

## Document Citation

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**FRIDAY**

Federico Fellini's **CITY OF WOMEN** (1980), from a screenplay by Bernadino Zapponi, Brunello Rondi, and Fellini, with Marcello

Mastroianni, Anna Prucnal, Bernice Stegers, and Donatella Damiani, was Fellini's long-awaited rendezvous with feminism. There was no malice in the pseudoconfrontation, but rather a tone of self-parody appropriate for a lighthearted excursion into the netherworld of women as feared and desired by a traditionally lecherous male in a liberated age. Indeed, the Maestro delivers a more muscled broadside at the archaic male chauvinists (represented by alter-ego Mastroianni) than at the whores, witches, viragoes, bunnies, mothers, and shrewish wives who float through the chaos of *City of Women* with self-aware labels. Fellini operates in a world of romantic, sexual, and nostalgic illusions, and here his unleashed demons are among the funniest of his long career. Anyone who has ever regarded a Fellini film with the slightest affection will find it difficult to resist the poignantly confessional tone and antic humor of his most baroque compendium of female images. **Public Theater: through Sunday, 10 p.m.**

VV 3/10/87 A. Sarris & Allen