

Document Citation

Title	Bellissima
Author(s)	
Source	<i>Cinema Guild</i>
Date	1985
Type	distributor materials
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Bellissima, Visconti, Luchino, 1951



BELLISSIMA

Luchino Visconti directed Anna Magnani in this often comic but remarkably moving drama of a working class woman who enters her daughter in a film studio's competition to find 'bellissima,' the most beautiful child in Rome, for a big part in a new movie. Pursuing this chance to fulfill all her dreams through her child, Magnani's ambition becomes obsession, and obsession becomes tragedy, as the mother is conned and the daughter exploited.

Directed by Luchino Visconti

Italy, 1951

Black and white, 112 minutes, 16mm

Italian dialog with English subtitles

Rental: \$150 NT/T

"...one of the best films of both Visconti and its star Anna Magnani... a classic performance... Although we generally associate neo-realism with tragedy, there were some comedies in the style. Surely, none was better than Bellissima." — Kevin Thomas, Los Angeles Times

"Anna Magnani's (is) an emotional thunderburst of a performance... her maternal fury is a glory to behold, but its emotional force is built up very slowly and solidly in a series of scenes in which the many facets of her womanly nature are brilliantly illuminated." — Andrew Sarris, The Village Voice

"...top-drawer handling in production, thesping and direction. Miss Magnani has rarely been better... colorful cast of professionals and non pros is given a perfect blending under Luchino Visconti's sensitive direction... resulting realism and depth are outstanding." — Hawk., Variety

"(Magnani) runs the gamut from laughter to tears, buffoonery to insight with transitions so lightning fast they take your breath away... Next to her, all other screen actors look like they're sleeping on their feet." — David Ehrenstein, Los Angeles Herald Examiner

"...perhaps Visconti's warmest comedy... Magnani is at her most extraordinary." — Pauline Kael, 5001 Nights at the Movies

"...a tour de force for its magnetic star... [Bellissima] was designed for her not inconsiderable talents... Miss Magnani is 'on stage' almost continuously and in explosively fine fettle." — The New York Times

Cinema Guild Catalog 1985