

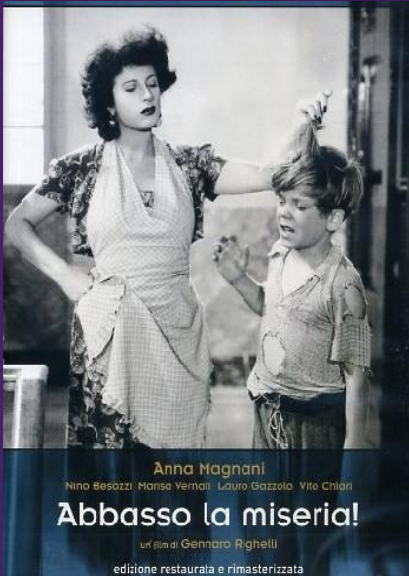


**Italian Masterpieces**

Availabilities for Russia

## Abbasso la miseria (Down with Misery)

AWARDS:



**Year:** 1945

**Director:** Gennaro Righelli

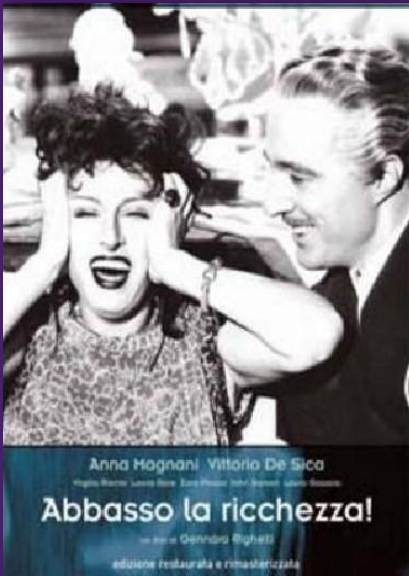
**Actors:** Anna Magnani, Nino Besozzi, Lauro Gazzolo

**Color:** B/W

The war is over. Two friends, truck drivers, try their luck at black-marketing. The first, "mister cool" makes his hits, while the other proves too soft-hearted; so much so that he takes home to his reluctant, but eventually compassionate wife (convincingly performed by Anna Magnani), a young orphaned boy. The story plays itself out happily, with the simple honesty worthy of early Italian neorealism. 90min. IT Awarded by Nastro Argento.

## Abbasso la ricchezza (Peddlin' in Society)

AWARDS:



**Year:** 1946

**Director:** Gennaro Righelli

**Actors:** Anna Magnani, Vittorio De Sica, Virgilio Riento, Laura Gore

**Color:** B/W

An enterprising woman goes from fruit vending to black-market trading, only to be duped by a slick con man. A highly caricaturized piece, with fast quips, tears, happy times and singing of old hit tunes. The lady goes from rags to riches (easy money) and then back to the "faithful comforts" of her friendly fruits and vegetables. 93min. IT Awarded by two Nastro Argento.

## Adamo ed Eva (Adam and Eve)



AWARDS:



**Year:** 1949

**Director:** Mario Mattoli

**Actors:** Macario, Isa Barzizza, Gianni Agus

**Color:** B/W

In this sentimental comedy, a hairdresser, Adamo, is engaged to a manicurist, Eva. Noting a cooling down on his part, she demands an explanation. He admits having been influenced by reading of the disasters women had caused through the ages: Eve, Helen of Troy, Cleopatra, etc., etc. But in the end they decide to face the difficulties of life together. 90 min. IT Awarded with Palme d'Oro at Cannes Film Festival and Nastro Argento.

## Akiko



AWARDS:



**Year:** 1960

**Director:** Luigi Filippo D'Amico

**Actors:** Pierre Brice, Akiko Wakabayashi, Marisa Merlini, Andrea Checchi, Paolo Panelli, Paolo Ferrari Memmo Carotenuto

**Color:** B/W

Ottavia's husband left 18 years ago for Japan. Hasn't been heard from since. Then Akiko, a Japanese sweetheart, arrives resenting a letter of introduction: she's the dying husband's illegitimate child. The outcome is a family and neighborhood soap opera with all the trimmings. Ottavia has meanwhile softened, coming to Akiko's aid, and vice versa when the sweet girl pulls out her Asiatic martial arts training, downing the local bullies. Both women triumph, marrying the right suitors. 99 min. IT Was awarded with Nastro Argento and nominated for Oscar as Best foreign film.

## Albergo Luna, camera 34 (Hotel Luna, Room 34)



**Year:** 1946

**Director:** Carlo Ludovico Bragaglia

**Actors:** Chiaretta Gelli, Carlo Campanini, Andrea Checchi, Roberto Villa

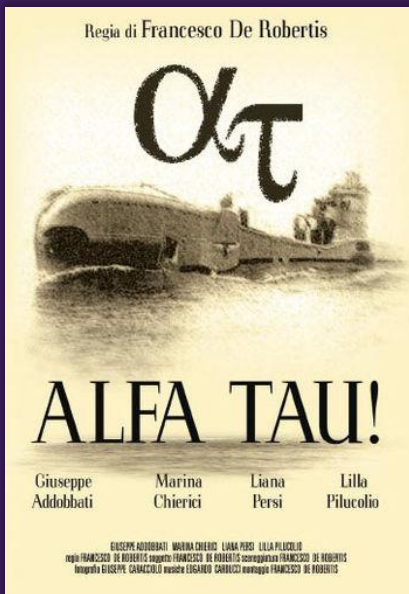
**Color:** B/W

**AWARDS:**



Their house bombed, a young singing teacher and her dying mother take refuge in a makeshift camp. Penniless, the woman looks for work, but runs into a young man who ends up seducing her (in the Hotel Luna), but whom she, in turn, robs before running off. Once back at the camp she finds her mother has died. A friendly, young composer offers her work singing. She begins making headway, when suddenly she's accused of murdering her ex-lover-seducer. A classic melodrama, popular in the late 40s, using war-torn Italy as a background. 85 min. IT Oscar for the best script, Palme d'Oro at Cannes Film Festival and 3 Nastri d'Argento.

## Alfa Tau



**Year:** 1942

**Director:** Francesco De Robertis

**Actors:** Nonprofessional actors

**Color:** B/W

**AWARDS:**



A documentary, sponsored by the Italian Navy, based on a mission of the submarine 'Enrico Toti' during the second World War. The plot initially centers on the tensions of several crew members before they return to action. Once back, the 'Enrico Toti' is engaged in hide-and-seek strategy with enemy subs and subjected to antisubmarine bombings. Later, trapped, in a highly dramatic sequence, Captain and crew are sacrificed as they ram and sink a hostile submarine. The film was shown at the Venice Film Festival (1942). 80 min. IT International Film Chamber Award at Venice Film Festival, Nastro d'Argento.

## Amanti senza amore (Unloving Lovers)



**Year:** 1947

**Director:** Gianni Franciolini

**Actors:** Clara Calamai, Roldano Lupi, Jean Servais

**Color:** B/W

**AWARDS:**



Piero and Nora marry, but soon find that sex is their only common denominator. Not even the birth of a daughter helps their tormented relationship. When a violinist friend of Piero's shows an interest in Nora, the husband's unsuspected jealousy suddenly comes to fore, further eroding their marriage. One day, discovering the Violinist secretly visiting his wife, Piero is driven mad and spews his raging possessiveness by eventually killing Nora and himself. The film is a dramatic reworking of Tolstoy's "Kreutzer Sonata". IT Awarded with David Donatello.

## Un Americano in vacanza (A Yank in Rome)



**Year:** 1945

**Director:** Luigi Zampa

**Actors:** Valentina Cortese, Andrea Checchi, Paolo Stoppa

**Color:** B/W

**AWARDS:**



Italy during the occupation of Allied Forces at the end of World War II. The encounter of an Italian girl and a GI on leave. The setting is Rome: rampant poverty; girls hawking from doorways. Much of the story unfolds with juxtapositioning the tenderness of the two against the decadence and shambles that surrounds them. Off-color banter and despondent situations are well balanced, and tastefully complemented by the music of Nino Rota. 99min. IT Silver Lion at Venice Film Festival, Grolla D'oro for the best film, 2 Nastri d'Argento.

## Amo un assassino (In Love with an Assassin)



**Year:** 1951

**Director:** Baccio Bandini

**Actors:** Umberto Spadaro, Delia Scala, Marco Vicario

**Color:** B/W

**AWARDS:**



Police Commissioner, Pietrangeli, by sheer chance finds himself investigating the death of a young woman killed in his own condominium. When he arrests Aldo, the dead woman's separated husband, the Commissioner's own daughter confesses that she loves the man and that he was with her at the moment of the crime. Circumstantial evidence presses Pietrangeli to declare his daughter as the main suspect, but the truth unravels and triumphs in the end. 90 min. IT Oscar for the best foreign film, Special jury award at Venice Film Festival, David di Donatello.

## Amori miei (My Loves)



**Year:** 1978

**Director:** Steno (Stefano Vanzina)

**Actors:** Monica Vitti, Johnny Dorelli, Enrico Maria Salerno, Edwige Fenech

**Color:** COL.

**AWARDS:**



Neglected by her journalist husband, Annalisa resorts to a double life: having returned to her university studies, she meets and bigamously marries her psychology professor. This leads a sparkling Monica Vitti through a series of comical situations as she juggles her two marriages... until the day she finds herself pregnant! She arranges a meeting between the two men who become friends. When they are finally confronted with her condition, the three decide to maintain the status quo. She will, of course, deliver twins. An Italian box office hit, the film has an element of funky feminist freshness. 100 min. IT Awarded with David di Donatello.



## Andrea Chenier

### AWARDS:



**Year:** 1955

**Director:** Clemente Fracassi

**Actors:** Antonella Lualdi, Raf Vallone, Michel Auclair, Antonio Pierfederici

**Color:** COL.

The rendering of Giordano's opera Andrea Chenier in a lavish cinema showcase: two rivals in love, Andrea and Gerard, find themselves on opposite sides during the French Revolution. Gerard has his opponent brought before the Revolutionary Committee where he is condemned. The characters are played by professional actors (mouthing the arias). The opera is masterfully conducted by Franco Ferrara. 110 min. IT/FR Two David di Donatello, Grolla d'Oro and two Nastri d'Argento.



## Anna

### AWARDS:



**Year:** 1952

**Director:** Alberto Lattuada

**Actors:** Silvana Mangano, Vittorio Gassman, Raf Vallone

**Color:** B/W

In a hospital, a young nun (Anna), while nursing a severe casualty patient, recognizes the young man she was to marry. While he undergoes surgery, her thoughts flashback to when she was a nightclub dancer, and bartender Walter's lover: a cynical, callused individual, the exact opposite of Andrea (now battling between life and death). Coming out of her "reverie", Anna is caught between the reawakening of her love and her religious vows. Andrea begs her to marry him. She's about to give in when a disastrous rail accident fills the hospital with wounded passengers. Her duty prevails, and, however suffering, she give up the dreams of her past. 108 min. IT Awarded with Nastro d'Argento.



## L' Antimiracolo (Unmiraculous)

**Year:** 1965

**Director:** Elio Piccon

**Actors:** Nonprofessional actors

**Color:** B/W

### AWARDS:



This documentary reconstructs scenes from the lives of the inhabitants of a small Italian village, showing us the atavistic customs and impoverished life style of the community. Director Piccon neither condemns the existing order, nor offers solutions. His is a simple and loving statement of fact, but not without ironic moments. Winner of the "Targa Leone di San Marco" at the XXVI Venice Film Festival. 87 min. IT Also awarded with Silver Bear at Berlin Film Festival, Grolla d'Oro for the best film and 3 Nastri d'Argento.



## Argine L' Moorings

**Year:** 1938

**Director:** Corrado D'Errico

**Actors:** Luisa Ferida, Gino Cervi, Guglielmo Sinaz, Rubi Dalma

**Color:** B/W

### AWARDS:



Following an automobile accident, a beautiful woman takes refuge for the night in the boathouse of a Po River ferryman. He is so taken up by her wiles that he leaves his common-law wife, her child and mother to search for his "true love" in Rome, only to discover that hers was but a momentary whim. Coming to his senses, he will return to the sure "moorings" of his background. The film successfully recreates the stolid Po Valley atmosphere and the candid sentiments of its protagonist. 85 min. IT Palme d'Oro at Cannes Film Festival, 2 David di Donatello and 4 Nastri d'Argento.





## Attila

### AWARDS:



**Year:** 1954

**Director:** Pietro Francisci

**Actors:** Sophia Loren, Anthony Quinn, Irene Papas, Henry Vidal, Colette Regis

**Color:** COL.

This colossal, historic film tells of the deeds of Attila and his Huns as they swooped through northern Europe, cutting down whomever dared oppose them. Only the proverbial mettle of Pope Leo I will convince Attila to quit his devastating plunder of the Italian peninsula. Sophia Loren and Irene Papas complement an imposing Anthony Quinn in this film made when Rome was forcing Hollywood to take notice. 100 min. IT Awarded with Grolla d'Oro.



## La Ballerina e il Buon Dio (The Ballerina and the Boy)

### AWARDS:



**Year:** 1958

**Director:** Antonio Leonviola

**Actors:** Vittorio De Sica, Vera Cecova, Marietto, Gabriele Ferzetti

**Color:** B/W

A six year-old orphan, Marietto, searches for a ballerina (Camilla) whose poster he idolizes. He finally sees her rehearsing in a theatre, and follows her home. The young girl reluctantly takes him in, only to abandon him later. He tags after two itinerant acrobats. Later, Camilla has a change of heart and goes looking for the boy. She catches sight of him walking perilously on a tightrope. Marietto keeps his balance, and is embraced by all. However sentimental, the story has a certain grace, with the added boon of Vittorio De Sica in several cameo roles. 102 min. IT Oscar nomination for the best foreign film, 2 Nastri d'Argento.

## Bambini ci guardano (Children Watch Us)



AWARDS:



**Year:** 1943

**Director:** Vittorio De Sica

**Actors:** Luciano De Ambrosis, Isa Pola, Emilio Cigoli, Adriano Rimoldi

**Color:** B/W

A wife runs off with a lover, abandoning her faithful husband and Pric, a sensitive child. The husband takes her back, only to be abandoned again. The second desertion is too much for his poor heart. He commits suicide. The child is an inescapable witness, exposed so early to the evils of life. Based on the novel "Pric" by Cesare Giulio Viola, the film, a cornerstone of Italian neorealism, marks the first collaboration between scriptwriter Cesare Zavattini and director Vittorio De Sica. 90 min. IT Awarded with 3 Nastri d'Argento.

## Il Bandito (The Bandit)



**Year:** 1946

**Director:** Alberto Lattuada

**Actors:** Amedeo Nazzari, Anna Magnani, Carlo Campanini

**Color:** B/W

Returning home, an Italian prisoner of war learns that his mother died in the bombing of their house. Only a sister survived. After much searching, he finds her in a brothel with a man. They quarrel, they fight, and the man dies in the fray. The brother takes refuge in the house of a woman who involves him with a gang of thieves. The police finally corner him and, in the attempt to shield a little girl, he is shot. This realistic drama, featuring a forceful Anna Magnani, reveals shades of Howard Hawks. 87 min. IT

## La Bella di Roma (Rome's Little Darling)



**Year:** 1956

**Director:** Luigi Comencini

**Actors:** Silvana Pampanini, Alberto Sordi, Paolo Stoppa, Sergio Tofano

**Color:** B/W

Lovely Nannina (Silvana Pampanini, the beauty of the title) is wooed by three men: Mario, a boxer, her first choice, who ends up in jail; Oreste, a widower and owner of a bar; and Gracco, an upholsterer, the local ladies' man (an engaging Alberto Sordi). Gracco is on the verge of winning her favors when circumstances deter him just in time for Mario the boxer to reappear and win her hand. A showcase for some of Italy's finest actor-comedians with a spirited musical score by Nina Rota. 99 min. IT

## Bionda fragola (Strawberry Blond)



**Year:** 1980

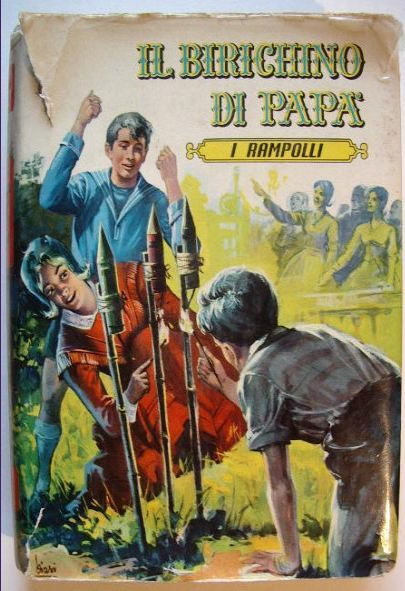
**Director:** Mino Bellei

**Actors:** Mino Bellei, Umberto Orsini, Renato Scarpa

**Color:** COL.

This story of a gay couple (Domenico and Antonio), the screen adaptation of a successful stage play, centers around the conflict that arises when Antonio disrupts their well-ordered lives by bringing home a young male model, creating a "m,nage a trois". The interloper will eventually settle in with his girlfriend (with a little help from Domenico) and domestic harmony will again bless the gay couple. The situations are treated with some levity, but without needless condescension and without the total dementia of a "La Cage aux Folles". 95 min. IT

## Il Birichino di papà... (Daddy's Little Devil)



**Year:** 1942

**Director:** Raffaello Matarazzo

**Actors:** Armando Falconi, Chiaretta Gelli, Paola Borboni

**Color:** B/W

Nicoletta, a spoiled, impulsive teenager, is sent off to a strict boarding school by her usually overindulgent father. But even there she manages to disrupt the disciplined atmosphere of the school. She has reason to believe that her brother-in-law is cheating on her sister, and the two come up with a plan that can only lead to disaster... but all works out for the best. The bubbly quality of the lead, and the boarding-school atmosphere, make this a madcap, fun-filled caper. 80 min. IT

## Il Bravo di Venezia (The Secret Executioner)



**Year:** 1941

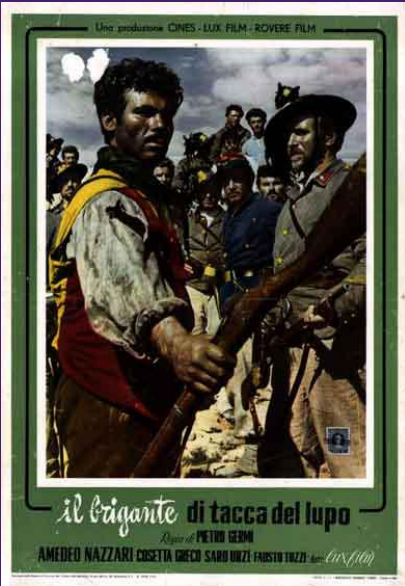
**Director:** Carlo Campogalliani

**Actors:** Rossano Brazzi, Valentina Cortese, Emilio Cigoli

**Color:** B/W

This period film, skillfully shot, represents a fine example in its genre. The drama centers around a nobleman, turned bandit, who evades the death penalty by agreeing to become a secret executioner for the Council of Ten... until he is told to execute his own son. He sacrifices his life to save the young man (who is later, proved innocent), thus being free to marry his betrothed. The leads: Rossano Brazzi and Valentina Cortese convincingly portray the romantic lovers. 85 min. IT

