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Tue 21 Apr
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Stromboli

The first, and most scandalous, of the films Rossellini made with Ingrid Bergman, *Stromboli* tells the story of Karin, a Lithuanian refugee interned on an Italian island after the war who obtains her freedom by marrying an islander only to discover that her new imprisonment is worse than the first. In Rossellini's original, Karin leaves; RKO re-edited this English-language version to give the impression she doesn't. Even re-edited the film remains startlingly direct about its subject-matter, while stylistically it is Rossellini at his freest and most inventive. *Italy 1950.*



Wed 22 Apr
6.15 8.30

Francesco, Giullare di Dio

Francesco is crude, simple and wonderful. It is the diametric opposite of what Hollywood would have done with the subject and it is the (infinitely superior) prototype of Pasolini's medieval films. Rossellini's may be a fairy-tale Middle Ages, but the fairy-tale has the feel of truth as well as charm. *Italy 1950.*



Thu 23 Apr
6.15 8.30

Journey to Italy

(Viaggio in Italia)

This is the film which provoked the definitive split between Rossellini's 'left' critics and his defenders on *Cahiers du Cinéma* and inspired Bazin's famous image of the 'stepping-stones given by reality itself' being sufficient to take Rossellini across the river. An insignificant subject – the bickerings of a couple tired of their marriage – is brilliantly transformed into a film of great resonance and depth. Even the fact that the actors hated making the film is turned to superb advantage. *Italy 1953/With George Sanders, Ingrid Bergman. NB: The version being shown and now in distribution is the original English language version.*



Sat 25 Apr
6.15 8.30

Fear

(Angst/La Paura)

Rossellini's only excursion into the suspense genre, *Fear* is a thriller with a difference. The centrepiece of the film is not the action as such but its psychological effects. As in *Stromboli* and *Journey to Italy*, Bergman's performance here, as the woman nearly destroyed by fear and guilt as the result of a phoney blackmail attempt, has a quality far in excess of anything she ever did in America. *Italy 1954.*