

Document Citation

Title	Reality the basis for 'The Stranger'
Author(s)	
Source	<i>Publisher name not available</i>
Date	
Type	exhibitor manual
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Lo straniero (The stranger), Visconti, Luchino, 1967

REALITY THE BASIS FOR "THE STRANGER"

"The Stranger," by Nobel Prize-winning French author Albert Camus, is one of the best-known and most widely-read novels in modern Western literature. But few people are aware that it is based on a real trial—that of the author's best friend.

The novel, now a Paramount Pictures' Color and wide-screen motion picture, opening at the Theatre, tells of the revolt of a French-Algerian clerk, condemned to death, not for his crime of killing an Arab, but for his refusal to accept the hypocrisy of the society which has accused him.

Camus was 28 when he wrote the book, and he had already moved from his native Algeria to the more intellectually fertile city of Paris. But "The Stranger" was set in his beloved North African country, and the idea for it came from an incident which had made a profound impression upon him.

When he was barely 20 he had attended the trial of his best friend, the painter Xavier Galliero, in Algiers. Galliero was accused of killing an Arab, but after a summary trial was fully absolved.

In those pre-war days, when French colonial power was at its strongest, the verdict aroused little surprise and no criticism. But Camus was shocked by the realization that, guilty or not, his friend had run almost no risk of being condemned.

The young writer had already begun to reflect on the injustices of colonialism in Algeria, and his experience at the trial heightened his painful awareness that he was an oppressor, an outsider in his native land, which belonged first to its Arab inhabitants.

This feeling of estrangement sparked Camus' novel, which centers around a trial remarkably similar to Galliero's. Only this time the protagonist is condemned anyway, for being a "stranger" to his own society and rejecting its "sacred" rules.

The motion picture version of "The Stranger" stars Marcello Mastroianni as the accused man, and Anna Karina as his girl friend, Luchino Visconti directed the Dino De Laurentiis production which was

and Emmanuel Robles.



MAN ALONE

Still #116 Mat 1B

A STRANGE ROLE for Marcello Mastroianni is that of Meursault in "THE STRANGER". Indifferent to the outside world and driven only by his basic needs and desires, Meursault finds himself an outcast. This Paramount Picture



Still #1528 Spec 1

Mat 3A

In the screen portrayal of Camus Nobel Prize winning novel "THE STRANGER" Marcello Mastroianni and Anna Karina portray tragic characters caught in the web of a society they do not understand. As Meursault, Mastroianni finds that his indifference to society will cause his own destruction. This Paramount Picture in Color opens at the Theatre.

"THE STRANGER" CREATES ALGERIAN UPHEAVAL

The white city of Algiers, overlooking the Mediterranean Sea, has changed considerably since World War II and since Algeria won its independence from France in 1962.

But for the duration of shooting of Paramount Pictures' "The Stranger," the Color and wide-screen version of Albert Camus' classic novel, opening at the Theatre, at least a part of Algiers looked as it did before the war.

Director Luchino Visconti was determined to re-create faithfully the city as the novelist knew it and described it in his famed book.

Algerian authorities were only too happy to cooperate, for the Nobel Prize-winning Camus is a national hero in his native land and director Visconti enjoys no small fame there himself. So for three entire weeks all traffic was blocked on the half-mile long main street.

Visconti's crew set about their task of bringing the past to life.

All of the Arabic signs came down, and back went the old French ones on storefronts and street-corners. Pre-war Peugeot's replaced the sleek modern sedans which now circulate on Algiers' streets. In a city warzone Visconti even found the trolley which carried the author and his protagonist "Meursault," down the hill to the beach.

The public bathing area near the port of Algiers now has modern installations, but Visconti managed to dig up the old, brightly-painted wooden cabins and have them put

up for the important scene in which "Meursault," portrayed by Marcello Mastroianni, meets "Marie Cardona," played by Anna Karina.

The director found most of the places mentioned by Camus, from the old people's home in Marengo to the restaurant where the author liked to eat, and used them in the film. The courtroom in which "Meursault" is tried is the real courtroom of Algiers, where Camus

noted the end of the trial.

Even the smallest details were important to Visconti, so the newspaper which "Meursault" peruses for about 30 seconds in the picture is a re-print of a real newspaper of the epoch, reproduced exactly down to the last advertisement. The cigarettes he smokes come in "Bastos" packs, copied with scrupulous fidelity from the packs sold in pre-war Algiers.

"The Stranger," produced by Dino De Laurentiis for Paramount Pictures release, was written for the screen by Suso Cecchi D'Amico, George Conchon and Emmanuel Robles.



Still #81

Mat 1A

Confronted with Meursault's imprisonment, Meursault

to whether he lives or dies he vainly tries to persuade Meursault that his attitude will cause him to be found guilty. This Paramount Picture in Color "THE STRANGER" opens at the Theatre

'MEURSAULT MY HAMLET DECLARES MASTROIANNI Marcello Mastroianni, of the weary eyes and great Lover reputation, says his current starr role in Paramount Pictures' "The Stranger," opening at the Theatre, should be turning point in his career.

"A stage actor's greatest to the one that makes or breaks it is usually 'Hamlet,'" observes Italian screen star. "I think 'Meursault' in 'The Stranger,' most difficult role I've ever play will be my 'Hamlet.'"

"The Stranger," directed in Technicolor and wide-screen by Luchino Visconti, is based on the fan novel by Nobel Prize-winning author Albert Camus. Dino De Laurentiis produced the Paramount presentation.

LAZY LOVER—Fifteen-year-old Barbara Mastroianni, daughter Italy's award-winning screen actor Marcello Mastroianni, this Daddy's glittering reputation as Casanova is a little exaggerated.

