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LUCKY LUCIANO

"While a less immediately gripping piece than **THE MATTEI AFFAIR**, **LUCKY LUCIANO** nevertheless emerges as an important and seductive document on the more covert aspects of power-mongering. For instance, exposing the collusion between the Mafia and the U.S. Government in immediately postwar Italy which decisively shaped the following decades, drug traffic and all, Rosi shapes a delicious sequence in which we glimpse no less than Vito Genovese acting as guide to the U.S. Colonel in charge of the army in Italy, just one of the Mafia big bosses to rise to eminence in the wake of the occupation forces. Where **THE MATTEI AFFAIR** carries the enormous charge of the man himself, in **LUCKY LUCIANO** Rosi allows the sense of insulation he discovers in Luciano's personality to permeate his film, as the sets are gradually drained of air and we watch Gian Maria Volonte's immaculate Luciano, almost bloodless when we see him first, die by inches before our eyes. It is unforgettable even in this rather ham-fisted English version cut, part dubbed and meagerly subtitled as it is." —Verina Glaessner, "Time Out of London"

Directed by Francesco Rosi. With Rod Steiger and Gian Maria Volonte.
(1973, 108 mins, color, 35mm, Print Courtesy of Avco Embassy)