## Il Brigante di Tacca del Lupo (The Brigand)



**Year:** 1952

**Director:** Pietro Germi

**Actors:** Amedeo Nazzari, Cosetta Gioi, Saro Urzi

**Color:** B/W

Italy, 1870, shortly after the country's unification: a Captain ordered to capture the brigand, Raffa Raffa, meets with the objection of the local Chief of Police. The Captain advocates energetic action, while the later prefers waiting for a more propitious moment. A platoon is sent out in search of Raffa Raffa, but at the cost of many lives. The mission will be accomplished thanks to the help of a young woman (formerly "dishonored" by the Brigand) who will help the Captain to uncover Raffa's stronghold. The film, masterfully directed by Pietro Germi (scripted together with Federico Fellini) confronts the timeless dilemma of individual conscience and State law. 97 min. IT

## Caccia tragica (Tragic Manhunt)



**Year:** 1947

**Director:** Giuseppe De Santis

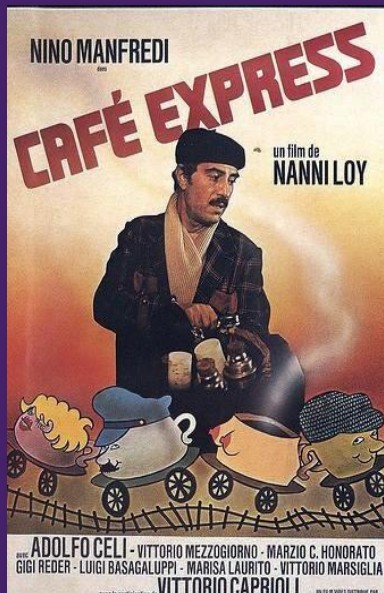
**Actors:** Massimo Girotti, Andrea Cecchi, Vivi Gioi, Carla Del Poggio

**Color:** B/W

The Po River Valley, 1945: the robbery of pay envelopes and murder by an unemployed war veteran and his mistress, plus the kidnapping of a hostage, Daniela (Vivi Gioi), incurs the wrath of the local factory workers. When the workers finally corner the outlaws, they single out the murderer, but only pelt him with mud, a form of symbolic punishment, of dying many times over. This highly factional film won the "Nastro D'Argento" (Italy's Oscar equivalent) for best director and best actress. It also won recognition at the VIII Venice Film Festival. Michelangelo Antonioni and Cesare Zavattini were co-writers 80 min. IT

**AWARDS:**





## Cafè express

**Year:** 1980

**Director:** Nanni Loy

**Actors:** Nino Manfredi, Adolfo Celi, Vittorio Mezzogiorno, Vittorio Caprioli

**Color:** COL.

**AWARDS:**



Nino Manfredi, one of Italy's finest comedians, evokes both laughter and tears. He's Michele Abbagnano, a poor devil eking out a living selling coffee (without a license) on the same train (Naples-Rome-Naples) every night... until he's found out. He's saved by the wiles of his clever young son and the grateful passengers he's faithfully served through the years. Humorous and profound, this bittersweet tale (a'la "Bread and Chocolate") presents us with a working-class hero doing the best he can in the worst of circumstances. 100 min. IT Awarded with Grolla d'Oro and 2 Nastri d'Argento.



## Camilla

**Year:** 1954

**Director:** Luciano Emmer

**Actors:** Gabriele Ferzetti, Franco Fabrizi, Gina Busin

**Color:** B/W

The film is told simply and effectively through the eyes of Camilla, a middle-aged country woman hired by a doctor to look after his children. The family barely gets by on the man's modest, general practitioner earnings. He tries other business schemes only to fall back on his one-and-only calling: Medicine. The film is certainly dated, but the script co-authored by Luciano Emmer, Ennio Flaiano and Rodolfo Sonego stands the test of time. 108 min. IT

## Il Cammino della speranza (The Path of Hope)



**Year:** 1950

**Director:** Pietro Germi

**Actors:** Raf Vallone, Elena Varzi, Saro Urzì, Saro Arcideacano, Liliana Lattanzi

**Color:** B/W

A Sicilian sulfur mine, the only source of income for the townspeople, is closed down. Destitute, the younger miners finally decide to immigrate to France. Their plight is laden with obstacles, not the least of which their lack of documents. The guide they chose to lead them bleeds them of their savings and personal conflicts arise as a result. Even the weather proves harsh. But, when they're ready to give up, the French Customs' Police take pity and let them pass the border. Director, Pietro Germi paints a grandiose sociopolitical fresco, in an atmosphere of highly tense adventure. Fellini co-scripted the screenplay. Winner of best film award Berlin Film Festival (1951), and special mention at the VI Festival of Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad, 1951). 101 min. IT

**AWARDS:**



**Year:** 1949

**Director:** Luigi Zampa

**Actors:** Gina Lollobrigida, Eduardo de Filippo, Yvonne Sanson

**Color:** B/W

Augustina (lovely Gina Lollobrigida) sends her earning as a prostitute to her hometown parish priest for safekeeping. But when she returns to start life anew she finds another priest (Don Andrea) who, quite innocently, spent her money to fund an orphanage. Realizing the error, enterprising Don Andrea rings the church bells, gathers his parishioners and openly shames the mayor into compensating Augustina for her "hard earned" money. A lighthearted, frothy piece, with Lollo's beauty, and a winning performance by Eduardo de Filippo as the Don Andrea. IT

## Campane a martello (Children of Change)

## Capitan Tempesta (Captain Tempest)



**Year:** 1942

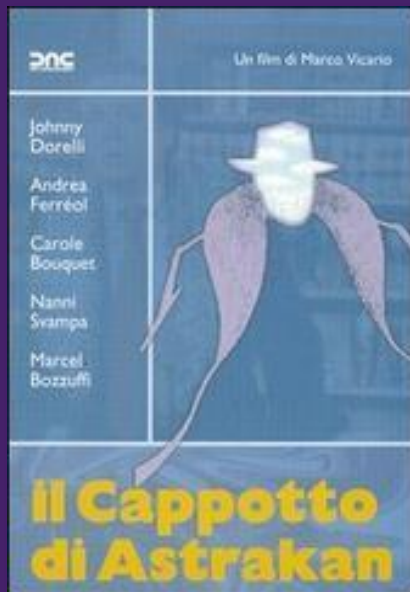
**Director:** Corrado D'Errico, Umberto Scarpelli

**Actors:** Carla Candiani, Doris Duranti, Carlo Necchi, Arriano Rimoldi

**Color:** B/W

Eleonora, lovely daughter of the Governor of Famagusta, is the "swashbuckling Captain" of this adventure. Donned in man's robes, she fights the Turks (with the help of the "Lion of Damascus", a converted Christian) and frees her fiancée Marcello, who had been taken prisoner (thus saving him from the advances of the cruel and beautiful Haradya). Rich scenes, believable stunts: a classic historical drama. 85 min. IT

## Il Cappotto di astrakan (The Persian Lamb Coat)



**Year:** 1979

**Director:** Marco Vicario

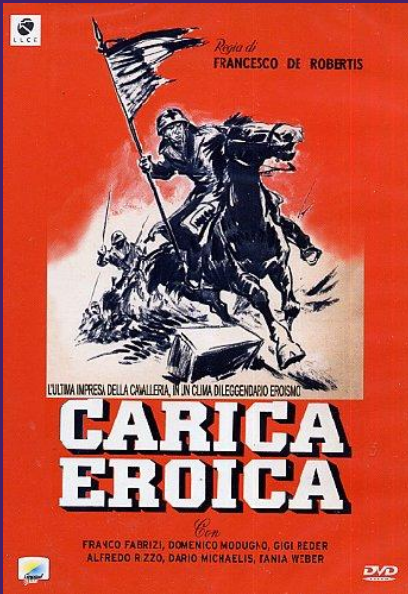
**Actors:** Johnny Dorelli, Carole Bouquet, Andrea Ferreol, Paolo Bonacelli

**Color:** COL.

Piero (Johnny Dorelli), small-town lady's man, wins a trip to Paris. Owing to a striking resemblance to Maurice, a thief currently in prison, he is sought after by both Marie and Valentine (respectively Maurice's wife and mistress). He also unwittingly arouses the suspicion of the local Police Commissioner. The plot thickens when Piero dons Maurice's Persian lamb coat, and when he's caught making love to the man's wife. Wondering why he ever left home, Piero returns to his drab existence. Then, one day, Valentine shows up! Madcap humor is the order of the day, laced with double entendres and mistaken identities. An adult comedy carried off with a welcome touch of elegance. 105 min. IT



## Carica eroica ( Heroic Charge)



**Year:** 1952

**Director:** Francesco De Robertis

**Actors:** Tania Weber, Franco Fabrizi, Domenico Modugno, Dario Michealis

**Color:** B/W

During World War II, an Italian cavalry regiment sent to Russia establishes friendly relations with the returning peasants of a small village. But, one day, they are ordered to the front lines. There, the Germans, skeptical of their ability, will see these brave cavalymen charge, wave upon wave, falling to the Russians, but breaking through their ranks. The last, but glorious stand for our heroes. The film captures the humanity and valor of the courageous regiment. IT

## Carmen



**Year:** 1942

**Director:** Christian-Jaque

**Actors:** Viviane Romance, Jean Marais, Adriano Rimoldi

**Color:** B/W

The Brigadier, Don Joss, falls in love with Carmen, who causes him to become involved with a band of smugglers. Then, later, when Carmen betrays him with bullfighter Escamillo, the man, blinded by jealousy, kills the object of his love. The beauty of Bizet's music and Merimee's passionate story make this film a delight to ear and eye, despite limited technical facilities. 124 min. FR/IT

## Carosello napoletano (Neapolitan Carousel)



**Year:** 1954

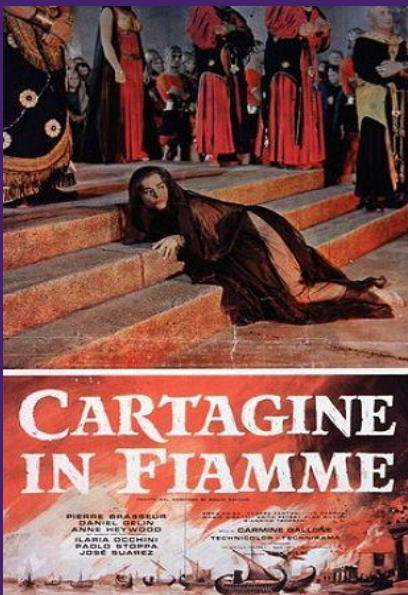
**Director:** Ettore Giannini

**Actors:** Sophia Loren, Paolo Stoppa, and a star-studded cast of 50 actors

**Color:** COL.

A street singer and his family work the byways of Naples. A burst of wind scatters their sheet music. We follow their flight to the sounds of engaging Neapolitan songs and the scenes they describe, of love, violence, war, strife, hope and despair. A bittersweet portrait of Naples and the perseverance of a typical Neapolitan family, presented with taste and lighthearted ease, leaves us tearing, laughing and singing. IT

## Cartagine in fiamme (Carthage in Flames)



**Year:** 1959

**Director:** Carmine Gallone

**Actors:** Anne Heywood, Pierre Brasseur, Daniel Gelin, Paolo Stoppa, Ilaria Occhini

**Color:** COL.

The Punic War: Hiram, an exiled officer of the Carthaginian army, makes his way back into the city to save Salva Fulvia, a Roman woman who had earlier come to his aid. He is, however, taken prisoner, and it is she, Salva once again who will sacrifice herself for him. An action-film centered around a moving love story. This colossal a'la De Mille is among the most successful in Italian cinema history. IT

## Il Cavaliere misterioso (The Mysterious Cavalier)



**Year:** 1948

**Director:** Riccardo Freda

**Actors:** Vittorio Gassman, Maria Mercader, Yvonne Sanson, Gianna Maria Canale

**Color:** B/W

A compromising letter written by the Doge's wife is about to fall into the hands of Catherine the Great. Should this happen the Doge will be forced to cede Venetian possessions to the Russian Empress. The Cavalier in question is none other than Casanova, who secretly returns to his native Venice to save his brother (the Doge's secretary), unjustly accused of stealing the jeopardizing missive. This seemingly lighthearted film, with touches of irony and adventure, is pleasantly carried along by an ebullient, young Vittorio Gassman. IT

## I Cavalieri della regina (The Queen's Musketeers)



**Year:** 1954

**Director:** Mauro Bolognini

**Actors:** Jeff Stone, Paul Campbell, Sebastian Cabot, Domenico Modugno, Marina Berti

**Color:** COL.

Not without liberties (a guitar strumming Domenico Modugno as Athos, for one) Alexandre Dumas P, re's historical adventure of "The Three Musketeers": Aramis, Athos, and Portos, with D'Artagnan, are sent by the Queen of France to escort the Spanish Infanta to Court, only to find that she's been kidnapped by the evil Prince of Cond,. They will, of course, outwit the Queens enemies, free the Infanta and save the throne for young Louis, the future King. The film has enough pizzaz and swashbuckling to delight and amuse. 80 min. IT

## Cavalleria Rusticana



**Year:** 1939

**Director:** Amleto Palermi

**Actors:** Isa Poli, Doris Duranti, Carlo Ninchi, Leonardo Cortese

**Color:** B/W

The dramatic retelling of Giovanni Verga's tale (not Mascagni's opera), set in a small Sicilian village, is classical tragedy recounted with passionate realism. Returning from the war, Turiddu finds his sweetheart Lola married to Alfio. But the passion between the two has not died and they become lovers. Santuzza, driven by her jealous love for Turiddu, tells Alfio and he kills his rival. The elements are all there: true Sicilian drama! IT

## C'era un castello con 40 cani (A Castle with 40 Dogs)



**Year:** 1990

**Director:** Duccio Tessari

**Actors:** Peter Ustinov, Robert Alpi, Salvatore Cascio, Delphine Forrest

**Color:** COL.

Bob inherits a castle in Tuscany. His wife Giovanna sets up deluxe kennels, catering to the dogs of the local nobility. Things take a bad turn when Bob is faced with having to pay inheritance taxes. Giovanna leaves him when an industrial complex interested in buying the property sets fire to the kennels. Bob is about to give up when old Muggione (Peter Ustinov), a veterinarian, maneuvers to have the castle declared of national interest thanks to its precious frescoes. Bob is consoled by the local school teacher Violetta, while Giovanna remarries. On the whole, a sentimental comedy with its dramatic moments, valid for pleasant family viewing. 98 min. IT

## Chiamate 2222 - Tenente Sheridan (Call 2222 - Lt. Sheridan)



**Year:** 1960

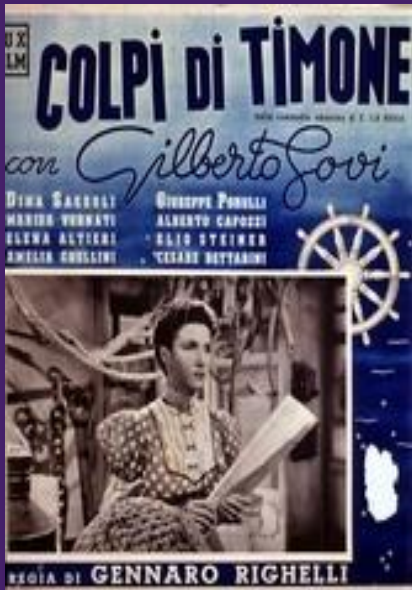
**Director:** Giorgio Bianchi

**Actors:** Ubaldo Lay, Nadine Duca, Umberto Orsini, Tilde Damiani

**Color:** B/W

Due to new evidence, Katy Ferguson, about to be executed for killing a child, will be granted a 48 hour stay. Lt. Sheridan is assigned to the case. Katy's husband commits suicide leaving a note assuming responsibility for the crime, but Sheridan is skeptical about both the suicide and the confession. A series of dramatic events allows the Lieutenant to nail the guilty party just in time to save Katy. The direction holds and the acting is convincing. 95 min. IT

## Colpi di timone (Taking the Helm)



**Year:** 1942

**Director:** Gennaro Righelli

**Actors:** Gilberto Govi, Dina Sassoli, Elena Altieri, Elio Steiner

**Color:** B/W

An old salt finds himself mistakenly diagnosed as having an incurable illness. He decides to live his last days facing friend or foe with absolute honesty. His frankness causes him to be challenged to a duel. But as he's about to face his enemy he finds out that someone else's x-rays have been exchanged for his. A friend helps prevent the duel and the old salt resumes his carefree existence, but without the falsity that previously plagued it. In Govi's debut as a movie actor (his fame previously based on his theatrical comedies), we have a spirited cautionary tale. 95 min. IT

## Un Colpo di pistola (A Pistol Shot)



**Year:** 1942

**Director:** Renato Castellani

**Actors:** Assia Norris, Antonio Centa, Fosco Giachetti, Renato Cialente

**Color:** B/W

Both Andrea (shy and melancholy) and Sergio (debonair and blissful) fall in love with Mascia. One day Sergio challenges his rival to a duel. Sergio fires and misses, but Andrea, irritated by his opponents obvious nonchalance, refuses to shoot and postpones his turn to some future date. Four years pass. Sergio is engaged to Mascia when Andrea reappears claiming his right to resume the duel, but then realizing the cruelty and rancor behind the action, he doesn't show up. This act of generosity will convince Mascia that Andrea is, indeed, the man she loves. Despite its happy ending, this movie (based on a Puskin short story) has a strong underlying thread of violence and vengeance. The film was shown at the Venice Film Festival (1942). 90 min. IT

## Come persi la guerra (How I Lost the War)



**Year:** 1947

**Director:** Carlo Borghesio

**Actors:** Macario, Vera Carmi, Carlo Ninchi

**Color:** B/W

Macario, (musical comedy comedian) carries this tale of the incredible misadventures of Leo, Italian soldier. He has just been discharged, when he is inducted again to fight in Ethiopia. From there he's sent to Spain, then Russia, then back to Africa, and finally to Italy... only to run into the Germans, until the Americans arrive - always managing to find himself in some hot spot. This comedy with its put-upon middle-class hero has its bittersweet moments as Italians start to laugh at themselves. 90 min. IT

## Come scopersi l'America (How I Discovered America)



**Year:** 1949

**Director:** Carlo Borghesio

**Actors:** Macario, Carlo Ninchi, Delia Scala, Folco Lulli

**Color:** B/W

Once again Macario in his favorite role: the hungry, unemployed, put-upon loser. He couples up with his opposite: a lady-killer con man. After several mishaps, the two decide to skip to South America: Macario as a clandestine passenger, while his buddy travels first-class, all-expenses-paid by a rich dowager. On his arrival, Macario won't find life any easier. Eventually, the two come to the conclusion that Italy wasn't that bad after all. Macario, the classic clown, makes you laugh while pulling at your heartstrings. 89 min. IT

