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THE ANTO WAR

(COMEDY - ITALIAN)

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A Cecchi Gori Distribuzione release of a Cecchi Gori Group production. Produced by Vittorio Cecchi Gori. Executive producer, Alessandro Calosci.

Directed by Riccardo Milani. Screenplay, Sandro Petraglia, Domenico Starnone, Milani. Camera (color), Alessandro Pesci; editor, Marco Spoletini; music, Piccola Orchestra Avion Travel; production designer, Francesco Friggeri. Reviewed at Augustus Cinema, Rome, Oct. 10, 1999. Original title: *La guerra degli Anto*. Running time: 98 MIN.

With: Flavio Pistilli, Paolo Setta, Danilo Mastracci, Federico Di Flauro, Regina Orioli.

Aimed squarely at Italo teen audiences, "The Anto War" is a very local Cecchi Gori Group youth comedy set near the Adriatic coastal town of Pescara in 1990. Action centers on a gang of four boys named Antonio (nicknamed Anto), Mohawk-crested punks who defiantly set themselves apart from their provincial, conformist peers. Though it's weak on structure, helmer Riccardo Milani brings out the two central characters strongly enough to give pic some personality. It's hard to imagine this title straying far offshore.

A long, uninteresting buildup illustrating the Antos' aggressive misadventures catches its stride in pic's second half, when their radical politics peep out behind the tattoos and body piercing. Unhappy in the boondocks of Italy, the best-looking Anto (Flavio Pistilli) goes to Bologna to study, but college texts are as far beyond him as college girls. After injuring his leg in an accident, he leads an aimless, unhappy life in Amsterdam, where he is joined by the other notable Anto (Paolo Setta), a conscientious objector unwilling to be drafted into the Gulf War. A high-volume soundtrack by the group Avion Travel ups the adrenaline. — *Deborah Young*