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LA Int. Film Expo 1977

18e 7:30 pm Friday, March 18

Italy

Caro Michele

(Dear Michael)

1976. Color. 1.85 format. 108 min.

In Italian with English subtitles

Producer: Gianni Hecht Lucari / *Director:* Mario Monicelli / *Screenwriters:* Suso Cecchi D'Amico, Tonino Guerra / *Cinematographer:* Tonino Delli Colli / *Editor:* Ruggero Mastroianni / *Music:* Nino Rota / *Principal Cast:* Mariangela Melato, Delphine Seyrig, Aurore Clement, Marcella Michelangeli, Lou Castel / *Production Company:* Flag Production / *Print Source:* Cineriz
Berlin, San Francisco Film Festivals 1976

Mario Monicelli is a master film director. He exhibits his mastery once again in *Dear Michael* by making a comedy about social responsibility. He also allows us to like all of the characters; even as we see their faults and mistakes, we come to know and feel for them.

If you saw *Swept Away* you were impressed with Mariangela Melato. She's back; only this time she's as lower-class as she was upper-class in the former. She plays a not-too-maternal mother whose mounting responsibilities she slips aside as easily as a wisp of her long, windblown hair. Delphine Seyrig plays the mother of the nearly unseen Michael. Nino Rota did the music, and a superb job of editing was done by Ruggero Mastroianni.

The question: "How responsible are we, to whom and for how long?" is put forth. It's the Judeo-Christian ethic versus the "I'm OK, you're OK" philosophy . . . and it's fun.—*Peter Bonerz*



Short: Doubletalk

Alan Beattie (USA, 1976, 10 min.)

Thoughts spoken and unspoken as a boy calls for his date.