

## Document Citation

Title	<b>Bellissima</b>
Author(s)	
Source	<i>Publisher name not available</i>
Date	
Type	distributor materials
Language	English
Pagination	32
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Bellissima, Visconti, Luchino, 1951

# Bellissima

Italy 1951, 115 minutes, English sub-titles, £10.50

Directed by Luchino Visconti  
with Anna Magnani and Walter Chiari



At the Cinecitta Film Studios in Rome two searches are being made. A film company is searching for a child star for their film "Bellissima", and one of the mothers who has brought her daughter for a screen test is looking for her lost child. She is aided by a minor employee of the studio, who, when the child is found, offers to use his influence with the film's director. The mother agrees and despite the opposition of her husband, the child is placed among the final contestants. However, when she secretly watches her daughter's screen test and witnesses the reaction of the studio heads, she changes her mind about a screen career . . .

This delightful Visconti film, available for the first time on 16mm., captures all the behind-the-scenes excitement of a major film studio. Under Visconti's direction, the performance of Anna Magnani as the mother reaches classic proportions. The film is also rich in comic situations and outstanding characterisations among the supporting cast. An often biting and always amusing script by Visconti and Francesco Rosi makes **Bellissima** a delightful entertainment.

*"The opportunity for irony, hard impressionistic observation and atmosphere that the subject offers, are brilliantly seized. Visconti fills in his scenes with a series of quick, bitingly effective strokes... In its surface texture, its masterly accumulation of detail, this is a richly fascinating film . . ."* GAVIN LAMBERT

*"If you want to see Anna Magnani at her brilliant best and re-ignite memories of her smouldering beauty and volcanic personality, see BELLISSIMA".* EVENING NEWS

*"Magnani with the stops out conquers all".* GUARDIAN

*"enormously enjoyable" Margaret Hinxman, SUNDAY TELEGRAPH*  
*" . . . stands very high in the Visconti canon"*

*David Robinson, FINANCIAL TIMES*