## I Compagni (The Organizer)



**Year:** 1963

**Director:** Mario Monicelli

**Actors:** Marcello Mastroianni, Folco Lulli, Renato Salvatori, Annie Girardot, Bernard Blier

**Color:** B/W

Turin, early 1900s: factory workers are at odds with their bosses. A union organizer is sent from Rome to rally the workers. When a strike is called it ends in bloodshed, but the workers have learned to stand up for their rights. Marcello Mastroianni gives a brilliant low-keyed performance as the socialist intellectual organizer. Winner of the Acapulco Film Festival, Folco Lulli was awarded the "Nastro d'Argento" for best supporting actor, while both subject and screenplay were nominated for Oscars (Mario Monicelli, Scarpelli). 130 min. IT

**AWARDS:**



## La compagnia della teppa (The Rabble-Rousers)



**Year:** 1941

**Director:** Corrado D'Enrico

**Actors:** Maria Denis, Adriano Rimoldi, Corrado Racca, Clelia Metania

**Color:** B/W

Milan is under Napoleonic rule when a band of young aristocrats form a secret sect named "The Rabble-Rousers". They carry out pranks, innocent and otherwise, at the expense of their oppressors. The head conspirator, with his singer girlfriend take charge in a particularly daring foray. During the uprising, as the police begin getting the upperhand, the city's leading citizen (the Gonfaloniere) comes to their aid. This mixture of history and fiction reconstructs the atmosphere of aristocratic and popular discontent with the French domination of Milan in the early 1800s. 70 min. IT

## La Corona di ferro (The Iron Crown)



**Year:** 1941

**Director:** Alessandro Blasetti

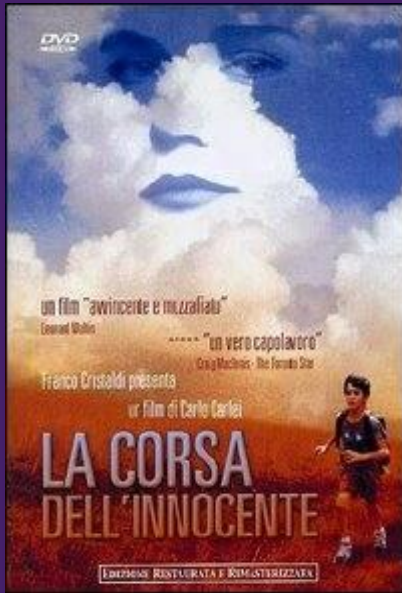
**Actors:** Gino Cervi, Massimo Girotti, Luisa Ferida

**Color:** B/W

Sedemondo kills his brother and becomes the King of Kindaor. To consolidate his power, he throws his brother's child, Arminio, to the lions. But the child is protected rather than killed by the beasts. He grows into a strong, valiant youth. Arminio defeats all of Kindaor's warriors in a tournament, thus winning the hand of Elsa, Sedemondo's daughter. He later becomes King. Peace reigns in the land and the Crown of Iron now sits on the rightful head. Director Blasetti puts together a film a'la Macbeth using the alchemy of passion and adventure. 106 min. IT



## La Corsa dell'innocente (The Flight of Innocence)



**Year:** 1992

**Director:** Carlo Carlei

**Actors:** Jacques Perrin, Francesca Neri

**Color:** COL.

A man kills two shepherds, goes home and calmly sits down to dinner. His twelve year old son, Vito, is aware of what happened. The following day his whole family is murdered in turn. Once again, Vito spies the horror. His only surviving family is a brother, shepherding in the hills. There he discovers that his family had kidnapped and killed a boy his own age, Simone. This account of brutality and violence inherent in backward economies may be overdrawn, but Vito's loss of innocence is a personal tale dramatically told. 100 min. IT

## Cristo si è fermato ad Eboli (Christ Stopped at Eboli)



**Year:** 1979

**Director:** Francesco Rosi

**Actors:** Gian Maria Volontè, Irene Papas, Alain Cuny, Lea Massari, Paolo Bonacelli

**Color:** COL.

**AWARDS:**



In the late 1930s, the Fascist regime exiles Carlo Levi (doctor, writer, painter) to a southern town just beyond Eboli "from where even Christ shied away". There, Levi slowly makes acquaintances and friends, and is drawn into service as a doctor. He paints several portraits of the locals. It is a slow process of revelation and growth on both sides. The pace director Francesco Rosi sets is low-keyed but very compelling. This may be remembered as his best effort. Volontè's Levi is intelligent and moving, and the supporting cast supreme. 150 min. IT/FR Awarded with 2 David di Donatello.

## Cuori senza frontiere (The White Line)



**Year:** 1950

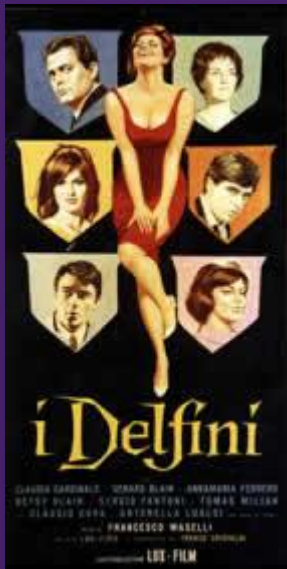
**Director:** Luigi Zampa

**Actors:** Gina Lollobrigida, Raf Vallone, Cesco Besaggio

**Color:** B/W

An international committee decrees that a small village be divided between Italy and Yugoslavia. By midnight the inhabitants must choose citizenship one way or the other. When taking down one of the signposts, a quarrel erupts between the opposing factions, and a child is accidentally killed. United in tragedy, the townspeople find their lost comradeship... but for how long... ?. 90 min. IT

## Delfini (Nouveaux Riches)



**Year:** 1960

**Director:** Francesco Maselli

**Actors:** Claudia Cardinale, Gerard Blain, Betsy Blair, Antonella Lualdi, Tomas Milian

**Color:** B/W

In provincial Italy, a group of youths born into money, form an amoral and basically bored bunch. However, they're envied and sought after. Fedora, coming from a lower middle-class background, marries one of them. When they prove vacuous and cruel, ostracizing one of their own when she loses her wealth, Fedora realizes her mistake and leaves them to their fate. This simple morality play, updated and adult in approach, was screened at the XXI Venice Film Festival (1960). 110 min. IT

## Delitto di Giovanni Episcopo (II) (Flesh Will Surrender)



**Year:** 1947

**Director:** Alberto Lattuada

**Actors:** Aldo Fabrizi, Yvonne Sanson, Roldano Lupi

**Color:** B/W

Lattuada's direction of a Gabriele D'Annunzio novel (Giovanni Episcopo) has been praised for its interpretation of the text, fine acting and realistic sets. Giovanni (Aldo Fabrizi), a modest blue-collar worker, meets Giulio Wanzer, a wheeler dealer, who introduces him to his shady friends. Giovanni falls in love with Wanzer's mistress, Ginevra. When Wanzer is forced to leave Italy, Episcopo marries the woman who bears him a child. He realizes his mistake, but stays with her for the child's sake. But when Wanzer returns, determined to reclaim Ginevra, Episcopo kills the man. The drama and passion are expressed with keen reality. 94 min. IT

## Destinazione Piovarolo (Destination Poivarolo)



**Year:** 1955

**Director:** Domenico Paolella

**Actors:** Totò, Marisa Merlini, Tina Pica, Nino Besozzi, Paolo Stoppa

**Color:** B/W

1922, Antonio Quaglia (played by Toto, one of Italy's finest comedians) comes in last for a job placement as a station-master and is sent to Piovarolo, a godforsaken town where only one train a day passes but without stopping. He hopes for a transfer, but does little to merit one. The years pass. He marries; a daughter is born; the Fascists come to power; the war complicates his life; but nothing has really changed for Antonio. This carousel of history, seen through the eyes of a little man in a little town, is fraught with bitter laughs on social comment. 95 min. IT

## Divorzio all'italiana



**Year:** 1962

**Director:** Pietro Germi

**Actors:** Marcello Mastroianni, Daniela Rocca, Stefania Sandrelli, Leopoldo Trieste

**Color:** B/W

**AWARDS:**



The many prizes given to this film are not a fluke: it is genuinely funny. Italy now allows divorce but it didn't back then. A baron wants to exchange his plain wife for a beautiful young thing. How? By killing his wife for infidelity, thus making it a pardonable "crime of passion". A twist ending adds the frosting on the cake. Oscar winner for best story and screenplay (Ennio de Concini, Pietro Germi, Alfredo Giannetti); nominations for best actor (Mastroianni), best director (Germi). Winner for best comedy at XV Cannes Film Festival. British Academy Awards: best actor (Mastroianni). Golden Globe Awards: best actor (Mastroianni), best foreign film. 101 min. IT

## La donna della montagna (The Lady of the Mountain)



**Year:** 1943

**Director:** Renato Castellani

**Actors:** Amedeo Nazzari, Marina Bertì

**Color:** B/W

Rodolfo is heartbroken over the loss of his fiancée in an Alpine accident. Zosi, a young girl, deeply in love with him, does all she can to console him and win his attention. She's successful, and the two marry. But soon their relationship deteriorates. The man returns to the mountains to re-live the memory of his lost love, only to relapse into total dejection. Zosi follows him, and they slowly start anew. The psychological confrontation of two loves, is nicely accented by the splendid Alpine settings. 93 min. IT

## Donne e briganti (Fra Diavolo)



**Year:** 1950

**Director:** Mario Soldati

**Actors:** Amedeo Nazzari, Maria Mauban, Jean Chevrier

**Color:** B/W

Michele Pezza, takes to the Neapolitan countryside to fight his war against the Napoleonic rulers of Naples. And here we have the legend of Fra Diavolo, Italy's Robin Hood. One night the man is captured. Although wounded, he manages to escape, helped by a young woman (Marietta). At war's end they can marry, but he discovers that she's the natural daughter of the King of Naples. High adventure with a historical background, nicely packaged. 88 min. IT

## Due lettere anonime (Two Anonymous Letters)



**Year:** 1945

**Director:** Mario Camerini

**Actors:** Clara Calamai, Andrea Checchi, Otello Toso, Carlo Ninchi

**Color:** B/W

Rome is under Nazi occupation. A woman working in a printing shop learns from two anonymous letters that her lover is a German collaborator. He's been passing information about members of the Resistance whom she's in contact with, resulting in the death of one of them. She kills the man and is arrested. When Rome is liberated, an old flame of hers ( himself a Resistance fighter) comes to her aid. The film, with its clinical eye for time and place, is both well directed and acted. 90 min. IT

## Due milioni per un sorriso (All for a Smile)



**Year:** 1939

**Director:** Mario Soldati, Carlo Borghesio

**Actors:** Elsa De Giorgi, Enrico Viariso

**Color:** B/W

A successful immigrant returns to Italy with the money he accumulated in America and searches for the woman whose smile he once fell in love with. Prey to unscrupulous con men, he agrees to produce a film around this love story. He hires a young director who resembles him as a youth (both played by Enrico Viariso). The young man falls in love with a secretary while casting the film. The immigrant, moved by their happiness, parts with more of his hard-earned money and returns to America. Acting and directing will pass but the story's a bit fatuous. 75 min. IT

## E' caduta una donna (A Fallen Woman)



**Year:** 1941

**Director:** Alfredo Guarini

**Actors:** Isa Miranda, Rossano Brazzi

**Color:** B/W

A young woman, abandoned by her seducer, moves to the city where she gives birth to a boy. There she meets a young doctor who marries her. All is well until the man begins reproaching her for her past and rejecting the affection of her child. The woman decides to leave the boy with his paternal grandmother, but as she sees him go off, she desperately runs after him, only to be hit by a car. She dies, alone, in a hospital. Typical melodrama of its day: it has all the ingredients. 72 min. IT

## Ecco la felicità... (La comédie du bonheur) (Here Comes Happiness)



**Year:** 1940

**Director:** Marcel L'Herbier

**Actors:** Micheline Presle, Ramon Novarro, Michel Simon

**Color:** B/W

A man is committed to a mental hospital for fear he might give away his riches in acts of generosity. When the "madman" manages to escape, he robs his bank, taking only what is his, distributing it right and left, as feared. He makes many people happy, heirs excluded. When all is over, he meekly returns to the asylum. Philosophical and farcical, this film gives substance to a lighthearted subject.



## L' Elisir d'amore (The Love Potion)

**Year:** 1941

**Director:** Amleto Palermi

**Actors:** Margherita Carosio, Armando Falconi, Roberto Villa, Carlo Romano

**Color:** B/W

The traveling medicine man of Donizetti's opera returns to his old haunts some twenty years later to see if the love potion (his "elisir d'amore") he gave to two lovebirds had its effect. Though the characters have aged, their children are now in the throes of love "agony". His potion shall also soothe their doubts, to the strains of Donizetti's exquisite music. 87 min. IT



## L' Eroe della strada (The Man in the Street)

**Year:** 1948

**Director:** Carlo Borghesio

**Actors:** Macario, Carlo Ninchi, Delia Scala, Vera Carmi

**Color:** B/W

Postwar Italy: a film that raises, notwithstanding its comic vein, problems of individual liberties and larger social questions. Felice Manetti (Erminio Macario) is the man in the street, the little guy, who finds himself accused of theft and is befriended by a ne'er-do-well who gives false testimony. When Felice finds work in a shoe factory, the workers strike, causing our antihero to spend six months in jail. On his release, he buys an old hurdy-gurdy but it only plays Fascist hymns, and the crowd turns on him. But he's once again saved by the ne'er-do-well. Unbeknownst to Felice, the car they ride off in is stolen. The future harbingers no good for our poor, Chaplinesque friend. 86 min. IT



## Eroe sono io (I'm the Hero)

**Year:** 1951

**Director:** Carlo Ludovico Bragaglia

**Actors:** Renato Rascel, Delia Scala, Marisa Merlini

**Color:** B/W

Our "Tom Thumb" hero manages to beguile a would-be actress by palming himself off as the lead actor of a popular photo-stories magazine. When she learns he is just an extra, she falls for the leading man, only to find out the hard way that her short, but kind suitor, is the man for her. Renato Rascel and Delia Scala as the young couple, offer their ever exuberant freshness to liven what is actually an itty-bitty story. 85 min. IT



## Un ettaro di cielo (An Acre of Heaven)



**Year:** 1957

**Director:** Aglaucio Casadio

**Actors:** Marcello Mastroianni, Rosanna Schiaffino

**Color:** B/W

A desolate, Po Valley town holds its annual fair. Traveling salesman, Severino (Marcello Mastroianni), comes to peddle his wares, but ends up selling "an acre of heaven" to the elders of the village. The group decides to hasten the possession of their divine property by going out in a small boat and drowning. Fortunately, their suicide attempt is thwarted. Though the director takes credit for both story and screenplay, he was aided by Tonino Guerra, Elio Petri and Ennio Flaiano. They all helped make this picaresque tale, which hovers deftly between reality and fantasy, without ever losing itself in overwrought symbolisms. 84 min. IT

## Europa 51 (Europe '51)



**Year:** 1952

**Director:** Roberto Rossellini

**Actors:** Ingrid Bergman, Alexander Knox, Ettore Giannini, Giulietta Masina

**Color:** B/W

In this film, having shed much of his neorealist involvement based on large ideological conflicts, Rossellini shifts his emphasis to the spiritual aspects of man by offering us a rather Catholic existentialism. The story tells of the wife of an ambassador (Ingrid Bergman). When her son commits suicide, she dedicates her life to the poor and unfortunate. Later, when she helps a man escape from prison, her husband, to avoid a scandal, wants her committed. The woman makes no attempt to compromise her ideals and is interred for the rest of her life. 110 min. IT

## Fantasmì a Roma (Ghosts of Rome)



**Year:** 1961

**Director:** Antonio Pietrangeli

**Actors:** Marcello Mastroianni, Eduardo De Filippo, Vittorio Gassman, Sandra Milo

**Color:** B/W

The Roviano Palace is about to be sold by the new heir to satisfy his money-hungry mistress. Thus, the four ghosts and the late Prince that inhabit it, are about to be "evicted". The only solution is to have the Roviano Palace classed as a national monument. They invoke a ghost friend, a 15th century artist, to re-paint the whole ceiling fresco, and then call an art expert to validate its authenticity. The expert is about to declare it worthless, but a little palm-greasing at once changes his mind.. Pietrangeli's direction walks deftly between fable and satire while a star-studded cast takes delight in their roles. Giuseppe Rotunno's photography artfully passes from the hues of real life to the halloed pastels of ghostsdom. 100 min. IT

## La Figlia del capitano (The Captain's Daughter)



**Year:** 1947

**Director:** Mario Camerini

**Actors:** Amedeo Nazzari, Irasema Dilian, Vittorio Gassman

**Color:** COL.

**AWARDS:**



On his way to a fort in Siberia, a young officer (Pietro) wraps his coat around a man who's freezing to death. Later, at the fort, Pietro meets Mascia the Captain's daughter. They fall in love. When the fort succumbs to rebel troops, Pietro's life is spared: the rebel leader (Pugaciov) recognizes him as the man who saved his life. Mascia, however, is in the hands of Pietro's rival in love. He saves her, but, in so doing, is declared a traitor. But Mascia convincingly pleads his case to the czar and the man is pardoned. The story, based on a Puskin novel is directed with meticulous care for detail. The spectacle is sure to please. "Nastro d'Argento" for the sets by Piero Filippone. IT

## Il Fornaretto di Venezia (The Baker's Son)



**Year:** 1963

**Director:** Duccio Tessari

**Actors:** Michele Morgan, Enrico Maria Salerno, Sylva Kocina, Jacques Perrin

**Color:** COL.

16th century Venice: the populous cries out for some say in the running of the city. The first victim of this confrontation is a baker's son unjustly accused of murdering a Count. The man's lawyer, a nobleman, eventually admits to having killed the Count, but the Council of Ten prefers condemning an innocent man rather than one of their own. The story, though basically ironic, is told with a fresh and lively elegance, and is blessed with a cast that carries it off. 100 min. IT

## Forza bruta (Brute Force)



**Year:** 1940

**Director:** Carlo Ludovico Bragaglia

**Actors:** Maria Mercader, Rossano Brazzi, Juan De Landa

**Color:** B/W

A pretty circus performer falls in love with the leading acrobat. The girl's rival in love manages to separate the two. Then, one day the acrobat falls. He will never perform again. However, his young love is willing to stay by him in his adversity. The acrobat, played by Juan De Landa, is both muscle and grace while projecting silent suffering as well. The characters are finely drawn and the pace dramatically agile. 80 min. IT

## La Freccia nel fianco (In the Way)



**Year:** 1945

**Director:** Alberto Lattuada

**Actors:** Leonardo Cortese, Mariella Lotti, Roldano Lupi

**Color:** B/W

After a lapse of ten years, Nicoletta and Bruno meet again. She is married; he's a successful concert pianist. Their old love reflowers. Feeling the negative force of that love, Nicoletta's husband leaves her. The two are now free. But the Spartan discipline Bruno needs to execute his concerts, seems to weigh on their relationship. Thus Nicoletta stays behind, lest she be a burden. Having injured her husband and lost her true love, she's brought to the brink of suicide. However melodramatic, director Lattuada reins in the excess with a sure hand. 90 min. IT

