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MICHELANGELO ANTONIONI

Michelangelo Antonioni's "Blow-Up" -- his first

English speaking motion picture -- is another major achievement

for the brilliant Italian director whose highly individualistic

style of mood and mystery have made his pictures talked about

around the world.

It has been said Antonioni makes his pictures with a painter's eye and an architect's hand. He admits to being complimented by the attention his pictures have received. However, he prefers to think of himself merely as a story-teller creating dramatic illusions spinning yarns before a campfire. But critics and movie-goers, alike, consider him the most stylish of all contemporary directors.

Through each of Antonioni's stories have emerged a deep concern for human behavior. Particularly for its weaknesses.

First a writer on social and economic problems following his graduation from Bologna University, journalism and film criticism launched his cinematic career.

Starting with documentaries, he won international renown with such pictures as "The Red Desert:, which won the Golden Lion Award; "La Notte", winner of the Berlin Film Festival; "L'Avventura", honored at Cannes; "Le Amiche", awarded the Silver Lion at the Venice Film Festival; "L'Eclipse", "Il Grido", among others.

"L'Avventura", filmed in 1960, was Antonioni's first truly worldwide success. Its enthusiastic critical reception assured

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an ever widening audience. With "Blow Up" he explores an exciting new area in his probing study of human nature and patterns, and the individual's inability to distinguish certainty from fantasy, reality from the image.

"Blow Up" marks Antonioni's first association with producer Carlo Ponti. Producer of innumerable memorable films, Ponti produced "Doctor Zhivago" for MGM, winner of six Academy Awards.