). 1974. Lina Wertmüller. With Mariangelo Melato, Giancarlo Giannini. 114 min.
- Le Farò da Padre. 1974. Alberto Lattuada. With Luigi Proietti, Irene Papas. 99 min.

- Amici Miei (My Friends). 1975. Mario Monicelli. With Ugo Tognazzi. 110 min.
- Profumo di Donna (Scent of a Woman). 1974. Dino Risi. With Vittorio Gassman. 102 min.
- Un Borghese Piccolo Piccolo. 1977. Mario Monicelli. With Alberto Sordi, Shelley Winters. 123 min.
- Bello Onesto Emigrato Australia. 1971. Luigi Zampa. With Alberto Sordi, Claudia Cardinale. 113 min.
- Venga a Prendere il Caffè ... da Noi (Come Have Coffee With Us). 1970. Alberto Lattuada. With Ugo Tognazzi. 101 min.
- Per Grazia Ricevuta (Between Miracles). 1971. Nino Manfredi. With Nino Manfredi. 119 min.
- Dramma della Gelosia (Drama of Jealousy/Pizza Triangle). 1970. Ettore Scola. With Marcello Mastroianni, Monica Vitti, Giancarlo Giannini. 114 min.
- L'Udienza. 1972. Marco Ferreri. With Vittorio Gassman, Ugo Tognazzi, Claudia Cardinale. 111 min.
- Alfredo Alfredo. 1974. Pietro Germi. With Dustin Hoffman, Stefania Sandrelli. 79 min.
- Mordi e Fuggi. 1973 Dino Risi. 100 min.
- Brancaleone alle Crociate. 1976. Mario Monicello. With Vittorio Gassman, Stefania Sandrelli. 135 min.
- Romanzo Popolare. 1974. Mario Monicelli. With Ugo Tognazzi, Ornella Muti. 101 min.
- Film d'Amore e d'Anarchia (Love and Anarchy). 1971. Lina Wertmüller. With Mariangelo Melato, Giancarlo Giannini. 126 min.
- Senza Famiglia, Nullateneni, Cercano Affetto. 1972. Vittorio Gassman. With Vittorio Gassman. 102 min.
- I Complessi. 1965. Dino Risi/Luigi Filippo D'Amico. With Alberto Sordi, Ugo Tognazzi. (2 episodes). Controsesso. 1964. Marco Ferreri. (1 episode).
- Il Federale (The Fascist). 1961. Luciano Salce. With Ugo Tognazzi. 102 min.
- L'Armata Brancaleone. 1966. Mario Monicelli. With Vittorio Gassman. 130 min.
- L'Ingorgo (Traffic Jam). 1979. Luigi Comencini. With Alberto Sordi, Ugo Tognazzi, Stefania Sardelli. 116 min.
- La Terrazza. 1979. Ettore Scola. With Vittorio Gassman, Marcello Mastroianni, Stefania Sardelli, Ugo Tognazzi, Jean-Louis Trintignant. 170 min.