## Fuga in Francia (Fleeing to France)



**Year:** 1948

**Director:** Mario Soldati

**Actors:** Folco Lulli, Rosi Mirafiore, Mario Vercellone

**Color:** B/W

An Italian war criminal, Riccardo Torre, escapes from prison, picks up his son Fabrizio and heads for France "and safety". But on route he's recognized by a hotel maid. He kills her. The two take to the mountains, meeting up with three itinerant workers. When one of them recognizes Torre as the fugitive killer from a news photo, the man runs off, leaving his son behind. Later the group comes upon Torre's hideaway. In an attempt to escape, he shoots and accidentally wounds his own son. Young Fabrizio's fate is now in the hands of mere chance. The film's leitmotif is "Flight", be it of fugitives or wandering workers. The tension's high, and the action quickly paced. 95 min. IT

## La Gerla di papà... Martin (Papa Martin's Burden)



**Year:** 1940

**Director:** Mario Bonnard

**Actors:** Ruggero Ruggeri, Germana Paolieri, Roberto Villa

**Color:** B/W

Pap... Martin, a retired longshoreman from the Le Havre docks, scrimped and saved to send his son to the University of Paris. But the boy squanders his time and, finding himself without funds, signs IOUs in his father's name. When Pap... Martin learns of the fraud, he turns to money lenders. The boy, penitent for his behavior, signs on as a sailor. Thanks to his talents, the company hires him in an administrative capacity. Meanwhile the usurer who lent Pap... Martin the money has "conveniently" died. All's well that ends well in this film adaptation of a successful French stage play. 94 min. IT

## Un giorno da leoni (One Act of Courage)



**Year:** 1961

**Director:** Nanni Loy

**Actors:** Renato Salvatori, Tomas Milian, Carla Gravina, Nino Castelnuovo, Leopoldo Trieste

**Color:** B/W

September, 1943: three young men have bonded in an attempt to escape the war. They end up joining a group of deserters turned partisans who are planning to bomb a bridge, thus cutting off a German supply route. The mission is successful, but, in an act of heroism, one of the three dies. These men are anonymous heroes. Though representing different political and social backgrounds, they share this one act of courage. Nanni Loy, in his first major film, gives proof of his directorial talents. 118 min. IT

## Giorno di nozze (Wedding Day)



**Year:** 1942

**Director:** Raffaello Matarazzo

**Actors:** Armando Falconi, Antonio Gandusio, Paola Borboni, Roberto Villa, Anna Vivaldi

**Color:** B/W

A family of modest means sacrifices to send their daughter to an expensive finishing school. When the girl is engaged to the son of a rich businessman, her parents go heavily in debt to set up house for the two. Unforeseen circumstances postpone the wedding for fifteen days, and the parents have all they can do to stave off the creditors. Once the lovebirds are happily married, the girl's parents placidly stand by as the house is stripped of its belongings. The breezy playfulness of the story and innumerable comic moments keep this film afloat. Pleasant viewing for total relaxation. 93 min. IT

## Il Giorno prima (Control)



**Year:** 1987

**Director:** Giuliano Montaldo

**Actors:** Burt Lancaster, Ben Gazzara, Zeudi Araya, Erland Josephson, Ingrid Thulin, Andrea Ferreol, Cyrielle Claire, Andrea Occhipinti

**Color:** COL.

A control group of volunteers spend twenty days in a fallout shelter so that Doctor Monroe (Burt Lancaster) can study their reactions under claustrophobic conditions. The group divides into two camps when they are informed that an actual nuclear missile is headed for the city, and the shelter is assailed by people frantically seeking refuge: with those willing to let them in, and those who oppose. But Doctor Monroe opens the shelter, announcing that there is no nuclear threat... but will their lives ever be the same? Giuliano Montaldo handles this interesting premise with an editing rhythm that makes the tension palpable. 107 min. IT/FR/CAN

## Giovani mariti (Les Jeunes Maris) (Unwitting Grooms)



**Year:** 1958

**Director:** Mauro Bolognini

**Actors:** Antonella Lualdi, Gerard Blain, Sylva Koscina, Franco Interlenghi, Isabel Corey, Anna Maria Guarnieri

**Color:** B/W

Just before his wedding, Franco organizes a last hurrah with his buddies. Little do the young sports know that on this fatal night they are to meet the women they will marry. The setting is Lucca, the people are beautiful and the story's delightful. The relationships unfold tenderly, as director Mauro Bolognini draws the best out of his sparkling cast. Photographer, Armando Nannuzzi won a "Nastro d'Argento" for best black and white film. 95 min. FR/IT

## Gioventù-perduta (Lost Youth)



**Year:** 1947

**Director:** Pietro Germi

**Actors:** Carla Del Poggio, Massimo Girotti, Jacques Sernas

**Color:** B/W

**AWARDS:**



War veteran, Marcello, decides to enroll in the university of Rome while working in the Police Force. There he meets Luisa. Her brother Stefano, a dissolute youth who, to pay gambling debts, organizes a robbery during which a man is killed. Marcello suspects Stefano, but takes a leave of absence so as not to pursue the matter. When Stefano commits another robbery, killing a young woman who could provide evidence, Marcello can no longer close an eye. Pietro Germi's 2nd film is reminiscent of the best John Ford. Jacques Sernas (Stefano) won the "Nastro d'Argento" as the best foreign actor in an Italian film. 86 min. IT

## La Gondola del diavolo (The Devil's Gondola)



**Year:** 1946

**Director:** Carlo Campogalliano

**Actors:** Loredana, Carlo Lombardi, Erminio Spalla

**Color:** B/W

A mystery set in the Venice of the Doges. A series of murders strikes fear in the hearts' of the people. At each crime a mysterious gondola glides by the scene... the Devil's gondola! When a gondolier suddenly shows inexplicable signs of wealth, he becomes the first suspect. Later his daughter's fianc, is thrown in prison accused of the crimes. The youth escapes and finally uncovers the real assassin - none other than the Doge's Chancellor. The formula is a classic, the period and place add that extra touch. IT

## La Grande Aurora (The Grand Awakening)



**Year:** 1946

**Director:** Giuseppe M. Scotese

**Actors:** Rossano Brazzi, Renee Faure, Giovanni Grasso

**Color:** B/W

Renzo Gamba (Rossano Brazzi) an unsuccessful composer, abandons his wife and young child to seek his fortunes in Paris. His wife is forced to return to her father's house when the boy takes seriously ill, The Grandfather refuses to help the boy develop his exceptional musical talents. The wife, having forgiven her husband, finds him destitute in Paris and brings him back to Rome in time to see his nine year old son conduct one of his symphonies. The film is conventional in its story line, but is directed with care. There is the added curiosity of an honest-to-goodness nine year-old conductor. IT



## Il Grido della terra (The Bitter Earth)

**Year:** 1948

**Director:** Duilio Coletti

**Actors:** Marina Berti, Andrea Cecchi, Luigi Tosi

**Color:** B/W

Freed by the Allies, Professor Taumen and his future daughter-in-law, Dina, make their way to Palestine. His son, David, is struggling to avert England's stand against a nascent Israel. He joins his father and Dina in a kibbutz. Once there, he decides to attack an English outpost, but is captured and executed. Though the story is valid, the director was hard put explaining that blurred moment of history. What took place behind the formation of the Israeli state seems much more pertinent today. 90 min. IT



## Ho fatto splash (I Made a Splash!)

**Year:** 1980

**Director:** Maurizio Nichetti

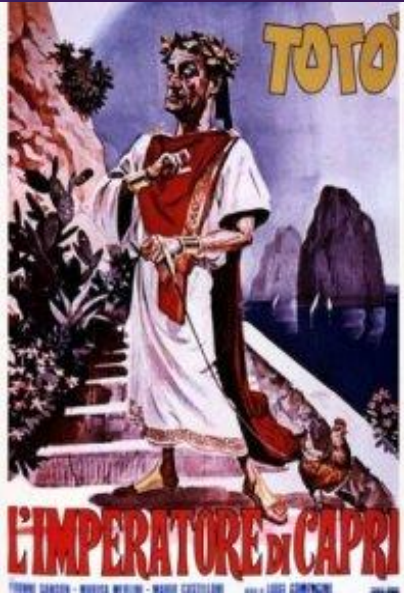
**Actors:** Maurizio Nichetti, Angela Finocchiaro, Luisa Morandini, Carlina Torta

**Color:** COL.

Maurizio Nichetti doesn't hit a bull's eye, but he certainly makes a delightful splash with this surrealistic piece. The story of three girls who share an apartment and suddenly are joined by a cousin of one of them (Maurizio) who has just awakened from a twenty-year sleep. The man has a penchant for creating trouble and somehow carrying it off. While working on a TV commercial he accidentally comes up with the ad hoc slogan: "I Made a Splash!". During a performance of "The Tempest" the audience takes Maurizio's maladroit shenanigans for brilliant theatrics. Nichetti's mute, underplayed approach scores high in this cutesy film. 95 min. IT



## L' Imperatore di Capri (The Emperor of Capri)



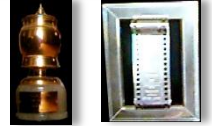
**Year:** 1950

**Director:** Luigi Comencini

**Actors:** Totò, Yvonne Sanson

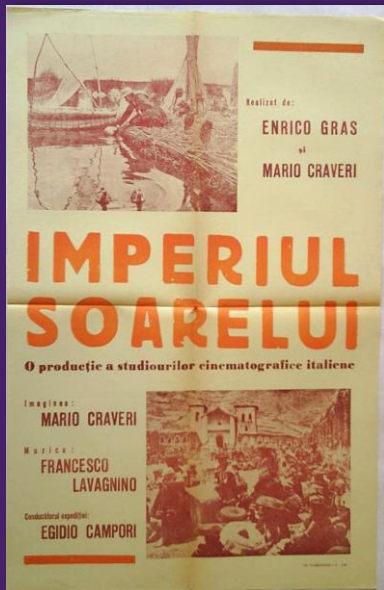
**Color:** B/W

**AWARDS:**



Totò (Italy's renowned clown) goes to Capri where he's mistaken for the Bey of Agapur (wealthy Indian potentate). His extravagances are admired. Women fall at his feet. His every wrong move is copied. He is about to be crowned "Emperor of Capri", when the real Bey shows up. However, when he saves the man from certain death, he is handsomely rewarded. Toto's inimitable clowning and faked innocence; his disjointed movements and extraordinary facial mobility placed in the hands of Luigi Comencini can only gain in the process. For any Toto lover this film is a must. 85 min. IT

## L' Impero del sole (Perù, Empire of the Sun)



**Year:** 1956

**Director:** Mario Craveri, Enrico Gras, Giorgio Moser

**Actors:** Documentary

**Color:** COL.

**AWARDS:**



This full-length documentary takes us to Peru for a look at the lives and customs of the Indios, both past and present. A enthralling, color-pact world artfully shown. A truly researched work quite valid still today in content and approach. Mario Craveri was awarded the "Nastro d'Argento" (1957) for the photography. IT

## In cerca di felicità... (In Search of Happiness)



**Year:** 1943

**Director:** Giacomo Gentilomo

**Actors:** Elena Luber, Tito Schipa, Alberto Rabagliati, Lauro Gazzolo

**Color:** B/W

Young lovers run away from home, but are soon destitute. He finds work as a singer and becomes infatuated with a showgirl. An elderly opera singer comes to the aid of the jilted sweetheart who's contemplating suicide. He eventually adopts her. But her lover mends his ways and the couple is reunited. Opera star, Tito Schipa, as the older man, and Alberto Rabagliati, (Italy's Bing Crosby) as the young lover, give believable performances. The film is well shot and several comic scenes keep the romance from becoming maudlin. 82 min. IT

## In nome della legge (Mafia)



**Year:** 1949

**Director:** Pietro Germi

**Actors:** Massimo Girotti, Jone Salinas, Camillo Mastrocinque, Saro Urz

**Color:** B/W

**AWARDS:**



Young judge (Guido Schiavi), determined to fight the local Mafia, is faced with open hostility. The only person to befriend him is a young boy, Paolino. When the town's sulfur mine is closed, leaving many locals without work, young Judge Schiavi tries to convince Baron Lo Verso to reopen it. The nobleman, wary of slighting the Mafia, tries bribing him. Humiliated, and later distraught over the death of Paolino at the hands of the Mafia, Schiavi asks for a transfer. But he stays on, knowing that he's fighting an incurable disease. The setting is Germi's beloved Sicily. A good movie. It won the "Nastro d'Argento" and similar kudos went to Massimo Girotti for best leading actor. 99 min. IT

## Incantesimo tragico (The Curse)



**Year:** 1951

**Director:** Mario Sequi

**Actors:** Maria Felix, Rossano Brazzi, Massimo Serrato

**Color:** B/W

Melodrama at its best (or worst) depending on your tastes. All the ingredients are there: Greed, Lust, and an ancient Curse. Priceless jewels discovered in a hidden tomb by an old farmer (Bastiano) is the premise. Here goes: Oliva, the farmer's daughter-in-law, feeling neglected, falls into Berto's, her brother-in-law's arms.. When Oliva learns of the treasure, she induces Berto to lift the jewels, but he's shot by his father who takes him for a thief. When the old man realizes his mistake he goes bananas. Meantime, Oliva, while escaping, falls off a cliff. The guilty parties had begged forgiveness before their inevitable deaths. The cast is better than the story. IT

## L'innocente Casimiro (Oh, Professor!)



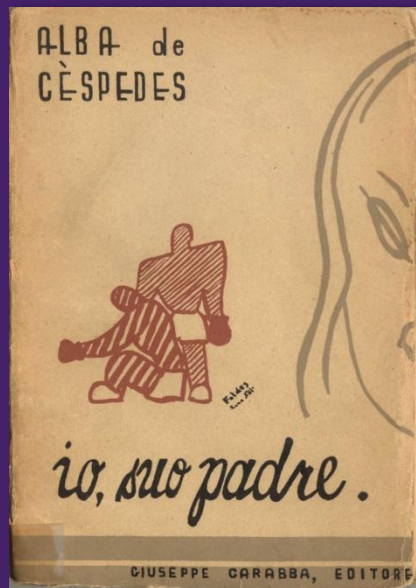
**Year:** 1945

**Director:** Carlo Campogalliani

**Actors:** Macario, Ada Dondini, Lea Padovani

**Color:** B/W

A cute looking and hearty boarding-school student fakes being ill and is sent home, accompanied by her gullible, timid professor (Macario). Throughout the story the unwitting man inevitably ends up in embarrassing and farcical situations. Of course all will work out in the end. He even gets the girl! The whimsical charm of Macario can do no wrong, as things go rolling merrily along. 83 min. IT



## Io, suo padre (Listen to me)

**Year:** 1939

**Director:** Mario Bonnard

**Actors:** Evi Maltagliati, Erminio Spalla, Mariella Lotti

**Color:** B/W

An ex-boxer trains his own son, grooming him for the Italian middleweight championship. The young champ meets up with a pretty but flighty girl; causing him to interrupt his training and spending his newly-won money making the rounds of winter spas. When he talks of marriage, she strings him along. The boy finally realizes the squalor of his situation and returns to the family fold and his boxing career. The premise is simple and direct, meant mostly to intrigue, but doesn't disdain a touch of moralism. 92 min. IT



## Jeanne Dorè

**Year:** 1938

**Director:** Mario Bonnard

**Actors:** Emma Gramatica, Leonardo Cortese, Evi Maltagliati

**Color:** B/W

A young man seeks money from an elderly acquaintance to pay for his mistress's debts. He's refused and the woman vilified in the process. Enraged, the youth murders the man. He's sentenced to twenty years imprisonment. His one desire is a visit from his love. She doesn't grant the wish. And yet it is granted. The man's mother, at night, nears the prison and pledges her eternal love. Pure schmaltz carried off by Emma Gramatica (famous Italian stage and screen actress) in the role of the mother, Jeanne Dorè. 88 min. IT

## Jolanda la figlia del Corsaro Nero (The Corsair's Daughter)



**Year:** 1952

**Director:** Mario Soldati

**Actors:** May Britt, Mark Lawrence, Renato Salvatori

**Color:** B/W

Yolanda swears to avenge the death of her father, the Count of Ventimiglia, known as the Black Corsair. Coming to her aid is none other than Captain Morgan, the pirate of pirates. After many vicissitudes, her detested enemy, Rupert Van Gould, is impaled, thus allowing her to take possession of her father's treasure. Mario Soldati directs this film tongue-in-cheek, walking the tightrope between full-blown cloak-and-dagger and comic parody. Bravo! Too bad it isn't in living color. 95 min. IT

## Kean



**Year:** 1940

**Director:** Guido Brignone

**Actors:** Germana Paolieri, Rossano Brazzi, Marietta Lotti, Tao Ferrari

**Color:** B/W

Edmond Kean, famous English actor, falls head over heels for a married woman who is also sought after by the Prince of Wales. The two become bitter rivals and Kean publicly insults the Prince. The woman's husband, grasping the situation, challenges Kean to a duel. But the Prince, sensing a scandal, has Kean exiled while convincing the husband of his wife's innocence. Alexandre Dumas Pers at his best offers a wonderful vehicle for actor Rossano Brazzi. 78 min. IT

**AWARDS:**



## Kean (Genio e sregolatezza) Kean (Genius and Profligate)



**Year:** 1956

**Director:** Vittorio Gassman

**Actors:** Vittorio Gassman, Eleonora Rossi Drago, Anna Maria Ferrero, Gerard Landry

**Color:** COL.

This film follows in large part the story line of the above, but with greater in-depth analysis of Kean's flamboyant and genial character. Maria, a young aspiring actress, deeply in love with Kean, also becomes central to the film... since in this version the Prince wins the wife, while Kean wins the public and Maria's hand. Vittorio Gassman tailored this film to his considerable talents. Film scripted by Suso Cecchi D'Amico, Francesco Rosi and Vittorio Gassman. IT

## Lettera all'alba (Time Lost)



**Year:** 1949

**Director:** Giorgio Bianchi

**Actors:** Fosco Giachetti, Olga Villi, Lea Padovani, Jacques Sernas

**Color:** B/W

Carlo learns 20 years later of an existing son (Mario) only when the dying mother entrusts the boy to him. Mario pushes drugs. Carlo intervenes with the boy's supplier (an elderly countess) warning her to cut him off. Soon after the Countess is murdered and Mario is suspected. Carlo manages to get his son cleared, but doesn't have the courage to reveal their true relationship. A tight, sentimental mystery with no maudlin drippings. 90 min. IT



## Lucrezia Borgia

**Year:** 1940

**Director:** Hans Hinrich

**Actors:** Isa Pola, Carlo Ninchi

**Color:** B/W

Without cause the Duke of Ferrara is insanely jealous of his wife, Lucrezia Borgia. However, one day, in the absence of the Duke, Lucrezia agrees to a tryst with Alessandro Strozzi. Immediately regretting the move, she sends her friend Laura with a note calling off the rendezvous. But Laura is intercepted and the letter is given to the Duke. To cover for Lucrezia, Laura claims that she is Strozzi's lover. The Duke is placated, and all is set right. For fans of historical, costumed movies, what more do you want? 76 min. IT

