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Alcool

~~(Alcohol)~~

(ITALIAN-COLOR)

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Venice, Aug. 31.

Produced by Augusto Tretti for the Province of Milan. Features entire cast. Written and directed by Augusto Tretti, with the consultation of Dario De Martis. Camera (color), Maielli. Reviewed at Venice Film Festival, Aug. 31, 1980. Running time: **110 MINS.**

Chronic drunk Mario Grazioni

A bizarre and irritating offering on the problem of alcoholism by ex-Fellini assistant Augusto Tretti. Pic's unusual production circumstances (it was financed at clearly minimal cost by the Province of Milan after being turned down by film and tv) have raised a certain amount of unjustified interest in it. Wavering between moralizing didacticism and obvious attempts at humor, helmer's third feature fails to find a voice for itself.

Pic bills itself as "essentially informative, educational and preventive" while it aims at avoiding documentary dullness with the fictional structure of an "auteurist" film; result of this admirable intention is a hodge-podge of sketches

(~~drunken~~ housewives, gas company men, movie stars, etc.) whose potential humor is wrecked every time by amateur execution. Lighting, actors, dialog and editing all contribute their bit to the chaos. Every 20 minutes a group of four deadpan young "professionals," presumably psychologists and sociologists, break into the narrative to mouth statistical data.

With a non-professional cast of alcoholics from country towns around Milan and collaboration on the script by a registered psychiatrist, "Alcohol" might have made a great Woody Allen pic in the old days.

Presented out of competition in the Panorama of Italian Cinema.

—Yung.