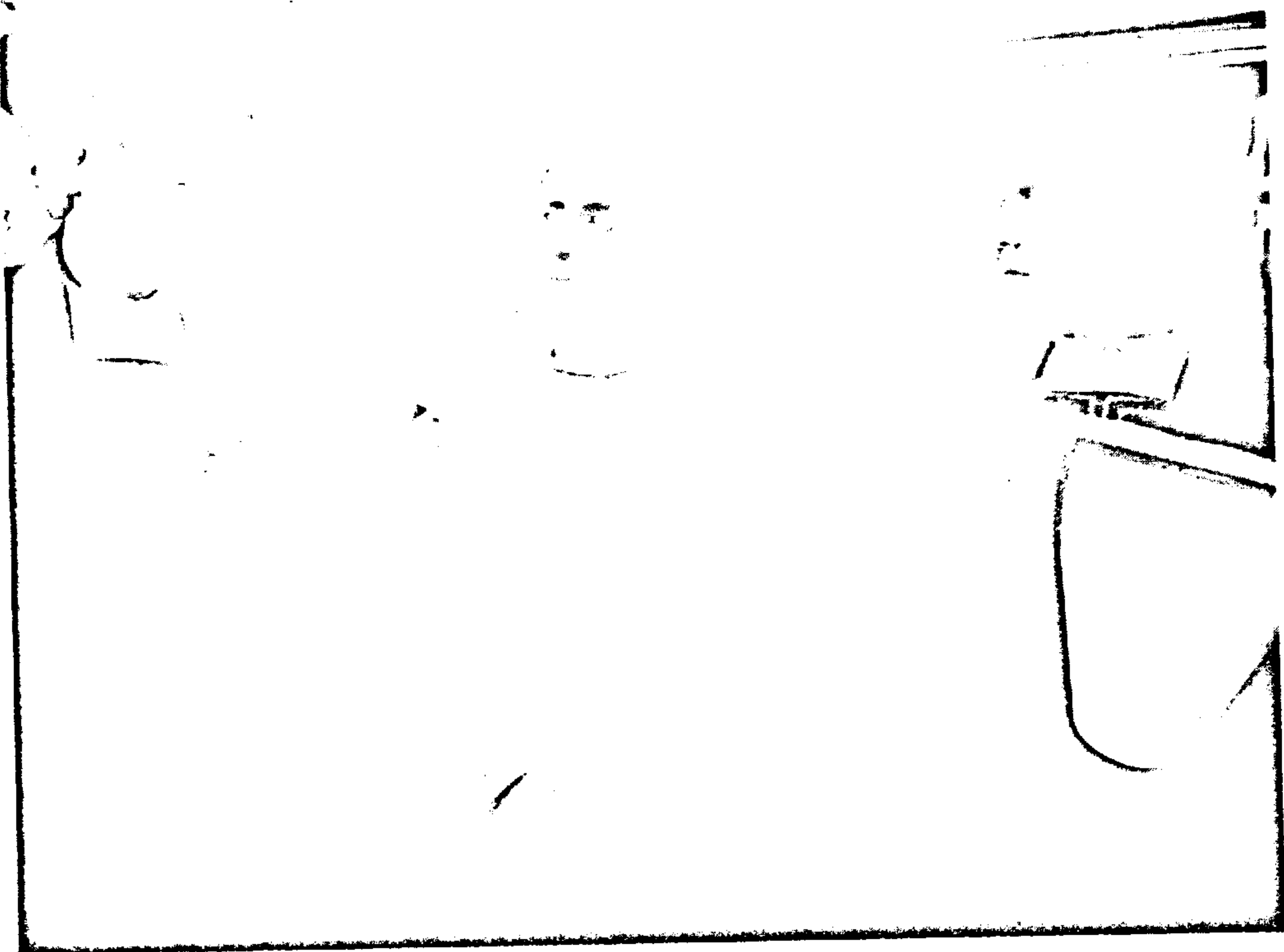


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THE AGE OF THE MEDICIS

Friday, April 13, 6:30 p.m.

Robert Rossellini has the range and intellectual curiosity of a Renaissance man: it's entirely appropriate that he should have made this brilliant trilogy of films on one of the fathers of the Italian Renaissance, Cosimo de' Medici. The films were produced in English for television as part of Rossellini's vast project to develop a new approach to visual education. *The Rise of Louis XIV* and *Socrates* were earlier examples: in *The Age of the Medicis* Rossellini parallels the emergence of Italy from the middle ages and the development of a humanist culture with the Age of Pericles in ancient Athens. Cosimo helped create modern civilization—directly, by laying the foundations of a new economic system; indirectly, through his encouragement of progressive artists and thinkers. Thus the story of Cosimo introduces Leon Battista Alberti, an architect and philosopher of genius, and the trilogy ends with the triumph of rationality. Most historical documentaries are dry; most historical epics false. Rossellini has succeeded in combining truth with excitement, in bringing history to life.—M.W. (1973. Color. Three 84 minute parts with 40 minute intermission for dinner. Program runs 5 hours approximately. Courtesy of Roberto Rossellini.)