

## Document Citation

Title	<b>The conformist</b>
Author(s)	
Source	<i>New York Film Festival</i>
Date	1970
Type	program note
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	4
Subjects	Bertolucci, Bernardo (1940), Parma, Emilia-Romagna, Italy
Film Subjects	Il conformista (The conformist), Bertolucci, Bernardo, 1970



8TH NEW YORK FILM FESTIVAL - 1970

THE CONFORMIST - Italy/France/West Germany 1970  
Il Conformista

Berlin Festival 1970

Running Time: 115 min.

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Director	Bernardo Bertolucci
Producer	Maurizio Lodi-Fe
Executive Producer	Giovanni Bertolucci
Production Company	Maris-Film(Rome)/Marianne-Productions (Paris)/Maran-Film(Munich)
Screenplay	Bernardo Bertolucci, after the novel by Alberto Moravia
Photography	Vittorio Storaro (Technicolor)
Cameraman	Enrico Umetelli
Editor	Franco Arcalli
Art Director	Ferdinando Scarfioti
Costumes	Gitt Magrini
Sound	Franco Bassi
Music	Georges Delerue
Assistant Director	Aldo Lado

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Leading Players

Marcello	Jean-Louis Trintignant
Giulia	Stefania Sandrelli
Anna Quadri	Dominique Sanda
Lino Seminara	Pierre Clementi
Manganiello	Gastone Moschin
Prof. Quadri	Enzo Tarascio
Italo	Jose Quaglio
Marcello's mother	Milly
Marcello's father	Giuseppe Addobbati
Giulia's mother	Yvonne Sanson
The Colonel	Fasco Giachetti
The minister	Benedetto Benedetti

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This film is distributed in the United States by Paramount Pictures

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## BERNARDO BERTOLUCCI BIOGRAPHY

Bernardo Bertolucci will be represented by two films in this year's New York Film Festival - THE CONFORMIST and THE SPIDER'S STRATAGEM. His other films shown at past Festivals have been BEFORE THE REVOLUTION (the Second Festival), THE GRIM REAPER (the Fourth Festival) and PARTNER (the Sixth Festival).

Bertolucci, one of Italy's foremost "underground" or "protest" directors of today, was born in Parma in 1941. His father is a poet and film critic.

Bertolucci was studying modern literature at the Rome University when Pier Paolo Pasolini asked him to act as assistant director on his first film, ACCATONE. In 1961, Bertolucci launched forth on his own and made THE GRIM REAPER from a story by Pasolini. The film obtained considerable success at the 1962 Venice Film Festival.

He also followed in his father's footsteps, writing poetry, and in 1962 won the most coveted of all Italian literary prizes, the Premio Viareggio, for a collection of his poems entitled "In Search of Mystery."

Two years passed before he made his second film, BEFORE THE REVOLUTION. It was shown at the Cannes Film Festival and won the Max Ophuls Prize and the Prix de la Jeune Critique in France. Next, he made three one-hour documentaries entitled "The Petroleum Road" for television and an episode of a three-part film, LOVE AND ANGER, with the Living Theatre. This was followed by PARTNER starring Pierre Clementi.

His last work before THE CONFORMIST was a color feature made for Italian television, THE SPIDER'S STRATAGEM, based on a short story by Jorge Luis Borges and starring Alida Valli. THE SPIDER'S STRATAGEM was shown at the 1970 Venice and Edinburgh Film Festivals and THE CONFORMIST appeared at the 1970 Berlin Film Festival.

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## SYNOPSIS - THE CONFORMIST

In 1920, thirteen-year old Marcello Clerici is lured into the quarters of a homosexual chauffeur, Lino (Pierre Clementi), who promises him a gun as a present. When the exalted, desperate man begs Marcello to shoot him, the boy does so and makes his escape unseen.

Eighteen years later, the year 15 of the Fascist era, Marcello (Jean-Louis Trintignant) is a normal young man, a respected professor of philosophy. He is also engaged to be married to Giulia (Stefania Sandrelli), a somewhat silly and middle-class girl who, Marcello is convinced, will make him a good wife. He is by now estranged from his parents, since his mother (Milly) is a drug addict and his father (Giuseppe Addobbati) is interned in a home for the mentally ill.

Marcello is also closely linked with the Fascist counter-espionage agency, OVRA, in an attempt to conform with society and be protected by it. He is entrusted with the mission of going to Paris and reporting on the activities of his ex-University professor, Quadri (Enzo Tarascio), now an exiled and dangerous anti-Fascist agitator.

Marcello uses his honeymoon with Giulia as cover for his trip to Paris. They break off their journey in San Remo, where Marcello is informed by a French OVRA agent, Raoul (Christian Alegny) that there has been a change of plan: Professor Quadri is to be "eliminated." Marcello is given a gun. He does not falter. His childhood crime will be washed out by this new state-authorized murder.

In Paris, Marcello and Giulia contact and meet with Quadri. They also meet his wife, Anna (Dominique Sanda), a frivolous, prev-

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ocative young woman who permits Marcello to embrace her a moment when they are left alone. Marcello is violently aroused and falls in love with her, perhaps for the first time in his life. His new-found sentiment is doused however, when he discovers that Anna is really attempting to seduce Giulia, and is only using him as a means to this end. Marcello is further disconcerted when Anna tells him that her husband is perfectly aware of the fact that Marcello is a spy.

The two couples go out to dinner and later dancing together, and Marcello does his duty of identifying the professor to Manganiello (Gastone Moschin), yet another OVRA agent who is to arrange the "Elimination" of the professor. Professor Quadri invites Marcello and Giulia to leave Paris the next day to spend a week with them in the country. Marcello refuses, and also persuades Anna to delay her departure, as he knows the professor is to be ambushed. He wants to save Anna's life, as he is still fascinated by her.

Marcello is horrified to learn the next morning that Anna has left with her husband, and he and Manganiello chase after them in a car. They catch up just as the hired assassins are doing their job. Marcello sits a helpless witness, as the professor is stabbed and Anna shot to death as she tries to make her escape.

On July 25, 1943, Marcello and Giulia, at home with their little daughter, learn of the fall of the Fascist regime. Marcello goes out with a blind friend, Italo (Jose Quaglio) to describe to the latter the scenes of jubilation in the Roman streets. As they wander through the Roman Forum, Marcello catches sight of a familiar face, that of Lino, the chauffeur he believed he had killed. Realizing that his whole life, his conformity to society and the regime has been conditioned by an error, he attacks Lino, who flees in terror. Marcello sags to the stone steps of the ruins.

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