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ASSO

(Ace)

(ITALIAN-COLOR)

Variety 5/6/81

Rome, April 18.

A Cineriz release. Produced by Mario and Vittorio Cecchi Gori for Intercapital productions. Stars Adriano Celentano, Edwige Fenech. Written and directed by Castellano and Pipolo. Camera (Eastmancolor), Danilo Desideri; editing, Antonio Siciliano; sets, Enrico Tovaglieri; music, Detto Mariano. Reviewed at Adriano Cinema, Rome, April 16, 1981. Running time: **92 MINS.**

Ace Adriano Celentano
Bocconcino Edwige Fenech
Bretella Renato Salvatori
Herminia Morgan Sylva Koscina

A poker champ is killed and comes back to help wife remarry rich. Castellano and Pipolo-Adriano Celentano, the writer-helmer-star team that topped Italian grosses recently with "Taming of the Shrew," fall short of even their crass commercial aims in this boring rehash of invisible man jokes cum sex comedy. Though not one of the season's big hits, "Ace" can confidently be predicted to make back its chips at home thanks to its stars and genre following.

Pic gives the impression of being overconfident of its formula and letting anything go. Even sex star Edwige Fenech is less watchable than usual as the newlywed whose husband spends their wedding night in the back room of a bar gambling all their savings. Fortunately, he wins; unfortunately, he is killed by a hired assassin on his way home. Many minutes of screen time pass as he convinces Fenech only she can see and hear him.

Firmly opposed to his widow's plan to go back to hoofing on the stage (because a "signora" should be above work), Celentano sabotages her rehearsal and sets about marrying her to an aging banker.

Story is so slight and jokes so hard to laugh at, all emphasis lands on non-acting of principals. Though Celentano (Italy's no. 1 boxoffice draw) is usually able to hold the screen he doesn't have much help in this one.

Characters parody themselves without much wit. Fenech's voice is dubbed into Italian higher than usual and her character Bocconcino ("tasty morsel") is more vulgar than ever in a 50's wardrobe in shades of scarlet and crimson. Sylva Koscina cameos as a nymphomaniac ghost in what looks like a plastic platinum wig. Renato Salvatori is completely wasted as a barman. —Yung.