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Author(s)	Chase Weaver
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ROMA: CITTA APERTA
(OPEN CITY)

(Italy/1945)   109 minutes $40.00
Italian Dialogue with English Subtitles.

Directed by Roberto Rossellini - Screenplay by Sergio Amidei, Federico Fellini and Rossellini - Produced by Excelsa Film (Rossellini). Players: *Anna Magnani, Marcello Pagliero, Aldo Fabrizi* and a cast of non-professional actors.

Women, children and a priest are allies collaborating to protect underground leaders from the ruthless hunt of the gestapo in this great film—probably *the* landmark of the Italian neo-realist movement. *Open City* brought a harsh, immediate involvement with the fears, betrayals and heroism of the underground war against the Nazis in Italy.

The passion and the intensity of this very human resistance are personified by the great Anna Magnani as she runs desperately after a truck bearing off her lover—running on her feet as far as she can, falling to her knees and still attempting to follow the truck and, finally falling flat in the street and still slithering crawling after the truck, never once stopping her pleadings and entreaties.

There are no happy endings; there is only the comedy that desperate efforts sometimes recruit, mixed with courage carelessness, failure and terror. *Open City* was made by people who had lived close to what they portrayed.

Production on the film began when the Germans still occupied Rome and continued as they withdrew. Close—Close-up

". . . here was the insistent conviction of the real thing, after years of the Hollywood resistance movie, with bogus accents and brave little gestures and studio mock-ups of European towns."

—Penelope Houston
The Contemporary Cinema

Kit Parker
1979