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## L'Avventura

(The Adventure)

(ITALIAN)

1960

Cannes, May 24.

Cino Del Duca release of PCE production. Stars Gabriele Ferzetti, Monica Vitti, Lea Massari; features Dominique Blanchar, James Addams, Renzo Ricci, Esmeralda Ruspoli. Directed by Michaelangelo Antonioni. Screenplay, Antonioni, Elio Bartolini, Tonino Guerra; camera, Aldo Scavarda; editor, Eraldo Da Roma. At Cannes Film Fest. Running time, 155 MINS.

Sandro ..... Gabriele Ferzetti  
Claudia ..... Monica Vitti  
Anna ..... Lea Massari  
Patricia ..... Dominique Blanchar  
Senator ..... Renzo Ricci

VARIETY  
This film comes on the heels of Federico Fellini's "The Sweet Life," which also castigated the emptiness and decadence of Italian high life. However, this one is

more personal and less symbolical. Pic tells its tale through characters which are more alive and responsible than in the other film. But it is long, grave and sometimes over-emphatic. This makes it an item with mainly art chances abroad. Theme and treatment could possibly make this an exploitable item. It would probably need plenty pruning.

A group of idle rich go off on a cruise. Sandro (Gabrielle Ferzetti) is a sort of lady's man who is involved with the business interests and placements of his monied friends. He is loved by an erratic, mystical girl who showers him with love. But she is discontent and not ready to marry, and disappears when they land on a barren island.

It is not clear whether she has committed suicide or gone off on a boat of some cigarette smugglers. Her lover tries to follow her trail, being accompanied by the missing girl's friend, a poor girl. A love affair develops but seems doomed as the Don Juanish man goes off with still another girl. But there is some hope because the two try to find some meaning for each other.

Director Michaelangelo Antonioni has given this a good beginning as he incisively blocks out the characters and the lack of roots in a life where emotion and love have been lost in an almost meaningless chain of attempts at love.

The photography is clear and spacious. This does not go in for obvious symbolism and a series of orgies to make its points. This is a difficult audience film since characters are sometimes left ambiguous. The stark beginning does not quite blend completely with the second half.

The acting is always kept under control, with Monica Vitti standing out as the poorer girl whose hope is that this affair is more than an adventure.

Here is a film that will probably find tough boxoffice going. But a tightening may make it okay for special runs. But this calls for the hard-sell and excellent handling.

Mosk,