

Document Citation

Title	The red desert
Author(s)	
Source	<i>San Francisco International Film Festival</i>
Date	1990 May 10
Type	press kit
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	2
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Il deserto rosso (Red desert), Antonioni, Michelangelo, 1964

Michelangelo Antonioni's

The RED DESERT

(Il Deserto Rosso)

An Angelo Rizzoli Presentation

Producer:	Antonio Cervi
Director:	Michelangelo Antonioni
Screenplay:	Michelangelo Antonioni
Cinematographer:	Tonino Guerra
Art Director:	Carlo Di Palma
Music Composer:	Piero Poletto
	Giovanni Fusco
	Conducted by Carlo Savina
Electronic Music:	Vittorio Gelmetti
Vocal Music:	Cecilia Fusco
Editor:	Eraldo Da Roma
Costumes:	Gitt Magrini
Production Company:	FILM DUEMILA CINEMATOGRAFICA FEDERIZ / FRANCORIZ
Running Time:	116 min.
Technical:	Color by Technicolor
	Ratio 1.85:1
Year / Country:	1964 Italy/France

Starring

Monica Vitti	as	Giuliana
Richard Harris	as	Corrado Zeller
Carlo Chionetti	as	Ugo
	with	
Xenia Valderi		Aldo Grotti
Valerio Bartoleschi		Emanuela Pala Carboni
Lili Rheims		Rita Renoir

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CAPSULE

The RED DESERT

NOTES:

Modern Italy has become an industrial wasteland run by technocrats who have lost the meaning of life. Monica Vitti, the factory engineer's wife, is recovering from a recent automobile accident, an event which has heightened her sense of confusion and loss. Neurotically sensitive to her environment and alienated from modern existence, she seeks a basis for hope. In desperation she takes a lover, Richard Harris.

The ambiguities of the lovers' personal drama and relationship are set against precise cinematographic composition and art direction. As with several great films of the 1960's such as "2001: A Space Odyssey" and "Lawrence of Arabia", "The Red Desert" is constructed as a visual work which relies as heavily on elements of abstract art as it does upon traditional motion picture syntax. The careful use of color, form and image composition surround the characters with physical and emotional landscapes. Lost, they relate less to each other than to the world around them.

In his first color motion picture Antonioni expended enormous efforts to create a grand visual concept for his film: factory sets, landscapes, a desert beach, hair color and even fruit were painted and dyed to convey an eerie, almost surreal, relational atmosphere. These environmental indicators reveal the emotions of characters, whose lives, like the planet, suffocate from a dominance of industry, overabundance of products, and their inability to either control or adapt. Modern man's technological capabilities may have outstripped his moral values, and as depicted in the dementia of Monica Vitti's character, mankind may fail to adapt to his own creations.

Connoisseur Video Collection and Shadowfax Film Company commissioned Technicolor Rome to create a brand new copy, restored to Antonioni's original specifications. Printed directly from the pristine internegative, the film can now be shown as it was intended, not just dramatically and editorially complete, but complete in its rich visual power—a power integral to the vision of a filmmaker who has been aptly called "one of the most important of the second half of this century."

The Red Desert has not been seen in its original form for many years, so we are especially proud to present its revival debut at the San Francisco International Film Festival. For more information about distribution plans for The Red Desert please contact us at (213) 455-2810 or (213) 653-8873. Film Festival screenings are Thursday, May 10 at 9:40 pm and Friday, May 11 at 2:00 pm at the Kabuki Theatre.

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...You may contact the SFIFF hotline (415) 831-FILM for more information...