## Il lupo della Sila (Brooding Vengeance)

**Year:** 1949

**Director:** Duilio Coletti

**Actors:** Amedeo Nazzari, Silvana Mangano, Jacques Sernas, Vittorio Gassman

**Color:** B/W



Pietro is unjustly accused of murder. He can't reveal his whereabouts the night of the killing without compromising Orsola. Nor will her brother Rocco allow her to testify in Pietro's defense. Attempting to escape, Pietro's cut down by the police before his mother and ten year-old sister, Rosalia. Years later, the girl will avenge her brother's death. This steamy, passionate drama set in southern Italy is well measured; not an ersatz Southern Italy seen through foreign eyes. 95min. IT



## Malombra (Marina of Malombra)



**Year:** 1942

**Director:** Mario Soldati

**Actors:** Isa Miranda, Andrea Checchi, Irasema Dilian, Gualtiero Tumiati

**Color:** B/W

Her uncle keeps Marina di Malombra secluded in his villa on Lake Como. Having come upon some letters, coupled with the pall of her solitude, bring her to envision herself as the reincarnation of her suicide aunt.. She develops a morose love for a writer, presently a guest at the villa. But when he's about to leave, she kills him, her uncle, and the herself. A period melodrama, cloaked in mystery: a chiaroscuro study with erotic undertones and psychological depth. 94 min. IT

## Mare matto (La mer a boire) (Drink Overboard!)



**Year:** 1963

**Director:** Renato Castellani

**Actors:** Jean-Paul Belmondo, Gina Lollobrigida, Tomas Milian, Odoardo Spadaro

**Color:** B/W

The port of Genoa, life aboard ship, seamen and their carefree ways provide the atmosphere of the film. It is basically the story of an old salt and a gruff but loveable sailor (Jean-Paul Belmondo). They sail out on a fishing boat, and take over when the "smuggling" captain and boatswain are arrested. More than fish, their cargo is wine. They attempt carrying it to its destination, but throw it overboard during a storm. The happy-go-lucky bent of the story is unusual for a director of Renato Castellani's finesse. Perhaps having Jean-Paul Belmondo aboard he had no recourse. 100 min. IT/FR

## Margherita da Cortona (Margaret of Cortona)



**Year:** 1950

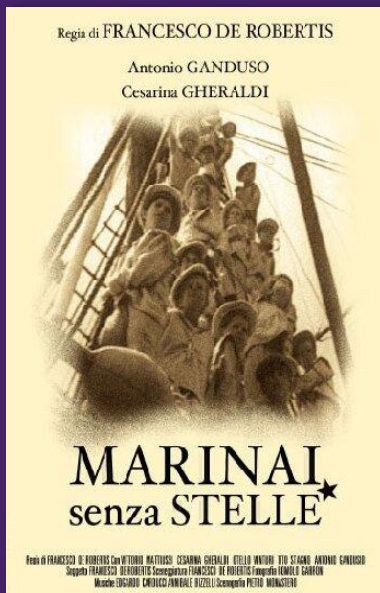
**Director:** Mario Bonnard

**Actors:** Maria Frau, Tino Buazzelli, Isa Pola, Aldo Niccodemi

**Color:** B/W

A biography of Saint Margaret of Cortona, a peasant girl, sought after by her stepmother's lover (Marco) whom she refuses. Her platonic relationship with Arsenio arouses Marco's jealousy to the point of killing the boy. Margaret's sorrow, her suffering, is comforted by a vision of the Lord. During a plague, she devotes herself to the sick and dying. It is at that time that witnesses vow she performed miracles. Until her death, she never ceased to aid the needy. The story of this simple shepherdess become saint is true and touching. 115 min. IT

## Marinai senza stelle (Seaman without Stripes)



**Year:** 1943

**Director:** Francesco De Robertis

**Actors:** Antonio Gandusio, Tito Stagno, Otello Venturi, Vittorio Mattiussi

**Color:** B/W

Cadets at a seaside village are training aboard two brigantines when they are abruptly ordered back to port. The war is imminent. Two of the boys make their way to Trieste: one hides aboard a destroyer, while the other hops on a cargo ship. During an air attack one of the boys is fatally wounded, while the other lad is praised for an act of heroism. The undercurrent theme is the glorification of youths fighting for their country. (It should have been the half-hearted willingness of Italian military in a war they never believed in.) 83 min. IT

## Mariti in pericolo (Geese and Ganders)



**Year:** 1960

**Director:** Mauro Morassi

**Actors:** Sylva Koscina, Mario Carotenuto, Memmo Carotenuto, Pupella Maggio, Franca Valeri

**Color:** B/W

Two friends, Mario and Memmo, both married, become infatuated with the same woman. Since Mario's wife doesn't seem fazed by her husband's philandering, he assumes that she's doing the same: "What's good for the goose is good for the gander". A series of comic mishaps finally sort themselves out and the beautiful object of the husbands' affections gets packed off. An effervescent cast and nimble gags keep an old theme from lagging. 91 min. IT

## Il Microfono è vostro (The Amateur Hour)



**Year:** 1951

**Director:** Giuseppe Bennati

**Actors:** Gisella Sofio, Aroldo Tieri, Enrico Luzi

**Color:** B/W

Maria, who is engaged to Filippo, makes the acquaintance of Bruno a young jazz musician. When Bruno discovers Maria's a good singer, he gets her on a talent scout program. She's a hit. After a series of mishaps, Maria and Filippo get their act together, while Bruno makes music elsewhere. Gisella Sofio (popular, charismatic singer of her day) in a made to order vehicle. 95 min. IT

## La Mina (Esta chica es para mi) (This Chick Is for Me)



**Year:** 1957

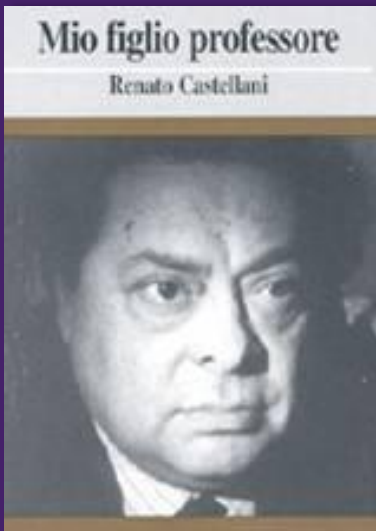
**Director:** Giuseppe Bennati

**Actors:** Elsa Martinelli, Antonio Cifariello, Felix Acaso

**Color:** COL.

Stefano, a fisherman, docks in a small port hoping to sell his boat. There he meets and falls in love with Lucia, the belle of the town. But a bigwig rival and a ruthless poaching fisherman entangle their lives. And yet, the tides turn when the rival is forced to abdicate and the poacher is killed while defusing a mine. The elements of adventure here are strong, well paced and shot in gorgeous locales. Oh, yes, the lovers live happily ever after. 100 min. SP/IT

## Mio figlio professore (My Son, the Professor)



**Year:** 1946

**Director:** Renato Castellani

**Actors:** Aldo Fabrizi, the Nava Sisters, Giorgio De Lullo, Mario Pisu

**Color:** B/W

Orazio Belli, a widower and custodian in a high school, raises his son on his own. Years pass, the boy is now a teacher. The father connives to have his son teach at his same school. And then schemes to have him avoid the draft. All this concern is irritating. When Orazio realizes as much, he tearfully packs his bags and leaves. Director Castellani renders a twenty year span with remarkable ease in this bittersweet tale. IT

## I Miserabili : tempesta su Parigi (Les Mis,rables: Tempest over Paris)



**Year:** 1947

**Director:** Riccardo (Robert Hampton)Freda

**Actors:** Gino Cervi, Valentina Cortese

**Color:** B/W

The Victor Hugo novel, "Les Mis,rables", told in two episodes: The Manhunt and The Tempest over Paris have lavishness, fine acting, beautiful costuming and intelligent direction, plus a smattering of socio-political insight. This is the tale of Jean Valjean (a fine Gino Cervi) , a prison escapee living a retiring life, until Cosette, the young girl he has raised falls in love with Mario, the revolutionary son of the Minister of Police. When the boy is wounded at the barricades, Valjean carries him to safety through the sewers of Paris... The film has all the ingredients worthy of a Victor Hugo novel. IT

## I Miserabili: caccia all'uomo (Les Mis,erables: The Manhunt)



**Year:** 1947

**Director:** Riccardo Freda

**Actors:** Gino Cervi, Valentina Cortese, Giovanni Hinrich, Andreina Pagnani

**Color:** B/W

The Victor Hugo novel, "Les Mis,rables", told in two episodes: The Manhunt and The Tempest over Paris have lavishness, fine acting, beautiful costuming and intelligent direction, plus a smattering of socio-political insight. This is the tale of Jean Valjean (a fine Gino Cervi) , a prison escapee living a retiring life, until Cosette, the young girl he has raised falls in love with Mario, the revolutionary son of the Minister of Police. When the boy is wounded at the barricades, Valjean carries him to safety through the sewers of Paris... The film has all the ingredients worthy of a Victor Hugo novel. IT

## Miseria e nobiltà... (Alas, Class!)



**Year:** 1941

**Director:** Corrado D'Errico

**Actors:** Elli Parvo, Virgilio Riento, Luigi Almirante, Maria Donati

**Color:** B/W

A young Neapolitan nobleman seeks the hand of the daughter of a wealthy chef. Her father will agree if the young man's family comes to the engagement party. Since the family has no intention of so doing, the fiancé hires people to masquerade as his relatives. He will be found out, but, fortunately, the snobbish nobles relent and appear in time to save the day. This period piece is a rendering of an Eduardo Scarpetta play. By toning down the drama's farcical aspects and highlighting its folkloric qualities, this forgotten work earned a new lease on life. 63 min. IT

## Le Miserie del Signor Travet (Good Mister Travet)



**Year:** 1945

**Director:** Mario Soldati

**Actors:** Carlo Campanini, Gino Cervi, Alberto Sordi, Vera Carmi

**Color:** B/W

A timid, white collar worker (Travet) is constantly put upon by his boss and his nagging wife. The woman, young and beautiful, even allows one of Travet's superiors to court her. When the man is openly ridiculed by his colleagues, he finally speaks up, only to be fired. Putting aside all bourgeois prejudices, he takes on a job in a bakery. Mario Soldati's direction of this popular play, has class and dignity. "Nastro d'Argento" for the sets by Piero Filippone and for Gino Cervi as best supporting actor. 100 min. IT

## Miss Italia (Miss Italy)



**Year:** 1950

**Director:** Duilio Coletti

**Actors:** Gina Lollobrigida, Constance Dowling, Carlo Campanini

**Color:** B/W

A reporter covering the Miss Italy contest, does some in-depth reporting on the five finalist. One, girl-next-door beauty, is entered in the contest by her father at the urging of a shady con man involved in a jewel robbery. When Lilly, another of the finalists recognizes him as the man who brought her to ruin. She lures him into her car and rides off at breakneck speed. They crash, and die. The hometown beauty wins the contest and the reporter. Beautiful girls, melodrama and a happy ending, all in one neat little package. 95 min. IT

## Molti sogni per le strade (Lost along the Way)



**Year:** 1948

**Director:** Mario Camerini

**Actors:** Anna Magnani, Massimo Girotti, Checco Rissone

**Color:** B/W

An unemployed mechanic, spurred on by a friend, steals the car of a wealthy man. Unable to sell it, the mechanic confesses all to his wife (Anna Magnani). Desperate, he returns the car to the garage. No one noticed it missing. Meanwhile, the wife reports him to the police. She pretends hers was an act of jealousy when she realizes what has happened. The tight premise isn't helped by an over-the-top Magnani... but watching her histrionics is always fun. 90 min. IT

## Il Mondo le condanna (Unforgiving World)



**Year:** 1952

**Director:** Gianni Franciolini

**Actors:** Amedeo Nazzari, Alida Valli, Serge Reggiani, Franco Interlenghi

**Color:** B/W

Renata, a prostitute, deported from Paris returns to Florence running into a businessman who saves her life; sweet Franco, deeply in love; and gritty Andree the man who led her astray. In a fit of jealousy, Franco kills Andree. Renata, feeling guilty for all that's happened, takes refuge in a convent. Only the exceptional cast keeps this pseudo-neorealistic piece in toe. 98 min. IT

## Il Monello della strada (A Kid off the Street)



**Year:** 1950

**Director:** Carlo Borghesio

**Actors:** Macario, Luisa Rossi, Saro Urz

**Color:** B/W

Carletto Po (Macario), Italian immigrant in Argentina, marries by proxy, but when he returns, his wife is dead... and learns that he's (legally) father to her little boy. Initially he shirks all responsibility, but in time comes to love little Paolino, keeping him from being used by greedy relatives seeking control of an inheritance left the boy by his natural father. Chaplin's "The Kid" may have done it first, but it didn't faze Macario's supreme performance. IT



## La Montagna di cristallo (Crystal Mountain)



**Year:** 1948

**Director:** Henry Cass - Edoardo Anton

**Actors:** Valentina Cortese, Michael Denison

**Color:** B/W

A composer becomes an RAF pilot at the outbreak of World War II. During a mission he's forced to parachute on Crystal Mountain in the Italian Dolomites. He is saved and nursed back by an Italian doctor. At war's end he resumes his career, but cannot forget his infatuation for the doctor's daughter, and writes an opera based on a legend taking place in the Dolomites, to be performed in Venice. At the opening he learns that his wife is arriving in a private plane, but she's injured in a crash landing at the edge of Crystal Mountain. This twist of fate brings the man to his senses. Despite the crashes, it's essentially a romantic movie: not a classic formula, but the fairytale Dolomite bit is easy and nice to swallow. GB/IT

## La Morte viene dallo spazio (Death from Outer Space)



**Year:** 1958

**Director:** Paolo Heusch

**Actors:** Paul Hubschmid, Madleine Fisher, Fiorella Mari, Ivo Garrani

**Color:** B/W

The United Nations launches a space ship armed with a nuclear missile. An accident veers the ship off course and the pilot is forced to release the missile into some asteroids. They start plummeting towards Earth, threatening much of the world's population. Scientists work together for a solution which they find at the 80th minute of the film, thus the tension is palpable right down to the end. 80 min. IT/FR

## Il Mulatto (The Mulatto Child)

**Year:** 1949

**Director:** Francesco De Robertis

**Actors:** Umberto Spadaro, Jole Fierro, Renato Baldini, Mohammed Hussein

**Color:** B/W

World War II: While Matteo is in prison, his wife dies giving birth. Released, he discovers that the boy is a black with fair hair - the result of violence by an Allied soldier. Matteo refuses him, but the law maintains that he's the father. In time, he can't help being fond of little Angelo. Then one day the boy's uncle appears (brother of his natural father who died in the war). Angelo is at once attracted to his Afro-American uncle. Though brokenhearted, Matteo gives up the child. The surprise ending doesn't come a gimmick, but from an innate need to know one's roots. 85 min. IT



## Il Mulino del Po (The Mill on the Po)

**Year:** 1949

**Director:** Alberto Lattuada

**Actors:** Carla Del Poggio, Jacques Sernas, Leda Gloria, Mario Besesti

**Color:** B/W

A rich girl, engaged to a well-to-do farmer, ends up penniless and is forced to go to work for her fiancée's relatives. We are in the Po Valley in the early 1900s. Peasant unrest, carried to extremes by both workers and landowners, leads to violence. During one such encounter, the brother of our heroine kills her betrothed. He will turn himself in, but the damage has been done. A large socio-political fresco of the time and place, does justice to Riccardo Bacchelli's prizewinning novel. 107 min. IT



## Napoleone a Sant'Elena (Sant'Elena, Piccola Isola) (Napoleon at Sant'Elena)



**Year:** 1942

**Director:** Renato Simoni

**Actors:** Ruggero Ruggeri, Carla Candiani

**Color:** B/W

Very well researched, this movie reconstructs Napoleon's life in exile. Six years marked by the man's great pride, his exasperated indignation, his dejection and obstinate complaining. The cruelty of his wardens, the nervous intolerance of those who followed him in his exile and, finally, the quiet liberation of death are convincingly portrayed by Ruggero Ruggeri. A well-honed historical film. 82 min. IT

## Nave bianca (The Hospital Ship)



**Year:** 1941

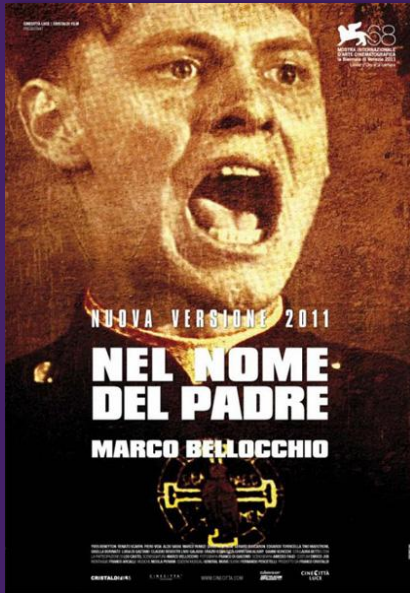
**Director:** Roberto Rossellini

**Actors:** Nonprofessional actors

**Color:** B/W

This documentary tells of life aboard a hospital ship: wounded sailors taken aboard after a bombing attack slowly regaining their strength under the care of Red Cross volunteers. Part of their wounds is the concern for their comrades left aboard the damaged vessel. Only when the mother ship comes safely into port is the relief palpable. Masterly direction by Roberto Rossellini with the supervision of Naval Officer Francesco De Robertis make this propaganda piece a cult flick. 83 min. IT

## Nel nome del padre (In the Name of the Father)



**Year:** 1972

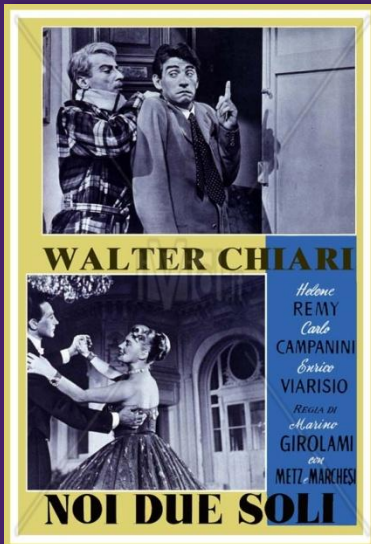
**Director:** Marco Bellocchio

**Actors:** Yves Beneyton, Laura Betti, Lou Castel

**Color:** COL.

The late 1950s. The setting: an exclusive, disciplined parochial boarding school. Angelo is sent there for striking his father. In this dark comedy, the boy wreaks havoc: spouting Hitlerian theories; bullying everybody and even causing the prefect to be expelled. He prods a fellow student to kill his mother; leads another to suicide; etc., etc. He makes great use of fear. Only Father Corazzo manages to oppose the boy, having realized that repressive methods are not the best answer. The crux of the film is portraying school as a microcosm of society at large that in turn exposes the fragility of all existing structures. Director Bellocchio's artistry is not questioned, but the political patina that shades most of his work could be. However, there's some truth in every view, and the film is still a must for cinephiles.. 109min. IT

