

Document Citation

Title	Federico Fellini's Intervista
Author(s)	Deborah Young
Source	<i>Variety</i>
Date	1987 May 20
Type	review
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Intervista (The interview), Fellini, Federico, 1987

Federico Fellini's Intervista

(Interview)

(ITALIAN-COLOR)

An Aljoshia Prods./RAI-TV Channel 1/Cinecittà coproduction. Produced by Ibrahim Moussa. Written and directed by Federico Fellini. Camera (Eastmancolor), Tonino Delli Coli; editor, Nino Baragli; music, Nicola Piovani, with a tribute to Nino Rota; screenplay collaborator, Gianfranco Angelucci; art direction, Danilo Donati; line producer, Pietro Notarianni; English version, Paul Mazursky, Leon Capetanos. Reviewed at the Cannes Film Festival (out of competition), May 18, 1987. Running time: **105 MINS.**

Federico Fellini Federico Fellini
Mandrake Marcello Mastroianni
Anita Ekberg Anita Ekberg
Reporter Sergio Rubini
Asst. director Maurizio Mein
Bride Lara Wendel
Star Paola Liguori
Vestal virgin Nadia Ottaviani
Young girl Antonella Ponziani

Cannes — Begun as a tv special, "Federico Fellini's Intervista" (or more simply, "Interview") has wound up on the big screen, where it will delight Fellini fans worldwide as a trip down the Maestro's personal memory lane. Really a scrapbook on Cinecittà, the Roman studios that have always been identified with the director, it is at the same time a recap of his most famous trademarks, whether they be actors, places, images or tone. "Interview" is more like an anniversary party than a film (and in fact, it was made on Cinecittà's 40th anni). Light but entertaining, it should have no trouble finding wide audiences.

By its very nature, "Interview" can't be called on unforgettable work, since it's constructed entirely out of bits and pieces of previous creative labors. A Japanese tv crew arrives at Cinecittà one night to shoot a docu on Fellini, and they find the master at work with his usual crew. Over the next few days, we see him doing screen tests and location scouting for a new film based of Kafka's "Amerika" (a real project).

With the help of faithful assistant director Maurizio Mein, cameraman Tonino Delli Coll, art director Danilo Donati and his crew, Fellini takes us on a backstage tour of the world of filmmaking, with lots of fun along the way. There is also a Fellini alter ego, played by Sergio Rubini, who fancifully tells the story of how the Maestro first visited the studios as a young reporter, assigned to interview the Star (Paola Liguori), how he saw director Alessandro Blasetti at work, and fell in love with the cinema.

This Fellini documentary is full of elephants and elephantine women, spectacular sets and petty humanity hurling four-letter words at each other, usually with affection. Its one truly enchanting sequence is when Fellini takes Marcello Mastroianni (outfitted as Mandrake the Magician for an ad) to visit Anita Ekberg. With a flick of his baton, Mandrake brings to life some famous scenes from "La Dolce Vita," when both thesps were young and unspeakably beautiful; the contrast with them 27 years later brings tears to Ekberg's eyes.

Not just a sentimental tour of Fellini mannerisms, "Interview" suggests the long-gone past can be recaptured only on film stock — maybe not a very new idea, but entertainingly expressed. Fans can test their own memories to see how many films get homage here (not forgetting the recent attacks on television, rapped again in a genial finale). — *Yung.*