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Film Subjects	Amore in città (Love in the city), Antonioni, Michelangelo, 1953 Paradiso per 4 ore (An invitation to love), Risi, Dino, 1953 Storia di Caterina (The love of a mother), Zavattini, Cesare, 1953 Gli Italiani si voltano (Love comes to the city), Lattuada, Alberto, 1953 Un'agenzia matrimoniale (Love cheerfully arranged), Fellini, Federico, 1953 Tentato suicidio (When love fails), Antonioni, Michelangelo, 1953

The MCC Cinema presents

(Love in the City (Amore in Città)
(Italian dialogue with English subtitles and some English narration)

with a cast of non-professionals; general direction by Cesare Zavattini; script by Aldo Buzzi, Luigi Chiarni, Luigi Malerba, Tullio Pinelli and Vittorio Vetrone; music by Mario Mascimbene; photography by Gianni di Vananzo. Running time: 86 minutes. 1953.

The Episodes

- I. "An Invitation to Love" directed by Dino Risi
- II. "When Love Fails" directed by Michelangelo Antonioni
- III. "Love Cheerfully Arranged" directed by Federico Fellini
- IV. "The Love of a Mother" directed by Cesare Zavattini
- V. "Love Comes to the City" directed by Alberto Lattuada

WE URGE YOU, BEFORE THE MOVIE BEGINS, TO SIT IN THE FRONT CENTER SECTION OF THE ORCHESTRA OR THE BALCONY. OWING TO POOR ACOUSTICS IN THE AUDITORIUM AND BECAUSE THE FILM CONTAINS ENGLISH NARRATION, WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU SIT WHERE YOU WILL HEAR THE SOUND TRACK.

Last fall we presented a series of Mexican shorts called The Roots. The picture was so well received that the committee decided to pick another series of shorts unified around some general subject. Unfortunately, we were trying our luck, for not many of these films are very good. Those in the audience who've seen Love and the Frenchwoman, Boccaccio 70, or Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow know the difficulty of making a good motion picture out of a series of shorts by different directors. I don't think Love in the City is much better. Only some sequences of the episodes where the camera work is especially good, or in the interest the film holds for those interested in Italian neorealism, is the picture worthwhile. The film is an Italian neorealistic study of life and love in Rome. One critic described the basic theme of the picture as, "The pressure of the city on the people it has scattered and condemned to isolation, and the love through which they try to overcome their solitude."

The first episode, "An Invitation to Love" explores love in a dance hall. The camera work is not as interesting as Ermanno Olmi's sequences in The Sound of Trumpets, or especially in The Fiances, where the dance hall sequences are superb. The Antonioni episode was particularly disappointing. A group of unsuccessful suicides recount their experiences that lead to the suicide attempts. Even the photography is not particularly good. The third episode, "Love Cheerfully Arranged" directed by Federico Fellini, describes the encounter of a man (a reporter) seeking a mate through a matrimonial agency. This episode contains one of the best sequences in the film, a corridor scene where the reporter is looking for the matrimonial agency, the Cybelè Agency. The children lead him through a labyrinth before he comes to the right place. This episode, by the way, is based on a true experience Fellini had with a matrimonial agency. "The Love of a Mother," the fourth episode by Cesare Zavattini may remind you of The Bicycle Thief, a film Zavattini wrote. The short has much of the pathos of that classic neorealist film. The last episode is perhaps the best, "Love Comes to the City." The short is a voyeur's dream. It is Spring and the Roman men are engaged in their favorite pastime of ogling young women in the streets. But Roman men have a healthy attitude toward ogling and the women love it, so the film seems to emphasize life.