## Noi due soli (Just Us Two)



**Year:** 1952

**Director:** Vittorio Metz, Marcello Marchesi, Marino Girolami

**Actors:** Walter Chiari, Helene Remy, Carlo Campanini

**Color:** B/W

Walter and Carlo, buddies, live in the same boarding house. A series of misunderstandings between Walter and the widow who owns the place gets them kicked out. They find refuge in a bomb shelter. Walter dreams that during a nuclear attack, only he, Carlo and Gina, his girl, have been saved. What bliss, he thinks. But further burlesque imaginings make him realize that life with only himself and Gina is no great shakes. He finally wakes up to reality, and is happy for it. Walter Chiari, a rare, lovable comedian, and Carlo Campanini the perfect foil are incomparable. 90 min. IT

## Non c'è pace tra gli ulivi (Under the Olive Tree)



**Year:** 1950

**Director:** Giuseppe De Santis

**Actors:** Lucia Bosš, Raf Vallone, Dante Maggio, Folco Lulli

**Color:** B/W

Francesco (Raf Vallone), back from the war, can't find work and ends up stealing sheep from Agostino, a profiteer who once stole from him. Agostino reports the incident, and Francesco is imprisoned. Seeking still further revenge, Agostino goes after Lucia, Francesco's girl. But another woman appears on the scene: Maria Grazia revealing she was raped by Agostino.... This torrid story hardly follows the neorealist trend of the era, but it received special mention at the Festival of Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad, 1951). 100 min. IT

## Notte di Tempesta (On a Stormy Night)



**Year:** 1945

**Director:** Gianni Franciolini

**Actors:** Fosco Giacchetti, Marina Berti, Giacomo Rondinella

**Color:** B/W

In a small fishing village, Domenico, a rough seaman, marries a widow, mother of two grown children, Peppino and Caterina. The ex widow allows Domenico to take over the family fishing boat, against her son's advice. Caterina, engaged to a sailor away on duty, is tormented by Domenico's approaches. One day, blinded by his infatuation, he rapes the girl. Distraught, she confides in her brother, who, one stormy night at sea, kills his stepfather claiming he died accidentally. Based on a Raffaele Viviani play, the film reveals an uncompromising directness, placing it several notches above the run-of-the-mill melodramas. IT



## Le Notti bianche (Nuits Blanches) (White Nights)

**Year:** 1957

**Director:** Luchino Visconti

**Actors:** Maria Schell, Marcello Mastroianni, Jean Marais, Clara Calamai

**Color:** B/W

**AWARDS:**



A Dostoyevsky tale of a lonely man's love for a woman who despairs waiting for her betrothed to return after a year's absence. Luchino Visconti creates a claustrophobic atmosphere, as he plumbs the depths of individual feelings divorced from any socio-political statement. Marcello Mastroianni and Maria Schell are remarkable as the man and woman. "Leone d'Argento" at the XVII Venice Film Festival. "Nastro d'Argento" (1958) for Mastroianni as leading actor. 107 min. IT/FR

## Nuovo Cinema Paradiso (Cinema Paradiso)



**Year:** 1989

**Director:** Giuseppe Tornatore

**Actors:** Philippe Noiret, Jacques Perrin, Salvatore Cascio, Mario Leonardi, Agnese Nano, Leopoldo Trieste

**Color:** COL.

**AWARDS:**



A young boy (Salvatore Cascio), mesmerized by the movie theatre in a small Italian town, cultivates a warm friendship with the projectionist (Philippe Noiret) who teaches him the trade. We watch the boy grow, fall in love and leave the town. He returns, (a successful film director), for the funeral of his beloved friend. Cascio and Noiret are truly a heartrending duo, complemented by Ennio Morricone's touching music. Winner of the Special Jury Prize at the 1989 Cannes Film Festival. And an Oscar for Best Foreign Film. 157min./123 min. (short version) IT/FR



## Ogro (Operation Ogre)

**Year:** 1979

**Director:** Gillo Pontecorvo

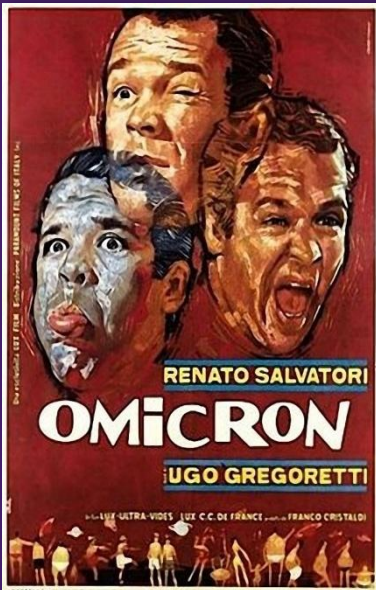
**Actors:** Gian Maria Volonté, Saverio Marconi, Jose Sacristan, Angela Molina

**Color:** COL.

**AWARDS:**



The film chronicles the Basque separatist movement's plans for kidnapping the Spanish Premier, Carrero Blanco. The abduction becomes assassination when a car bomb kills Blanco in December of 1973. With the advent of democracy, the Basque movement undergoes a split. It's at this point that director Pontecorvo constructs references relevant to Italy in the 1970s. A political film handled with integrity. Gian Maria Volonté delivers a restrained but emotionally charged performance. Music by Ennio Morriconi. 121min. IT/SP/FR



## Omicron

**Year:** 1964

**Director:** Ugo Gregoretti

**Actors:** Renato Salvatori, Rosemary Dexter, Gaetano Quartararo, Mara Carisi, Ida Serasini, Dante Di Pinto

**Color:** B/W

An alien takes over the body of an Earthman in order to learn about the planet so his race can take it over

## L' Onorevole Angelina (Angelina Goes to Congress)



**Year:** 1947

**Director:** Luigi Zampa

**Actors:** Anna Magnani, Nando Bruno, Ave Ninchi

**Color:** B/W

**AWARDS:**



Hard times: Angelina, mother of five, struggles for her rights, by leading neighborhood women against black marketeers and a corrupt landlord. Her friends want her to run for Congress, but the landlord has her arrested, leading her neighbors to think that she betrayed their cause. But when released, she regains their confidence. However, she decides to give more time to her family. A pre-feminist film which director Luigi Zampa only took so far. But Magnani's rendering makes the viewing a real experience. She won the best actress awarded at the 1947 Venice Film Festival. IT

## Orazi e Curiazi (Duel of Champions)



**Year:** 1961

**Director:** Ferdinando Baldi

**Actors:** Alan Ladd, Franca Bettoja, Franco Fabrizi, Robert Keith, Jacques Sernas

**Color:** COL.

A retelling of the legend of the three Roman brothers who are matched against three brothers from Albalonga to settle the long-standing war between the two cities. Two of the Romans are killed, but Horatius (Alan Ladd), the surviving brother, manages, through strength and cunning, to overcome his enemies. The sets are opulent, the direction discreet, and the acting credible. One shouldn't expect more. 90 min. IT



## Paolo e Francesca (Paola and Francesco)



**Year:** 1949

**Director:** Raffaello Matarazzo

**Actors:** Armando Francioli, Odile Versois, Andrea Checchi

**Color:** B/W

The story of Paolo and Francesca, star-crossed lovers: Paolo's brother, Gianciotto Malatesta, Lord of Rimini (a badly deformed man) decides to wed Francesca, noblewoman from Ravenna, thus ending the strife between the two cities. He sends Paolo to negotiate the marriage by proxy. But Paolo recognizes her as the girl who nursed him back to health after a military skirmish. They fall in love, but the marriage to Malatesta takes place as planned. Then one day he spies them kissing, and revenge is inevitable. The story is a classic. Alas, this rendering isn't. IT

## Papa... Lebonnard (Papa Lebonnard)



**Year:** 1939

**Director:** Jean De Limur

**Actors:** Madeleine Sologne, Ruggero Ruggeri, Jean Lurat, Jeanne Prevost

**Color:** B/W

Hardworking watchmaker, Lebonnard, has an ambitious wife. She wants her children to marry into nobility, but the daughter is in love with a doctor. Her brother, more ambitious than the mother, discredits the doctor, letting it be known that he's an illegitimate child... only to be told that he himself is one, and that Papa Lebonnard, forgiving his wife, generously raised him as his own. Peace returns to the family and both children marry their desired spouses. Good middle-class sentiments win out in the end. The scope may be more limited, but the gist is there. 92 min. FR/IT

## Partenza ore sette (At Seven Sharp)



**Year:** 1946

**Director:** Mario Mattoli

**Actors:** Carlo Campanini, Alberto Rabagliati, Chiaretta Gelli, Enzo Turco

**Color:** B/W

Chiaretta, taken up with theatre life, leaves home and joins a travelling company. In order to discourage her, her boyfriend pays to have the girl booed. Defeated, she goes home. But when the company comes through town, she's off and running again. This time being an overnight success. Fashioned after Hollywood musicals, the film is an excuse for comic routines and pleasant singing. Seen in retrospect, it's a nostalgia trip. 96 min. IT

## Il Passatore (The Ferryman)



**Year:** 1947

**Director:** Duilio Coletti

**Actors:** Rossano Brazzi, Valentina Cortese, Carlo Ninchi, Carlo Campanini

**Color:** B/W

The Po Valley, 1850. Stefano Pelloni kills his rival in love and begins a life of banditry; robbing from the rich to give to the poor: he becomes a popular hero. But when he kills his sweetheart's uncle, she turns against him. And yet, she sacrifices her life to save him in a crucial moment. With her gone, everything is meaningless. He asks a gendarme friend to put him out of his misery; the friend complies. Stars: Rossano Brazzi and Valentina Cortese. A tragic Robin Hood, but without the levity: what a shame, the two aspects have always worked well together. IT

## La Pattuglia sperduta (Vecchio Regno) (The Lost Patrol)



**Year:** 1953

**Director:** Piero Nelli

**Actors:** Nonprofessional actors

**Color:** B/W

Early March 1849 during the Risorgimento: a patrol of eight Italian soldiers is stranded in Austrian-held territory. They manage to survive a series of skirmishes, rejoining their ranks at Novara on March 23, 1849. But it's too late, the battle was lost, their regiment surrendered. Shot with a neorealistic approach, the film is handled with skill and integrity by director Piero Nelli. IT

## Peccato d'amore (Lady Caroline Lamb)



**Year:** 1972

**Director:** Robert Bolt

**Actors:** Sara Miles, Richard Chamberlain, Jon Finch, Lawrence Olivier, John Mills, Ralph Richardson, Margaret Leighton

**Color:** COL.

Young Lady Caroline Lamb, married to a member of Parliament, falls madly in love with Lord Byron. For his sake she suffers private and public humiliations. Her husband takes her back, but for fear of damaging his career, Lady Caroline, now alone in the world, leaves him. Read the cast: how could they go wrong? Writer/director Bolt manages to prove that bad scripts are never saved by the acting, though they tried very hard. 115 min. GB

## I Piaceri dello scapolo (Blessed Bachelorhood)



**Year:** 1960

**Director:** Giulio Petroni

**Actors:** Sylva Koscina, Mario e Memmo Carotenuto, Gina Rovere

**Color:** B/W

Two mature bachelors in search of amorous adventures rent an apartment to carry out their hoped-for trysts. Between mix-ups, mishaps, and misunderstandings they are left high and dry. The humor's facile and hackneyed, but these soft-sex farces have always had a ready audience. 102 min. IT

## I Pompieri di Viaggio (A Fireman's Holiday)



**Year:** 1949

**Director:** Mario Mattoli

**Actors:** Totò, Isa Barzizza, Carlo Campanini

**Color:** B/W

In a small Italian town a group of volunteer firemen find themselves with nothing to do. They finally decide to go to a nearby town, insinuating themselves backstage during a variety show. That limited plot is the excuse for good singing, dancing, and pandemonium. Real charm and lovely showgirls. The film doesn't have the veneer of a Hollywood dream picture, but it's just as silly, for easy watching. 91 min. IT

## Il Ponte dei sospiri (The Bridge of Sighs)



**Year:** 1940

**Director:** Mario Bonnard

**Actors:** Paola Barbera, Otello Toso

**Color:** B/W

A captain in the Venetian army, (loved by women, envied by the men) is falsely accused of murder. Condemned to death by the Council of Ten, he somehow manages to escape. Then, determined to clear his name and unmask the real culprit, he comes back. The case is reopened. The villain turns out to be the Doge's son-in-law. Reinstated, the Captain goes off to fight the Turks with the hope of eventually winning the love of the Doge's daughter. A period piece which doesn't take itself too seriously, told with lighthearted grace. IT

## Il Prigioniere di Santa Cruz (Prisoner of the Past)



**Year:** 1940

**Director:** Carlo Ludovico Bragaglia

**Actors:** Maria Mercader, Juan De Landa

**Color:** B/W

A girl wants to marry a boy whose father was killed under strange circumstances. But unfortunately her own father was suspected of the unsolved murder. Meanwhile another suitor asks for her hand. She is about to give in when the true murderer, on his deathbed, clears her father of all responsibility. The man gives his blessing to the lovebirds: genuine emotions, devotions and whatever. The telling is simple, without excessive fanfare. 68 min. IT/SP

## La Primula bianca (The White Pimpernel)



**Year:** 1946

**Director:** Carlo Ludovico Bragaglia

**Actors:** Carlo Campanini, Carlo Ninchi, Laura Gore

**Color:** B/W

Trying to track down the owner of a wallet, a reporter finds himself midst a gang of thieves. Forced to take part in a robbery, he reports it to his newspaper and has the gang arrested. Tight pacing of paradoxical situations keep this moving going . 85 min. IT

## Proibito rubare (Thou Shalt not Steal)



**Year:** 1949

**Director:** Luigi Comencini

**Actors:** Adolfo Celi, Tina Pica

**Color:** B/W

Naples, end of World War II: a priest decides to express his vocation by caring for street urchins. He sets up a modest home, but funds are inevitably lacking. Little by little, money begins sounding in the poor box: loot from robberies committed by the boys. They're arrested, but later released on the Priest's word of honor. A Neapolitan "Boy's Town", with convincing youngsters and Adolfo Celi as the cool priest. Neorealism with a dose of sentimentality. 85 min. IT

## Promessi sposi (The Betrothed)



**Year:** 1941

**Director:** Mario Camerini

**Actors:** Gino Cervi, Dina Sassoli, Carlo Ninchi

**Color:** B/W

It all starts when Don Abbondio is forewarned not to marry Renzo and Lucia. From there on fate works against the young couple. The two are separated: he walking through Lombardy seeking refuge; she in a convent in Monza. Renzo takes part in the political uprisings against Austrian rule. He and Lucia survive the plague. Don Rodrigo, the man initially behind all their travails, goes mad and dies a gruesome death. Our two are finally united. This retelling of Alessandro Manzoni's "The Betrothed" is a dignified rendering of what is probably Italy's finest novel. Easier, but not better than reading the book. 112 min. IT

## Quel bandito sono io (Her Favorite Husband)



**Year:** 1949

**Director:** Mario Soldati

**Actors:** Richard Beatty, Jacqueline Kent, Margaret Rutherford

**Color:** B/W

An honest bank cashier has the misfortune of being a gangster's look-alike. Naturally the outlaw takes advantage of the situation, and the cashier is forced into hiding together with his wife in the house of a lawyer friend. There she is passed off as the lawyer's wife and he as their servant. Eventually the baddie goes to jail and the couple resumes its normal life. Based on a play by Peppino De Filippo, a cool English cast carries off a nice bit of silliness. GB/IT

## Quelli della montagna (Mountain Fever)



**Year:** 1943

**Director:** Aldo Vergano

**Actors:** Amedeo Nazzari, Mario Ferrari, Cesco Baseggio, Mariella Lotti.

**Color:** B/W

Two long-standing friends, army officers, a Captain and a Lieutenant, World War II, fight side by side in the Alps. Their only clash is the difference of rank, causing misunderstandings and resentments. Only when the Captain is killed in action, will the other realize how he misjudged the man. A bitter lesson learned the hard way. The directness of the story and the bravura of the actors make for exciting drama. 85min. IT

## Qui comincia l'avventura (Blonde in Black Leather)



**Year:** 1975

**Director:** Carlo Di Palma

**Actors:** Monica Vitti, Claudia Cardinale, Ninetto Davoli, Guido Leontini

**Color:** COL.

In a sleepy, southern Italian town, a young housewife (Claudia Cardinale) is fascinated by the tales of a leather-clad motorcyclist (Monica Vitti) who's heading for Milan to join her love. Off they go together, facing myriad adventures before hitting the big city! In Milan Cardinale finds out that Vitti is only a loveless movie usherette. So the two hit the road again, this time in search of real freedom: Imagine Thelma and Louise in Italy some fifteen years earlier. Made mostly for laughs but with a core of truth. 100 min. IT



## La Ragazza di Bube (Bube's Girl)



**Year:** 1963

**Director:** Luigi Comencini

**Actors:** Claudia Cardinale, George Chakiris, Marc Michel

**Color:** B/W

**AWARDS:**



After the war, Mara (Claudia Cardinale) falls in love with Bube (George Chakiris), a partisan fighter forced into hiding in connection with a political assassination. She finds work in Florence and a young man who wants to marry her. But when she learns that Bube has been arrested, her love for him come to the fore, blotting out all other considerations. The film has a stark simplicity that makes it both dramatic and credible. Claudia Cardinale won that year's "Nastro d'Argento" as best leading actress. 106 min. IT/FR

## Le Ragazze di San Frediano (A Florentine Casanova)



**Year:** 1954

**Director:** Valerio Zurlini

**Actors:** Antonio Cifariello, Rossana Podest..., Giovanna Ralli, Corinne Calvet, Giulia Rubini

**Color:** B/W

A Florentine Casanova keeps five girls on the string. Aware of his shenanigans, the girl he's engaged to is about to commit suicide. But he renews his promise. Another girl interrupts the engagement party, declaring he seduced her; while a third leaves her fianc, for him. The fourth dumps him, but the fifth is ready to elope to the Riviera. They've got one foot on the train when his "sane" brother hauls him away. Much feminine beauty, lovingly directed by Valerio Zurlini in his first film. 114 min. IT

## Ragazzi della Marina (Young Salts)



**Year:** 1958

**Director:** Francesco De Robertis

**Actors:** Silvio Noto, Lynn Shaw, Lyla Rocco, Memmo Carotenuto, and the Officers of the "Montecuccoli"

**Color:** COL.

Set at sea, like all of Naval Officer De Robertis' films, this story tells of three cadets and three sailors shoving off on the Italian Battle Cruiser Montecuccoli, circumnavigating the globe. Under the watchful eyes of their commanding officers, the men mature, in mind and body. This, in the strictest sense, is not a mere documentary, but a vehicle for expounding the discipline, the beauty and glory of life at sea. 94min. IT

## Rascal Fifi (Rascal, Rififi...)



**Year:** 1957

**Director:** Guido Leoni

**Actors:** Renato Rascal, Dario Fo, Franca Rame, Annie Fratellini

**Color:** COL.

Gionata, a New York gangster does all he can to ruin two rivals (Renato and Gedeone) who have opened a nightclub across the street from him. Renato's son, Gedeone (Rachel plays both roles), famous singer comedian, wreaks havoc in winning over Gionata's club, while father Renato prefers winning gangster Gionata's pretty daughter. An Italian attempt at satire, usually heavy-handed, but with enough gags to pull it off. 84 min. IT

