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Variety Il Bestione (The Beast) (ITALIAN- FRNECH - COLOR) 10-16-74 Rome, Oct. 2. Warner Bros. release. Produced by Carlo Ponti. Stars Giancarlo Giannini, Michel Constantin. Directed by Sergio Corbucci. Screenplay, Luciano Vincenzoni, Sergio Donati; camera, (Technicolor), Gluseppe Rotunno; art director, Glantito Burchiel-

laro; editor Eugenio Alabiso; music, Guido and Maurizio De Angelis. Reviewed at Cinema Rouge e Noir, Rome, Oct. 2, '74. Tunning time: 105 MINS. Nino ..... Giancarlo Giannini

Sandro ..... Michel Constantin

Screenwriters Luciano Vincenzoni and Sergio Donati have written a creditable sentimental action comedy about a special breed of skilled labor - the transcontinental truck driver. Extravagances of the profession in tension and adventure, the neat character contrast in the two-man team of overroad haulers, the simple contingent situations and attendant sentiment are kept in hand and in precise tempo by Sergio Corbucci to give the Carlo Ponti production a good chance at world market biz, including dualers and tv (with some sex cuts) in the U.S. Scripters have provided sharp, earthy dialog that almost sets, the pace in itself. Corbucci rarely permits action and rough comedy to slow down by mundanc emotions

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and sentimentality.

Story is well documented to provide insights through two principal characters, the north Italian Sandro and Sicilian Nino provide best moments as excellently portrayed by Michel Constantin and Giancarlo Giannini who touch off conflicting sparks through a slick first act, and who subsequently become steadfast pals.

Corbucci and top lenser Giuseppe Rotunno, as well as the art director, attain maximum results on and just off the highway. Pic as a whole faithfully reflects the grim and brief truck driver cycle from youthful ambition to rapid physical decline --- a bleakness betrayed fleetingly by backyard or overnight sex, grabbed on the run and desolately devoid of emotional foreplay. Werb.

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