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TEMPORARY CINEMA

Brazil

American Premiere

21E 8:00 pm Wednesday, March 21

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Amada Amante 1979 FILMEX

Beloved Lover

1978. Color. 1.66 format. 98 min.
In Portuguese w/ English subtitles

Producer: Leopoldo Serran / *Director:* Bruno Barreto / *Screenwriters:* José Louzeiro, Leopoldo Serran / *Cinematographer:* Lauro Escorel Filho / *Editor:* Raimundo Higino / *Music:* Guto Graca Mello / *Principal Cast:* Paulo Gracindo, Christina Ache, Paulo Guarnieri, Ligia Diniz, Flavio Sao Thiago / *Production Company:* Clark-Barreto / *Print Source:* Embrafilme

Present day Rio shimmers in the afterglow of sultry sambas and infinitely extended summer nights. All roads lead to the Copacabana, which reeks with the debauched cannibalism of a colonial outpost in its twilight hour. Into this world is thrown Sandra, evicted 13-year-old daughter of a city detective. Cruising the boulevard nights, Sandra turns stripper and meets Toninho, a distant cousin to the splintered human debris of Rossellini's *Open City* and *Paisan*. Together, Sandra and Toninho's adversity to parental authority takes form. In their descent, the bankruptcy of a stratified patriarchal society unable or unwilling to deal with the needs of its disenfranchised youth are exposed. The symbiotic balance of the predators and their prey is disrupted when Sandra's father attempts to reclaim his daughter.

Like the beautiful and damned lovers of Bresson, Truffaut and Cocteau, Bruno Barreto's characters appeal and are denied a state of grace in the emphatic, all-knowing sensuality of their culture. Without their constraint and stylization, *Beloved Lover* shares the more profound concerns of *Pretty Baby* and *Hardcore*. It's nothing, in short, like the filmmaker's previous film, the light, inconsequential *Dona Flor and Her Two Husbands*.—Carlos Mendez

