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Adua E Le Compagne

(Adua and her Colleagues)

(ITALIAN)

Venice, Sept. 6.

Cineriz release of a Moris Ergas (Zebra Film) production. Stars Simone Signoret, ~~Emmanuele Riva~~, Sandra Milo, Marcello Mastroianni, Gina Rovere; features Claudio Gora, Gianrico Tedeschi. Directed by Antonio Pietrangeli. Screenplay, Ruggero Maccari. Ettore Scola, Tullio Pinelli, Pietrangeli; camera, Armando Nannuzzi; music, Piero Piccioni; editor, Eraldo da Roma. At Film Festival, Venice. Running time, 150 MINS.

Adua	.....	Simone Signoret
Milly	.....	Gina Rovere
Lolita	.....	Sandra Milo
Marilina	.....	Emmanuele Riva
Ercoli	.....	Claudio Gora
Lawyer	.....	Ivo Garrani
Stefano	.....	Gianrico Tedeschi
Piero	.....	Marcello Mastroianni

This is a natural b.o. winner in Italy on its controversial theme, handling and star value. Elsewhere, it looks like a good import value on the strength of subject matter and, to a more limited degree, to the Signoret, Mastroianni and Riva names, with dubbing perhaps more indicated than a subtitled release. It has plenty of exploitable angles and costuming. But the need for cutting is obvious since a bit unwieldy at its current two and a half hours. This was shown in competition.

Director Antonio Pietrangeli has sensitively treated his topical story, which deals with the attempt at a new life by a quartet of ex-prostitutes thrown out of house and job by a law passed in Italy a few years ago abolishing prostie emporiums. Girls open a country tavern-restaurant. After several gauche attempts to acclime themselves to normal life and house-keeping chores they seem to have made the grade in a desperate search for true love and understanding. Then they are unceremoniously thrown back into their old existence as social outcasts.

With all its initial graphic detail, film treats the girls and their problems warmly and understandingly as one finds a new, if eventually no-good, love. Another reunites with her long-abandoned child, still another is loved sincerely for the first time in her life, etc. Some of the sequences have an obvious and telegraphed aspect, but generally the script and direction manage to overcome these hurdles tastefully. Opening third of pic likewise has a confused approach, but after that, character delineation becomes sharper.

Acting is excellent throughout, with Oscar winner Simone Signoret registering as Adua, the quartet's leader, and Emmanuele Riva ("Hiroshima Mon Amour") in for some strong bits as a neurotic companion. Sandra Milo as a bird-brain prostie nearly walks off with acting honors, however. Gina Rovere, the fourth gal, has some fine moments as the one who wants to go "straight."

Topnotch backing comes from Marcello Mastroianni, as an innocent-faced profiteer. Claudio Gora is likewise good, but somewhat stereotyped as the heavy in their lives while others add color and competence in the background.

Some of the more colorful sequences and bits of dialogue will probably run into censorship trouble here and there, but on the whole in view of the subject at hand, it's been handled with remarkable discretion, despite the sharp bite of certain scenes. Lensing is fine and Piero Piccioni's musical backing in a jazz mood is apt. Other credits are good.

Hawk.