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Abicinema

ITALO-DOCU-COLOR-16m)

Variety 8-27-75
Locarno, Aug. 19.

Ovidio Assonitis release and production. Written, directed and edited by Giuseppe Bertolucci. Camera (Color), Tonino Nardi. Reviewed at Locarno Film Fest, Aug. 10, '75. Running time, 70 MINS.

Giuseppi Bertolucci, brother of Bernardo, has made a docu using brother Bernardo's recently-wound epic film "1900" as his base. It may be a brotherly valentine, but has a slight patronizing base in using some non-actor peasant performers to act as naive questioners to explain something about the basics of film as art and social tract, hence the title.

But some of the epic feel of "1900" is pinpointed and Bernardo himself explains his conceptions of film, what a dolly does, the camera, etc., to his interlocutors plus some revealing interviews.

Docu could be a workable tv entry though theatrical chances look limited except for fests, schools, etc.

Again there is that fine democratic paradox of millions being poured into a film that attacks the rich, the landowning exploiters and capitalism. "Abicinema" would be a fine hype for the coming feature but is too surface to stand on its own. It does pinpoint the sweep of the film it is using in its attempt to explain film art and aims to the uninitiated. It also again underlines the natural acting flair that seems to come naturally to Italians generally and the working and agricultural classes especially. —Mosk.