

Document Citation

Title	Lucky Luciano
Author(s)	
Source	<i>Publisher name not available</i>
Date	
Type	program note
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	3
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Lucky Luciano, Rosi, Francesco, 1973

Lucky Luciano

Italy - France, 1973

Directed by: Francesco Rosi

Story: Francesco Rosi

Screenplay: Francesco Rosi, Lino Jannuzzi with the collaboration of
Tonino Guerra

Director of photography (Technicolor): Pasqualino De Santis

Camera operator: Mario Cimini

Assistants camera: Gianni Fiore, Gioacchino Tedeschi, Ezio Bellanti

Film edited by Ruggero Mastroianni

Assistants editor: Lea Mazzocchi, Stefano Patrizi

Production designer: Andrea Crisanti

Costumes: Marisa Crimi, Luciana Fortini

Make-up artist: Franco Freda, Amato Garbini

Music by Piero Piccioni

Sound engineer: Fernando Pescetelli

Sound mixer: Gianni Amico

Technical adviser: Charles Siragusa

American sequences adviser: Jerome Chodorov

First assistant director: Gianni Arduini

Second assistant director: Mico Gualdieri

Production organization: Gino Millozza

Production controller: Tonino Sarno

Production: Francesco Cristaldi for Vides, Rome; Les Films La Bo  te,
Paris

Distribution: Titanus

Actors and characters: Gian Maria Volont   (*Lucky Luciano*), Edmund
O'Brien (the Head of the narcotics Bureau), Charles Siragusa (*playing
himself*), Rod Steiger (*Gene Giannini*), Vincent Gardenia, Silverio Blasi,
Charles Cioffi, Larry Gates, Magda Konopka, Jacques Monod, Dino
Curcio, Karin Peterson, P.M. Pasinetti, Carlo Mazarella, Antonio
Maimone, Sergio Saviane, Giuseppe Schioppa, Paolo Bruno, Armando
Amatore, Luigi Infantino

Lenght: 118'

The Story

Salvatore Luciano, alias Lucky Luciano, has been the head of Italian-American organized crime since 1931, when he took power by eliminating about forty of his enemies. In 1946, Governor Thomas E. Dewey—who as a judge had sent Luciano to prison nine years earlier—deports him to Italy as an “undesirable.” From that day on Lucky lives an apparently peaceful, impeccable life in Naples. Yet recurrent rumors claim that he is the man behind the international drug traffic. Charles Siragusa, head of the European Office of the Narcotics Bureau, tries in vain to unmask him. In a debate at the United Nations, the investigator, Henry J. Anslinger, and the Italian delegate clash over Luciano. Under pressure from international public opinion, the police constantly follow Lucky, search his house, and interrogate him, without turning up any proof against him. Lucky Luciano dies of a heart attack at the Naples airport, taking his secret to the grave.

Lucky Luciano

"What distinguishes Rosi's film from others on the Mafia is its refusal to glamorize the liturgy of violence and analysis of situations in which the Cosa Nostra manifests itself as the other face of power. Rather than give a large amount of space to the massacres – though they are summarized in rapid-fire sequences – Rosi raises a series of questions that implicitly condemn politicians and businessmen who achieved their illegal goals within a formal respect for the law."

Giovanni Grazzini
«Corriere della sera», 10/20/1973

"Lucky Luciano is a film that attests to Francesco Rosi's tenacious sense of civic engagement, his amazing ability to transcend cinema's chromatic and spectacular element to make it a calculated instrument of investigation and denunciation."

Leo Pestelli
«La Stampa», 11/6/1973

