

## Document Citation

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**THREE MEN AND A MOVIE:** *Giovanni Storti, left, Aldo Baglio and Giacomo Poretti direct and star in their third film, "Ask Me If I'm Happy."*

love and friendship that is only marginally less fragile than their previous two films, both of which were among the top-grossing releases of their respective years. Pic took a stellar \$5.4 million on opening weekend, but offshore potential appears slim.

As with their 1997 debut, "Three Men and a Leg," and 1998 follow-up, "That's Life," AG&G — again co-directing with Massimo Venier — fail to move away entirely from the sketch-based feel of their phenomenally popular TV and stage work. While there's a semblance of narrative in all three pics, there's little sense of advancing that narrative in a fluid way. The action is often halted to accommodate scenes that appear conceived as individual comic opportunities rather than part of a larger story.

Minimal plot this time casts the trio as aspiring actors and long-standing friends whose frustrated dream is to stage a personalized production of "Cyrano de Bergerac." Action alternates — not always smoothly — between the present and three years earlier, before the unit had a bitter falling out over a woman. But when news reaches Giovanni and Giacomo in Milan that Aldo is near death in Sicily, they join up with Giovanni's former flame Marina (regular AG&G co-star Marina Massironi) and make the trip south, with surprising results.

Story serves merely to showcase the spirited antics of AG&G, who bounce off one another with tireless dexterity, invention and verve. This often helps disguise the patchiness of the screenplay and lack of rhythm, but also suggests what these talented performers could achieve with less parochial, more solidly structured material. Lenser Arnaldo Catinari's crisp, lively camerawork and Samuele Bersani's buoyant score are strengths.

pore, Dec. 2, 2000. Running time: 89 MIN.  
With: Leon Lai, Jordan Chan, Shu Qi, Sam Lee, Michelle Saram, Alex To, Terrence Yin, Patrick Lung, Ken Wong.

## ASK ME IF I'M HAPPY

(CHIEDIMI SE SONO FELICE)

VARIETY (ITALY) 1/1-2/00 (37)

A Medusa release of an A.G.I.DI/Medusa Film production, in association with Kubla Khan. (International sales: Adriana Chiesa Enterprises, Rome.) Produced by Paolo Guerra. Executive producers, Umberto Massa, Valerio Bariletti.

Directed by Aldo, Giovanni & Giacomo, Massimo Venier. Screenplay, Aldo, Giovanni & Giacomo, Venier, Paolo Cananzi, Walter Fontana, Graziano Ferrari. Camera (Technicolor), Arnaldo Catinari; editor, Claudio Cormio; music, Samuele Bersani; art director, Eleonora Ponzoni; costume designer, Elisabetta Gabbioneta; sound (Dolby Digital), Mario Iaquone; assistant director, Sofie Chiarello. Reviewed at Fiamma Cinema, Rome, Dec. 13, 2000. Running time: 100 MIN.

Aldo .....	Aldo Baglio
Giovanni .....	Giovanni Storti
Giacomo .....	Giacomo Poretti
Marina .....	Marina Massironi
Silvana .....	Silvana Fallisi
Antonio .....	Antonio Catania
Thief .....	Giuseppe Battiston

By DAVID ROONEY

Industryites' hopes of breathing life into the Italian theatrical sector during an uncommonly slow season rested largely on homegrown Christmas contender "Ask Me If I'm Happy," launched with a hefty 600 prints Dec. 15. This latest movie by gifted comic trio Aldo, Giovanni & Giacomo, who co-directed and star, is an agreeable comedy about