## Rascal, marine (Rascal, US Marine)



**Year:** 1958

**Director:** Guido Leoni

**Actors:** Renato Rascel, Celina Cely, Kaida Horinki, Masayuki Mori

**Color:** B/W

Eight Marines and as many Japanese contend a Pacific island during the last World War. There they find Taikiki, a native, with two beautiful daughters. During a bombing attack, the two factions take refuge together. But when the American non coms fall for the daughters, the factions clash once again. It's Taikiki who saves the day: he has girls come from nearby islands and all together they build a colony of fraternal love. On the whole, intelligent silliness, with the pretence of a pacifist message. 106 min. IT

## Ratataplan



**Year:** 1979

**Director:** Maurizio Nichetti

**Actors:** Maurizio Nichetti, Angela Finocchiaro, Edy Angelillo

**Color:** COL.

**AWARDS:**



A recently graduated and jobless engineer (Maurizio Nichetti) works as a barman; then drums up a theatre company that's immediately booted off the stage. While fantasizing he sees himself dancing with a beautiful girl, but she rejects him. Then when he concocts a robot to his likeness that does a Travolta street dance, she's totally charmed.... that is, until the contraption falls to pieces. Nichetti, Director/writer/actor, ends up with the ugly duckling, on another madcap adventure. His absurd, offbeat humor makes it a charmer. 95 min. IT

## Il Relitto (Saved Afloat)



**Year:** 1960

**Director:** Michael Cacoyannis, Giovanni Paolucci

**Actors:** Van Heflin, Franco Fabrizi, Ellie Lambetti

**Color:** B/W

A father (Van Heflin) and ten-year-old son are shipwrecked after an explosion on their yacht. The two hang on to some flotsam hoping for rescue. As the night wears on the man begins recalling his life in flashback, especially the relationship with his wife. Before, reaching shore and safety, the man realizes that his estrangement is due more to his own, unfounded jealousy than to anything his wife may have done. Adventure with a moral twist. IT

## Riso amaro (Bitter Rice)



**Year:** 1949

**Director:** Giuseppe De Santis

**Actors:** Silvana Mangano, Vittorio Gassman, Raf Vallone, Doris Dowling

**Color:** B/W

An effective portrayal of women's' backbreaking work in the rice fields of the Po Valley. A sultry Silvana Mangano becomes an international star for her portrayal of a woman who betrays her sister-workers for the love of ne'er-do-well Vittorio Gassman. They will end up destroying one another. Steamy and pseudo-neorealistic in style, it stands the test of time. 100 min. IT

## Romanzo d'amore (Toselli) (Serenade of Love)



**Year:** 1950

**Director:** Duilio Coletti

**Actors:** Rossano Brazzi, Danielle Darrieux

**Color:** B/W

The love story of the heiress princess Louise of Saxony (Danielle Darrieux) and the musician Enrico Toselli (Rossano Brazzi). Despite objections, they marry. During a moment of separation he takes ill and she, unable to join him because of the outbreak of World War I, goes mad. This well written, romanticized telling of their love is reinforced by Toselli's lovely music and two beautiful leads. IT

## Rosa di sangue (Angelica)



**Year:** 1939

**Director:** Jean Choux

**Actors:** Viviane Romance, Georges Flamant, Guillaume de Sax, Camillo Apolloni

**Color:** B/W

In an unidentified Latin-American country, a young woman, Angelica, leads a rebellion against a general she thinks guilty of having raped her sister. Too late she learns of his innocence. To expiate she enters a convent. A fiery melodrama in keeping with its times. 95 min. FR/IT

## Sedotta e abbandonata (Seduced and Abandoned)



**Year:** 1964

**Director:** Pietro Germi

**Actors:** Stefania Sandrelli, Saro Urzi, Lando Buzzanca, Leopoldo Trieste

**Color:** B/W

**AWARDS:**



A Don Juan seduces his fiancée's young sister. When the girl becomes pregnant he refuses to marry her. Later he has second thoughts, at which time, she rejects him. A satirical, advanced look at sexual traditions ... la "Divorce - Italian Style". The two eventually marry to live unhappily ever after. Supreme performance by Saro Urzì as the father who dies content at having upheld the family's honor at all costs. Director Pietro Germi very aptly defined the film as being "Goyaesque". Best actor award for Urzì at XXII Cannes Film Festival (1964); "Nastro d'Argento" for Leopoldo Trieste best supporting actor, and for best screenplay (Age, Pietro Germi, Scarpelli, Luciano Vincenzoni). 113 min. IT/FR

## Il Seduttore (The Seducer)



**Year:** 1954

**Director:** Franco Rossi

**Actors:** Alberto Sordi, Lea Padovani

**Color:** B/W

Married to a perceptive wife, Alberto thinks of himself as a great Don Juan. He comes near to winning over a comely widow and a cute French dish... until they run into one another at his wife's restaurant. Alberto skips off to the mines of Argentina, but we last see him on the beach, as his wife smiles down on the "poor little boy". Sordi adroitly carries this film, a forerunner of the Italian comedies of the 60s. Man's eternal dream of a harem. IT

## Senso (The Wanton Countess)



**Year:** 1954

**Director:** Luchino Visconti

**Actors:** Alida Valli, Farley Granger, Massimo Girotti

**Color:** B/W

**AWARDS:**



1866, Italian patriots battle for independence against the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The Countess Sepieri (Alida Valli) betrays her marriage and country for an Austrian Officer (Farley Granger). Later, confronted with the man's cynicism and treachery, she reports the man to his own superiors. He is tried and executed. The play of passions is carefully paced and the cinematography sumptuous. A fine example of director Luchino Visconti's penchant for compositional elegance. A classic. A point of interest: Granger's dialogue was written with the collaboration of Paul Bowles and Tennessee Williams. G. R. Aldo received the Nastro d'Argento for best cinematography. 115 min. IT

## Senza pietà... (Without Pity)



**Year:** 1948

**Director:** Alberto Lattuada

**Actors:** Carla Del Poggio, John Kitzmiller, Pierre Claud.,, Giulietta Masina

**Color:** COL.

**AWARDS:**



Post World War II, Angela goes in search of her brother, but finds herself involved with prostitutes and racketeers. Jerry, a black American sergeant, coming to her aid, is arrested by the MPs. He escapes. Later, in a fight with her lowlife friends, she is mortally wounded. He too dies as he carries her away. Alberto Lattuada's first realistic film is a tearjerker with enough intrigue and passion to justify a look-see. A "Nastro d'Argento" for Giulietta Masina as best supporting actress. 94 min. IT

## La Sfida (Defiance)

**AWARDS:**



**Year:** 1957

**Director:** Francesco Rosi

**Actors:** Rosanna Schiaffino, Josè Suarez, Nino Vingelli

**Color:** B/W



The story tells of the rise in the Neapolitan Mafia (Camorra) of Vito Polara, a ruthless and ambitious young man who successfully confronts the local boss of the fruit and vegetable market, Salvatore Aiello. Aiello lets him join the organization, but when Vito deliberately ignores his orders a second time, he's shot down. Francesco Rosi's first film gives an almost prophetically clear and devastating picture of the Neapolitan underworld and the power of the Camorra. Special Jury Prize at the XIV Venice Film Festival (1958). 95 min. IT

## Siamo uomini o caporali? (Men or Corporals?)

**Year:** 1955

**Director:** Camillo Mastrocinque

**Actors:** Totò, Paolo Stoppa, Fiorella Mari, Franca Faldini

**Color:** B/W



Taken for a madman, Toto is interred. When questioned by a psychoanalyst, he expounds his theory concerning "men" and "corporals". "Men" are those who suffer, work and sweat; while "corporals" are those who force men to suffer, work and sweat. In illustrating his point, we pass through fifteen years of Italian history: a militant Fascist, the director of a German concentration camp, an abusive American officer, the director of a magazine who misquotes him. They all represent the "corporals" who have blighted his life. The doctor finds him sane and releases him. In this potpourri of famous Toto sketches, the satirical premise gets lost, but not the humor. Long Live Totò! IT



## Sinfonia fatale (When in Rome...)



**Year:** 1947

**Director:** Victor Stoloff

**Actors:** Douglas Montgomery, Sarah Churchill, Marina Bertì, Tullio Carminati

**Color:** B/W

An American composer falls in love with an Italian peasant girl. When the war breaks out she helps him escape the Germans. At war's end, he returns to his wife. The girl alone and with child, dies. Director Victor Stoloff chose an excellent cast. The editing is less good. IT

## Soledad (Fiesta grande) (Soledad, at Last)



**Year:** 1958

**Director:** Enrico Gras - Mario Craveri

**Actors:** Fernando Gomez, Pilar Cansino

**Color:** COL.

Manuel and Soledad are head over heels, but her father gives her hand to a rich suitor. Broken-hearted, Manuel takes up a vagabond existence. Upon returning he learns that Soledad's husband has disappeared. The two wish to marry but the town priest refuses, not having proof of the man's death. Eventually Manuel gathers the necessary evidence and the sweethearts are united. A frail story line, mainly to give us greater insight into local customs in this forgotten corner of post war Spain. 87 min. IT/SP



## I Soliti ignoti (Big Deal on Madonna Street)

**Year:** 1958

**Director:** Mario Monicelli

**Actors:** Vittorio Gassman, Marcello Mastroianni, Totò, Renato Salvatori, Claudia Cardinale

**Color:** B/W

**AWARDS:**



A band of totally inept thieves (Marcello Mastroianni, Vittorio Gassman, Renato Salvatori), led by master thief, Totò (in a beautifully subtle performance), try breaking into a pawnshop, only to find themselves in someone's kitchen. They go home empty-handed, but with full stomachs. A delightfully satirical takeoff on robbery films that has seen many remakes... but this one's a must. Director Mario Monicelli; scriptwriters Age, Suso Cecchi D'Amico, Scarpelli, and Monicelli; and actor Gassman all won a "Nastro d'Argento". Many other awards at home and abroad. 111 min. IT

## La Sposa non può attendere (Love Can't Wait)

**Year:** 1949

**Director:** Gianni Franciolini

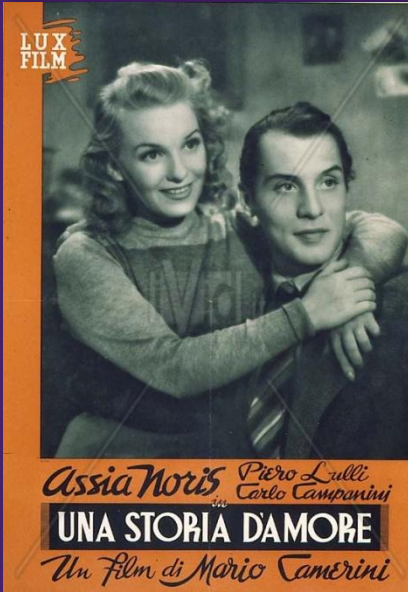
**Actors:** Gina Lollobrigida, Gino Cervi, Ave Ninchi, Nando Bruno

**Color:** B/W



A man going off to get married runs into a series of mishaps and arrives three hours late. Then, after the wedding, he nearly loses his bride. Still other misadventures will try to thwart their happiness, but, like in all bone fide fairytales, they'll win in the end. This simple plot holds together thanks to Cesare Zavattini's pen that can do no wrong. 90 min. IT

## Una storia d'amore (Love Story)



**Year:** 1940

**Director:** Mario Camerini

**Actors:** Assia Norris, Piero Lulli, Carlo Campanini

**Color:** B/W

A young man rescues Anna from a life of sin. They are happily married, when someone from her past starts blackmailing her. She accidentally kills him and is condemned to ten years in prison, though she is pregnant. She dies during the delivery. The child survives as the living sign of the couple's love. Any film titled "Love Story" is bound to be a tear-jerker. This one's no exception. Presented at the 1942 Venice Film Festival. 88 min. IT

## La Strada buia (Fugitive Lady)



**Year:** 1949

**Director:** Sidney Salkow, Marino Girolami

**Actors:** Janis Paige, Massimo Serato, Antonio Centa, Edoardo Ciannelli

**Color:** B/W

An elderly and well-to-do businessman accidentally drives his car off a dark road into a lake. His young widow (Janis Paige), anxious to cash in his life insurance, arouses the suspicion of the insurance agent. As he investigates he learns of her affair with an ex-friend, Jim, and slowly gathers evidence proving that she caused her husband's death. When he confronts her, she shoots him and in her frenzy dies, driving her car off that same dark road. A classic whodunit, with the added perk of Tonino Delli Colli's photography. 85 min. IT/USA

## Tempesta sul golfo (Tempest in Naples)

**Year:** 1943

**Director:** Gennaro Righelli

**Actors:** Armando Falconi, Adriana Benetti, Annalise Uhlig

**Color:** B/W

Field Captain Capece, a faithful follower of Ferdinando II, King of the Two Sicilies (1850s), falls in love with a Neapolitan peasant girl. She is an anti-monarchist which causes some misunderstanding between the two. Lady Winton, named as English ambassador to King Ferdinando's court, and secretly in love with Captain Capece, takes her revenge by falsely accusing him of taking part in a terrorist plot. But the good King, aware of Lady Winton's scheming, clears his faithful Captain: adventure with a discreet sense of history. Dated in style, not content. 85 min. IT

## Tempi nostri (Our Times)

**Year:** 1954

**Director:** Alessandro Blasetti

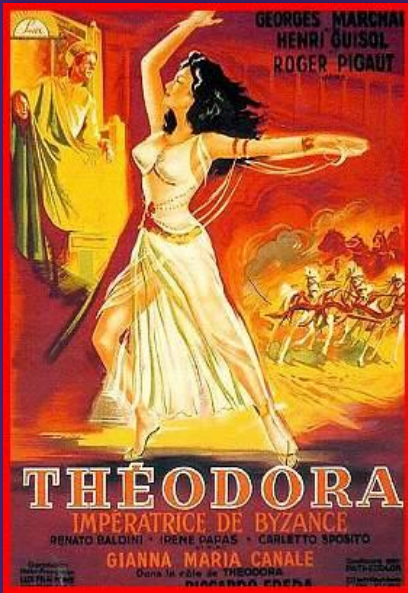
**Actors:** Sophia Loren, Totò, Marcello Mastroianni, Vittorio De Sica

**Color:** B/W

Six episodes, with a wealth of actors and screenwriters. The stories tell of an ex-prostitute; a destitute couple who attempt to abandon their youngest child; two film extras who meet after thirty years and decide to marry, a parish priest who keeps an old woman from committing suicide; and of a photographer who shoots the wrong pictures. An early film of Mastroianni and Loren, and great performances from two heavyweights, Toto and De Sica. 134 min. IT/FR



## Teodora (Theodora of Byzantium)



**Year:** 1954

**Director:** Riccardo Freda

**Actors:** Gianna Maria Canale, Georges Marchal

**Color:** COL.

16th century AD: Byzantium is in an uproar. Emperor Justinian roams incognito among his people to learn the reason for their discontent. There he meets Theodora, a circus performer. They marry. But when a scheming patrician unjustly defames her, Justinian casts her aside. An unexpected, popular uprising, supported by General Belisario, places her back on her throne. Though the director's history is somewhat ephemeral, well-measured performances make for convincing cinema. 92 min. IT/FR

## Tesoromio (My Treasure)



**Year:** 1979

**Director:** Giulio Paradisi

**Actors:** Johnny Dorelli, Zeudi Araya, Sandra Milo, Enrico Maria Salerno

**Color:** COL.

A lovely mulatto housekeeper falls in love with her employer, an unsuccessful playwright (Ernesto). She pays his debts with diamonds that her father mines on an island in the Indian Ocean. Freed of financial worries, Ernesto finally comes up with a smash hit. Feeling unwanted, the island girl is about to return home when absentminded Ernesto finally proposes marriage. A frivolous bit of fun with a charming, laid-back cast. 108 min. IT

## Ti ritroverò (Lieutenant Craig: Missing)



**Year:** 1949

**Director:** Giacomo Gentilomo

**Actors:** Enrico Viarisio, Dilia Scala, Val Du Bois, Peter Ford, Robert Stevens, Renata Bothmer

**Color:** B/W

## Il Tiranno di Padova (The Tyrant of Padua)

**Year:** 1946

**Director:** Maximilian Neufeld

**Actors:** Clara Calamai, Carlo Lombardi, Elsa De Giorgi

**Color:** B/W

Based on Victor Hugo's "Angelo, Tyran de Padoue", this costume piece with its desperate loves, acts of vengeance, evil doers and happy ending is melodrama galore... while falsifying the story without the saving grace of irony. Not very fair to Victor Hugo's art. IT



## Tragica notte (The Trap)



**Year:** 1941

**Director:** Mario Soldati

**Actors:** Doris Duranti, Carlo Ninchi, Andrea Checchi, Juan de Landa

**Color:** B/W

A poacher (Nanni), and a gamekeeper are long-standing rivals. The gamekeeper intimates that the Nanni's wife has always been the Baron's lover. Though he know that's not true, Nanni, still takes his pent up wrath out on the gamekeeper, killing him. The land baron then assumes all responsibility for the death, making it seem a hunting accident. A dramatic story directed with straightforward simplicity. 80 min. IT

## I Tre corsari (The Three Corsairs)



**Year:** 1952

**Director:** Mario Soldati

**Actors:** Ettore Manni, Marc Lawrence, Barbara Florian

**Color:** B/W

In the 1500s, the villainous Dutchman, Van Gould, serving the Spanish Crown, kills the Count of Ventimiglia and has his three sons shipped off on a slave galleon for the Americas. They escape and become the Red, Green and Black Corsairs. And it is the Black Corsair who engages Van Gould in an all out epic duel. He kills the blackguard... and, why not, wins the Viceroy's beautiful daughter. Mario Soldati's flamboyant direction makes it fun. Shame it isn't in color. 98 min. IT

## Treno crociato (The Red Cross Train)



**Year:** 1943

**Director:** Carlo Campogalliani

**Actors:** Rossano Brazzi, Maria Mercader, Cesare Fantoni

**Color:** B/W

On an Italian hospital train, a wounded lieutenant back from the front tells of his affair with a woman in his hometown, and the birth of their child. A sudden air raid forces the train to make an unscheduled stop at that very town. The lieutenant rushes home. His presence helps his mother accept the woman and child. The story is punctuated with scenes showing the care afforded patients on hospital trains. Another propaganda film, but with a certain refreshing restraint. 85 min. IT

## Un Turco napoletano (A Neapolitan Turk)



**Year:** 1953

**Director:** Mario Mattoli

**Actors:** Totò, Aldo Giuffrè, Isa Barzizza, Carlo Campanini

**Color:** COL.

A Diplomat, jealous of his wife and overly protective of his daughter, hires a Turkish eunuch to chaperon them. But in his place, Toto arrives, taking gleeful advantage of the unique situation. It is one of Toto's funniest films, some say his best: a masterly performance with a bit of unique mimicry. A must for any cinephile's library. 92 min. IT