"She calls me Methuselah," confesses Mastroianni with a sigh "and thinks I'm much too lazy to be a great Lover!"

Mastroianni is currently starring in Paramount Pictures' "The Stranger," opening at the Theatre. Dino De Laurentiis produced the in Color and wide-screen presentation Albert Camus' famed novel. Luchino Visconti directed.



Still #22

Mat 2D

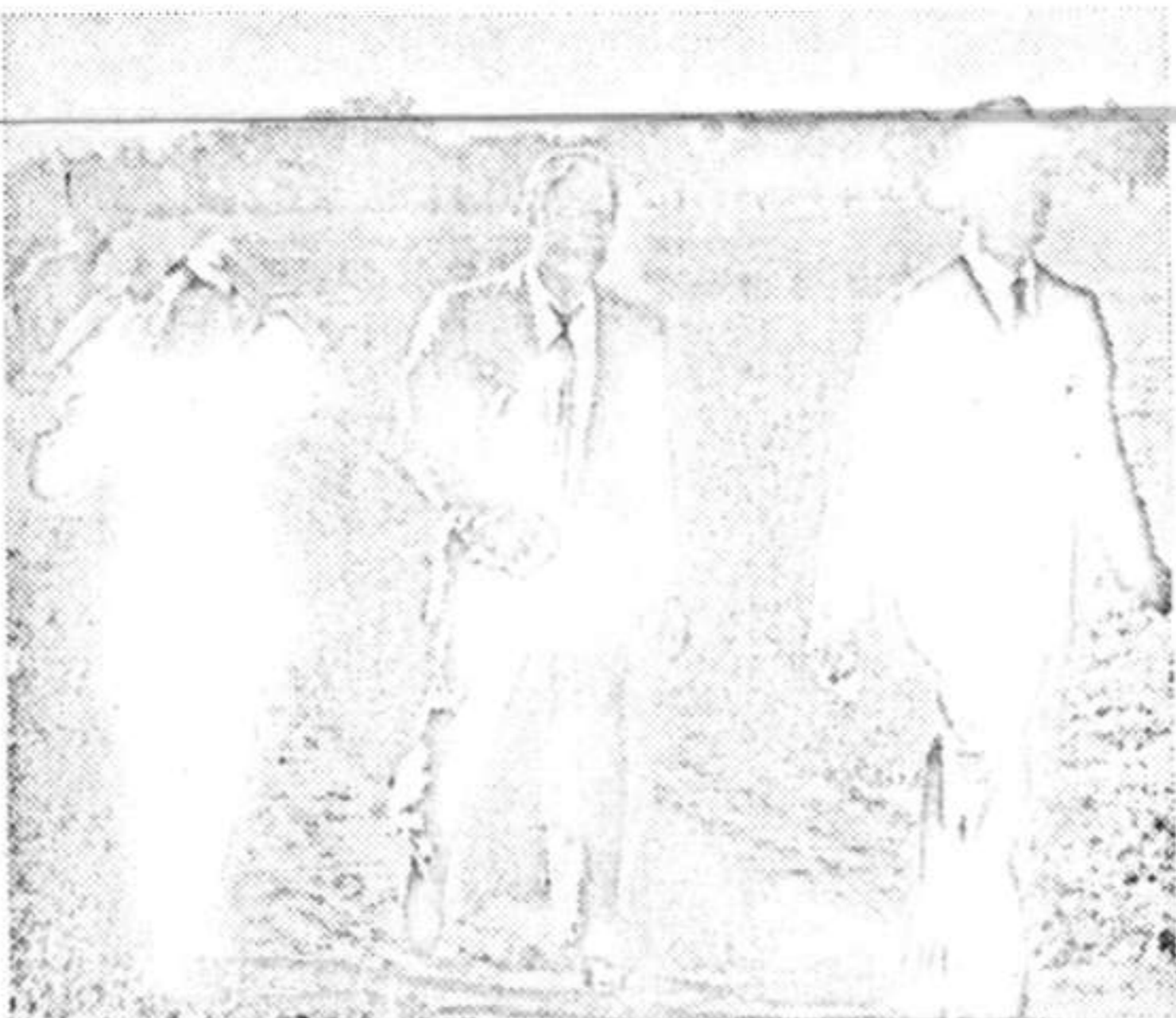
VIGIL OVER THE DEATH of his mother is kept by Meursault (Marcello Mastroianni). Her friends keep him company. Exhausted, Meursault dozes off, and awakens in time to see them all leaving. "THE STRANGER" a Paramount Picture in Color opens at the Theatre.

'SUPER-NORMAL'— Danish-born French actress Anna Karina, who stars with Marcello Mastroianni in Paramount Pictures' "The Stranger," opening at the Theatre.

Miss Karina hasn't identified very much with her film roles. "I consider myself 'super-normal,'" she says with a happy laugh. "I get along well with all kinds of people—and my only fetish is a yo-yo!"

HAPPINESS IS A BOWL OF SPAGHETTI—Separate an Italian from spaghetti and what do you have? "A very unhappy Italian," says Marcello Mastroianni, star of Paramount Pictures' "The Stranger," opening at the Theatre.

"I like working with Italian crews," Mastroianni says, "because no matter where you are in the world, they always bring spaghetti—and good humor!"



Still #30

Mat 2A

FUNERAL MARCH by Meursault from his mother's grave proves more depressing for his mother's friends than it does for him. Accepting her death as merely the end of her life he feels little remorse. "THE STRANGER" a Paramount Picture. In Color opens at the Theatre.