

## Document Citation

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the East Side Cinema. 2/11/73

**THE SPIDER'S STRATAGEM,**

directed by Bernardo Bertolucci from a screenplay by Edoardo de Gregorio, Marilu Parolini and Bertolucci and starring Giulio Brogi and Alida Valli, got 10 favorable reviews (Andrew Sarris, Village Voice; Canby, Winsten, Kissel, Reed, Drew, Harris, Zimmerman, Crist, Cocks), 5 mixed (Kathleen Carroll, News; Martin Levine, Newsday; Lyons, Kael, Wolf) and 3 negative (Hatch, Kauffmann, Simon).

Vincent Canby: "The Spider's Stratagem' is an elaborate, theatrical plot uncovered by the son of a murdered anti-Fascist hero, 30 years after the murder, when he is called back to his father's town by the dead man's former mistress. The film recalls the Stendhalian world of Bertolucci's best film, 'Before the Revolution,' which also has to do with self-deception, political action compromised and motives almost hopelessly tangled. The film's color photography is extraordinarily lovely for, like the conspirators within the film, Bertolucci has a weakness for the purely theatrical effect. Of the players, I particularly liked Alida Valli."