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# The Museum of Modern Art Department of Film

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OSSESSIONE  
(OBSESSION)

BEFORE NEO-REALISM  
Italian Cinema 1929-1944  
October 5 - December 21, 1978

Sunday, December 17 at 2:30

OSSESSIONE. 1943. Directed by Luchino Visconti. An Industrie Cinematografiche Italiane presentation of an ICI production. Screenplay and dialogue: Visconti, Mario Alicata, Giuseppe De Santis, Gianni Puccini, and Rosario Assunto freely adapted from James M. Cain's novel The Postman Always Rings Twice. Editing: Mario Serandrei. Photography: Aldo Tonti, with the assistance of Domenico Scala. Organizer of production: Camillo Pagani. Music: Giuseppe Rosati, directed by Maestro Fernando Previtali. Sound recording: Arrigo Usigli and Tommaso Barberini. Set design and furnishings: Gino Franzi. Costumes: Maria De Matteis. Assistant directors: Giuseppe De Santis, Antonio Pietrangeli. In Italian; English subtitles. (Macmillan Audio-Brandon Films). 135 min.

With: Clara Calamai (Giovanna), Massimo Girotti (Gino), Dhia Cristiani (Lucia), Elio Marcuzzo ("The Spaniard"), Vittorio Duse (the plain-clothes policeman), Michele Riccardini, and Juan de Landa (Giuseppe Bragana).

OSSESSIONE (OBSESSION).

" OSSESSIONE is pre-neo-realist; it anticipates certain of the themes and styles that were to become stock-in-trade of the movement, but, for good historical reasons, necessarily misses out on others. It is, one might say, realism without the neo-."

--Geoffrey Nowell-Smith,  
Luchino Visconti

"Three features stand out in OSSESSIONE. One was the unusually frank treatment of sex in the relationship between the two protagonists. This was one of the reasons together with the general turmoil that was sweeping the country, and objections of the censors to the movie's pessimistic, defeatist mood and political overtones, why OSSESSIONE never made the normal distribution circuits in Italy. A second feature is the unprecedented formal care the director had given to all aspects of his job: photography, acting, settings, camerawork... The final and critical feature of OSSESSIONE was its new, vital, uncontrived and anti-rhetorical approach, which has made critics consider it a precursor of neo-realism."

--Gianfranco Poggi,  
Film Quaterly, 1960

Luchino Visconti Filmography:

1942--OSSESSIONE. 1948--LA TERRA TREMA. 1951--BELLISSIMA. 1953--WE ARE THE WOMEN (Anna Magnani episode). 1954--SENSO. 1957--WHITE NIGHTS. 1960--ROCCO AND HIS BROTHERS. 1962--BOCCACCIO 70 (Romy Schneider episode). 1971--THE LEOPARD. 1965--SANDRA. 1967--THE STRANGER. 1969--THE DAMNED. 1971--DEATH IN VENICE. 1972--LUDWIG. 1975--CONVERSATION PIECE. 1976--L'INNOCENTE.

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