## L' Udienza (The Audience)



**Year:** 1971

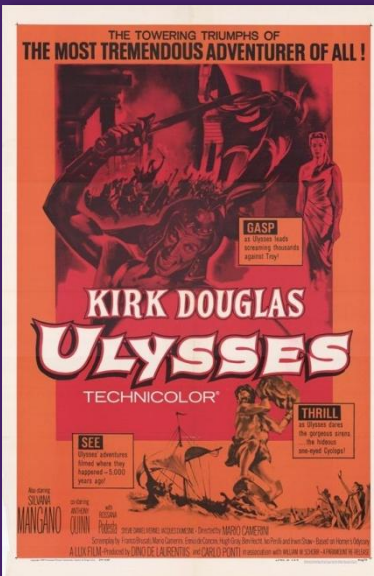
**Director:** Marco Ferreri

**Actors:** Vittorio Gassman, Michel Piccoli, Claudia Cardinale, Enzo Jannacci, Ugo Tognazzi, Alain Cluny

**Color:** COL.

A young man is obsessed by one wish: having a private audience with the Pope. He sets out ready to face all obstacles, legally or otherwise to obtain his goal. Through his peripatetic endeavor he comes upon many strange characters, none of which, though, are stranger than he is. A marvelous group of actors under Marco Ferreri's expert direction makes for a bizarre black comedy. 112 min. IT

## Ulisse (Ulysses)



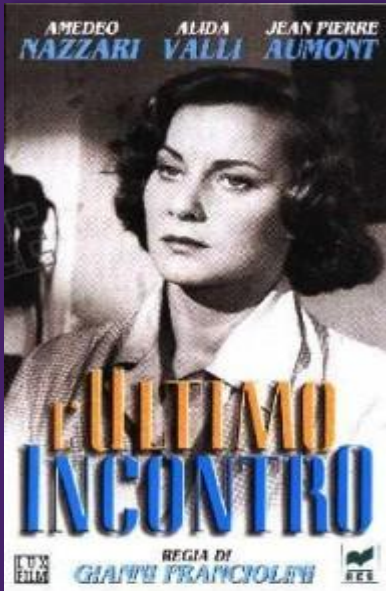
**Year:** 1954

**Director:** Mario Camerini

**Actors:** Kirk Douglas, Silvana Mangano, Anthony Quinn, Rossana Podest...

**Color:** COL.

A retelling of Homer's famous poem about Ulysses' wanderings after the Trojan war as he heads for home to his faithful Penelope. Kirk Douglas as Ulysses gives a fine performance. The adventures leading to his arrival at Ithaca are well visualized. Douglas speaking Italian is a bit much. Shot in Italy when Cinecittà was turning out the bigger-than-life costume epics. Ben Hecht and Irwin Shaw were among the scriptwriters. 104 min. IT



## L' Ultimo incontro (A Last Encounter)

**Year:** 1951

**Director:** Gianni Franciolini

**Actors:** Amedeo Nazzari, Alida Valli, Jean-Pierre Aumont

**Color:** B/W

Lina, a married woman in love with a racecar driver, leaves him a note seconds before a race saying she can't run off with him. Shaken by the news, the racer drives poorly and dies crashing against a metal piling. Blackmailed by a track worker who finds her note, she prostitutes herself to raise the money. Her husband finds out and kills her. Before she dies she confesses all and is forgiven. Sounds awful, but you just watch Alida Valli, beautiful and sensitive, pull it off. IT



## Uomini e cieli (Skymen)

**Year:** 1943

**Director:** Francesco De Robertis

**Actors:** Nonprofessional actors

**Color:** B/W

An Italian Air Force pilot on sick leave looks up three of his prewar buddies. He finds them all deeply marred by their war experiences. A typical propaganda film, showing the heroism of those who suffer physical handicaps but still manage to live a useful existence. You're to reach the conclusion that the pilot gains moral strength through the examples of his friends. 106 min. IT

## Uomini sul fondo (On the Ocean Floor)



**Year:** 1941

**Director:** Francesco De Robertis

**Actors:** Nonprofessional actors

**Color:** B/W

The story of another of De Robertis' military propaganda films revolves around an attempt to save a submarine that collides into a cargo vessel, and slowly begins sinking to the ocean floor. Eventually, the heroism of one of the crew members saves his fellow sailors. Keep in mind that directors such as Roberto Rossellini worked under De Robertis' guidance. And this reconstructing of given situations with non-professional actors can be considered as a cornerstone of neorealistic filming. 98 min. IT

## L' Uomo di paglia (The Straw Man)



**Year:** 1958

**Director:** Pietro Germi

**Actors:** Pietro Germi, Luisa Della Noce, Franca Bettoia, Saro Urz

**Color:** B/W

Andrea, forty, factory worker with wife and son, has a chance meeting with an inexperienced girl. They have a passionate affair. Later, Andrea, in the grips of remorse, leaves the girl. When she commits suicide, he confesses all to his wife. She takes the child and moves out. On New Year's Eve he wanders the city alone, disconsolate. But returning home he finds his wife and son waiting. The family is reunited but nothing will be quite the same. A bittersweet tale told with unadorned honesty "Nastro d'Argento" (1959) for direction (Pietro Germi) and music (Carlo Rustichelli). 120 min. IT

**AWARDS:**



## Vacanze col gangster (Gangster Holiday)



**Year:** 1951

**Director:** Dino Risi

**Actors:** Mark Lawrence, Lamberto Maggiorani

**Color:** B/W

Vacationing on an island, part of which houses an old prison, a group of students find a note written by an inmate who signs No. 5823, claiming his total innocence. Intrigued, they devise a scheme for the man's escape, but their plan is intercepted, and they end up freeing an infamous gangster. However, the island police live up to their fame for never having lost an inmate, and trap the hood, while No. 5823's case is revised, resulting in his innocence. The boys play with fire, and so does director Dino Risi, but in the best sense of the word. 89 min. IT

## La Vedova (Widow's Weeds)



**Year:** 1939

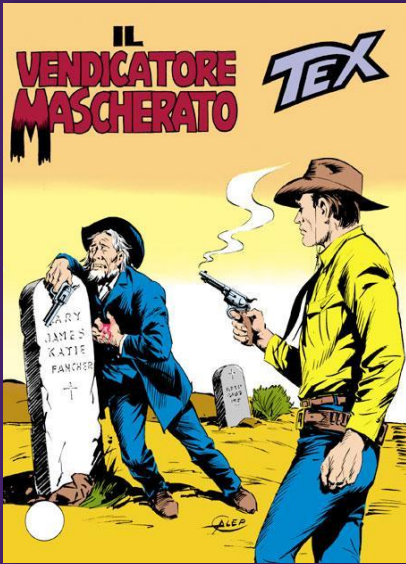
**Director:** Goffredo Alessandrini

**Actors:** Isa Pola, Ruggero Ruggeri, Emma Gramatica

**Color:** B/W

After many years of loneliness, a young widow remarries. Her mother-in-law, alone now, can mourn more freely for her lost son, wallowing happily in a beatific state of grief. An interesting psychological premise with a poignant performance by Emma Gramatica as the mother. 96 min. IT

## Il Vendicatore mascherato (The Masked Avenger)



**Year:** 1964

**Director:** Pino Mercanti

**Actors:** Guy Madison, Lisa Gastoni, Jean Claudio, Gastone Moschin

**Color:** COL.

Venice, early 1500s, Massimo Tiepolo (Guy Madison) heads a conspiracy against the tyrannical Doge, Pietro Gradenigo,. Betrayed and imprisoned Tiepolo escaped thanks to his woman. The populace joins the cause as Tiepolo leads the revolt that deposes the Doge. An action-packed costume adventure with love and jealousy thrown in for good measure. 90 min. IT/FR

## Vento del Sud (The South Wind)



**Year:** 1959

**Director:** Enzo Provenzale

**Actors:** Renato Salvatori, Claudia Cardinale, Rossella Falk, Annibale Ninchi, Laura Adani

**Color:** B/W

The Mafia arbitrarily chooses Antonio (Renato Salvatori), a worker in the salt flats, to kill the local Marquis. But he can't bring himself to carry it out... having been love-struck by the Marquis' daughter (Claudia Cardinale). The two run off, but then he leaves her, fearing for her safety through Mafia retaliation. Worrying over her, he returns, but it's too late. His pain and fury give him the courage to face her killers, but at the cost of his own life. Strong contrasts, as both rich and poor are prey to the Mafia's whims. IT

## Vino whisky e acqua salata (Wine, Whiskey and Salt Water)



**Year:** 1963

**Director:** Mario Amendola

**Actors:** Tino Buazzelli, Raimondo Vianello, Franco Franchi, Ciccio Ingrassia, Alberto Sorrentino

**Color:** COL.

Farcical clownings on an Italian submarine. The flamboyance of the Italian Commander contrasts with the phlegm of his English prisoner counterpart. Throw in a Mata Hari, top it all with a barroom brawl and you have madcap monkeyshines. 95 min. IT

## Violette nei capelli (Violets in Her Hair)



**Year:** 1941

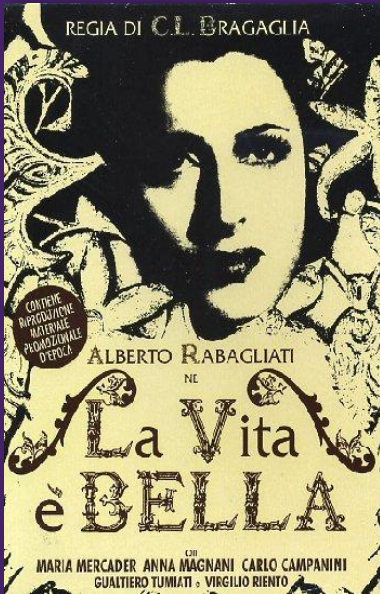
**Director:** Carlo Ludovico Bragaglia

**Actors:** Lilia Silvi, Roberto Villa, Irasema Dilian, Carla Del Poggio

**Color:** B/W

The story of three young women, living together, and what life has in store for them. One accepts an uninspired but steady school job; the second becomes a showgirl, with all the that follows; while the last manages to marry the very man of her dreams. Pleasant but inconsequential. 85 min. IT

## La Vita è bella (Life Is Wonderful)



**Year:** 1943

**Director:** Carlo Ludovico Bragaglia

**Actors:** Alberto Rabagliati, Maria Mercader, Anna Magnani

**Color:** B/W

A penniless Count, tired of a futile existence, agrees to be a guinea pig for a dangerous scientific experiment. During the days needed to carry it out, he comes to value the gift of life and the love of a woman. Unbeknown to the Count, the experiment was devised only to make him understand that life is indeed wonderful. The above drivel is an oversimplification, but pretty much to the point. 76 min. IT

## Vivere in pace (To Live in Peace)



**Year:** 1946

**Director:** Luigi Zampa

**Actors:** Aldo Fabrizi, Gar Moore, Mirella Monti, Ave Ninchi

**Color:** B/W

Small town in central Italy during the last World War: the film explores the perception of what an enemy, taken one by one, can be on a human level. Two American soldiers, escaped prisoners, are given refuge in a farmhouse by Tigna (Aldo Fabrizi). A German soldier appears. He and one of the Americans (a Black) get drunk, and embrace each other, under the illusion that the war is over. The sad truth is evident the next day when a German battalion arrives. Peace will be a long time coming. Honored by the New York Critics Award as best film (1947). The film is considered one of Luigi Zampa's finest achievements. IT

## Vortice (Vortex)



**Year:** 1953

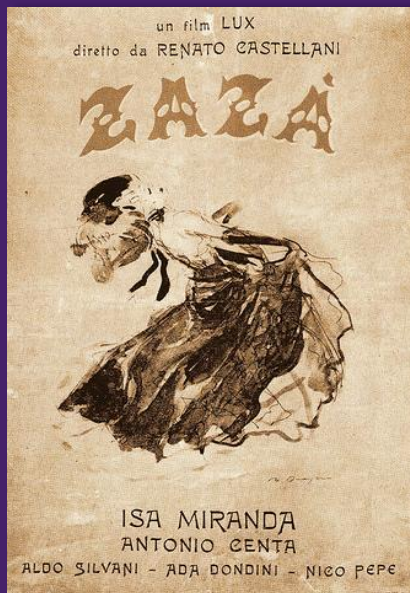
**Director:** Raffaello Matarazzo

**Actors:** Silvana Pampanini, Massimo Girotti, Gianni Santuccio

**Color:** COL.

Elena (Silvana Pampanini) jilts her man, a doctor, and marries (though she doesn't love him) Luigi, a bank manager, in order to help her father who faces financial ruin. Later, Luigi, driving with a call girl has an accident and ends up in a wheelchair. The same girl kills him when breaking into his house Elena, suspected of the crime, is arrested, but her ex true love will save her. The formula is familiar, the execution adequate, the actors competent... don't ask for more. 108 min. IT

## Zaza



**Year:** 1943

**Director:** Renato Castellani

**Actors:** Isa Miranda, Antonio Centa, Aldo Silvani, Nico Pepe, Ada Dondini

**Color:** B/W

Turn of the century France: a Parisian engineer meets and falls passionately in love with a chanteuse in a provincial town. He leaves her with promises of returning soon. Too impatient to wait, she goes to Paris in search of the man, only to find that he has a wife and daughter. She returns home, and when the man shows up, she finds the courage to stifle her love, convincing him not to abandon his family. Director Renato Castellani's feeling for the "belle ,poque" is impeccable and the music by Michele Galdieri and Nino Rota is simply charming. A sad note of interest: Alberto Moravia collaborated on the script but doesn't appear in the titles because of Fascist, anti-Semitic restrictions. 88 min. IT



## Ultima violenza (The Latest Violence)

**Year:** 1957

**Director:** Raffaello Matarazzo

**Actors:** Yvonne Sanson, Dario Michaelis, Lorella De Luca

**Color:** COL.



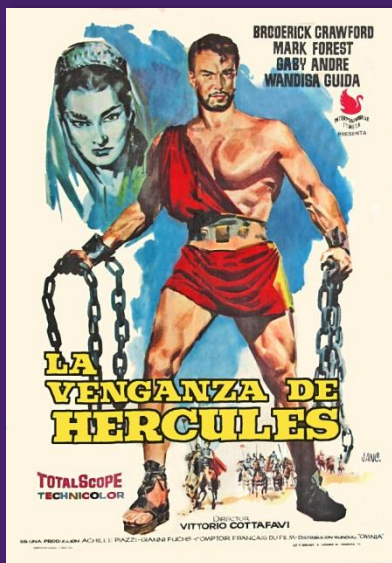
## Vendetta di Ercole (Goliath and the Dragon) (The Vengeance of Hercules)

**Year:** 1960

**Director:** Vittorio Cottafavi

**Actors:** Mark Forest, Broderick Crawford, Gaby Andr,

**Color:** COL.



Goliath (Marc Forest) is challenged by evil King Eurystheus (Broderick Crawford). Good ole Mark, in all his muscular glory can't keep this spear-and-sandal flick from falling or fouling. Irony may have been intended, but only snide snickers come across. Too bad, director Vittorio Cottafavi can and has done much better. 98 min. IT

## Ruba al prossimo tuo (A Fine Pair)



**Year:** 1968

**Director:** Francesco Maselli

**Actors:** Rock Hudson, Claudia Cardinale, Leon Askin

**Color:** COL.

A detective gets involved with the beautiful daughter of an old friend. The daughter turns out to be a jewel thief, who in turn gets the detective involved in a caper in Austria

## Oceano (The Wind Blows Free)



**Year:** 1971

**Director:** Folco Quilici

**Actors:** Documentary

**Color:** COL.

## Un Marito per Anna Zaccheo (A Husband for Anna)



**Year:** 1953

**Director:** Giuseppe De Santis

**Actors:** Silvana Pampanini, Amedeo Nazzari, Massimo Girotti, Umberto Spadaro

**Color:** B/W

Anna, a beautiful girl, pledges eternal love to Andrea, a sailor. However, during his long absence she is unfaithful. Desperate, she attempts suicide. Upon Andrea's return she confesses all. Enraged, he slaps her and walks off. Time passes, others propose marriage, but she remains faithful to her first love. When the two meet again, Andrea cannot forgive and leaves for good. Anna's refuge is in the bosom of her family. Strangely enough this unhappy ending holds together. A slice of drab life without a moment of boredom: good scripting, great cast, a neat film. 95 min. IT

## Tosca



**Year:** 1941

**Director:** Carlo Koch/Jean Renoir

**Actors:** Argentina Imperio, Rossano Brazzi, Michel Simon

**Color:** B/W

Based on Victorian Sardou's novel: perfidious Scarpia blackmails Tosca into revealing the hiding place of an escaped political prisoner, thus saving her love, Mario Cavaradossi. But Tosca kills Scarpia, and desperately runs to what should be Cavaradossi's false execution. But he is put to death owing to Scarpia's infamous double-dealing, Tosca throws herself off the parapet of Hadrian's Tomb. A point of interest: director Jean Renoir began the film but, left the set when Italy declared war against the allies. 105 min. IT

## I Due Foscari (The Two Foscaris)



**Year:** 1942

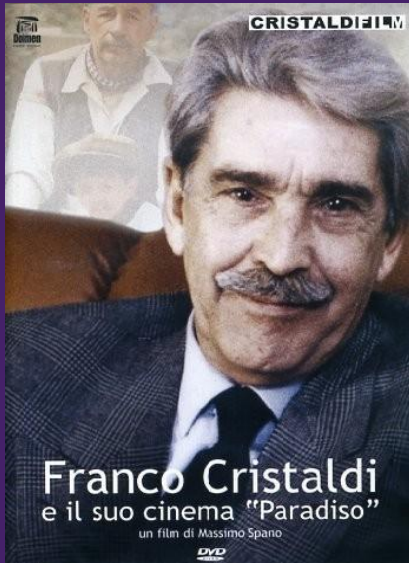
**Director:** Enrico Fulchignoni

**Actors:** Carlo Ninchi, Rossano Brazzi, Elli Parvo, Memo Benassi

**Color:** B/W

The rivalry between two Venetian families, the Foscari and the Faredanas is so acute that when a Foscari is elected as the Doge, the elder Faredana dies of shock and his son swears vengeance. Through false testimony, the son of the Doge is imprisoned and eventually accused of murder. At the last moment, the young man will unmask the real culprits and prove his innocence. Based on Lord Byron's historical drama, the film offers a young Rossano Brazzi (Foscari son) the opportunity to bring his Latin charm into play. Certainly, an added plus comes from Michelangelo Antonioni as co-scripter and assistant director. 85 min. IT

## Franco Cristaldi e il suo cinema Paradiso



**Year:** 2009

**Director:** Massimo Spano

**Actors:** Documentary

**Color:** COL.

Starting in the 50s, miles and miles of film reels testify to Franco Cristaldi's passion and commitment to producing the best Italian and European cinema over the course of his career. Repeatedly honored with the most prestigious international awards at Cannes, Venice, and Hollywood, Cristaldi had a saying: "Every film must be a prototype."

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