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# 'Open City'

February 26, 1954

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Screen play by Sergio Amidel and F. Fellini; directed by Roberto Rosselini; English titles by Pietro di Donato and Herman G. Weinberg; produced in Italy by Excelso.

Manfredi ..... Marcello Pagliero  
Don Pietro ..... Aldo Fabrizi  
Pina ..... Anna Magnani  
Marcello ..... Vita Annicchiario  
Marina Mari ..... Mario Michi  
Capt. Bergmann ..... Harry Feist  
Francesco ..... Francesco Grandjacquet  
Ingrid ..... Giovanna Galletti  
(1945)

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winner of

**Grand Prix** —Venice  
**Grand Prix** —Cannes  
**First Prize** —Zurich  
**First Prize** —Rome  
**Special Award**  
—N. Y. Film Critics

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"Open City" was made, without benefit of electric lights in Rome during the hard days after its liberation, by a cast, many of whom had never taken part in a picture before. It is a melodrama swept with an anger and a sense of injustice that characterized the films of the post-war realistic movement in Italy. While the movement, as a whole, once the first impulse of freedom from Fascism dwindled, failed to sustain itself—"Open City" stands as a landmark of great power.

Rosselini, the director, and Amidel, the writer, had already conceived the idea for "Open City" during the dark days of war and were ready to move into production with the Liberation and with the benediction of the Allied authorities. Basing their story on actual incident, they devised a film which merges actuality and fiction to such a degree that to distinguish between the two becomes not only academic but impossible.

This is Rosselini's first full-length film—and the first serious role for the well known comic actor, Fabrizi, as it is for Anna Magnani who had previously sung in cafes.

Despite its faults, Rosselini has extended the motion picture at both ends—on one hand throwing in countless human touches that give documentation to hold fact; and on the other being unafraid to deal on broad and heroic patterns.

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"the best film ever to come from Italy"—New Yorker