

## Document Citation

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## Rogopag (ITALIAN—ENGLISH SUBTITLES)

Arco Film Cineriz-Lyre Film presentation of Alfred Bini production. Music, Carlo Rustichelli. At N.Y. film festival. Running time, 125 MINS.

(1) "Ilibatezza" (Virginity). Stars Rosanna Schiaffino, Bruce Balaban, Maria Pia Schiaffino, Carol Zappavigna. Directed and written by Roberto Rossellini; camera, Luciano Trasatti.

(2) "Il Pollo Ruspante" (The Range-Grown Chicken). Stars Ugo Tognazzi, Lisa Gastoni, Riky Tognazzi, Antonella Taito. Directed and written by Ugo Gregoretti; camera, Mario Bernardo.

(3) "Il Nuovo Mondo" (The New World). Stars Jean Marc Bory, Alexandra Stewart. Directed and written by Jean-Luc Godard; camera, Jean Robier.

(4) "La Ricotta" (Cream Cheese). Stars Orson Welles, Mario Cipriani, Laura Betti, Edmonda Aldini, Ettore Garofolo. Directed and written by Pier Paolo Pasolini; camera, Tonino Delli Coll.

All the furor that attended the hastily shutdown scheduled Italo preem of this film seems rather absurd—at least to a not-too-jaded U. S. reviewer. "Rogopag," a four-part pic with episodes contributed by Roberto Rossellini, Ugo Gregoretti, Jean-Luc Godard and Pier Paolo Pasolini, is a sometimes amusing, but more often overblown, film anthology which, like a chain, is only as strong as its weakest link.

No one of the episodes is actually bad, but none is totally successful. Overall it's an uneven film, full of righteous indignation—both comic and sad—striking occasional sparks but never catching fire. With some judicious editing of each of the segs, to eliminate redundancies, it might be shaped into an acceptable artie offering for the U. S.

Most interesting episode—and the one which shocked the Italo censors — is Pasolini's "Cream Cheese," concerning an Italian film company shooting the Passion of Christ. The contrast between the story being filmed, and the characters filming it, is obviously meant to shock, especially when a poor, underpaid player, who portrays one of the two thieves crucified with Christ, dies on the cross as a result of stuffing himself on victuals from the portable commissary.

Pasolini tells his story in a series of scathing images; "angel" extras, during their lunch break, twist (boy-boy-style) to raucous rock-and-roll music next to the Last Supper table; the star playing the Virgin Mary feeds her pet pooch caviar, and the director, played by Orson Welles, views all with weary, detached cynicism. The images are made more disturbing by Pasolini's arbitrarily switching his camera throughout from black-and-white, to vivid color, to a sort of violet monochrome, and back to b-w.

The seg, which the censors found "sacrilegious," could instead, be interpreted as a sincere, if diffuse and unsubtle, attack on social hypocrisy, made particularly disturbing by the Passion background.

The other segs are equally well-intentioned—and equally overdone. Godard's contribution, "The New World," is a cold, cryptic look at the post-Bomb era, an austerly comic view of an upside-down world told in terms of an unsatisfactory love affair. Gregoretti's "The Range-Grown Chicken" is a funny, ultimately tragic broadside aimed at Mad Ave. huckstering techniques which hardly make this the best of all possible worlds. Rossellini contributes the lead-off seg, "Virginity," a slight but amusing tale of how an Italian airline hostess in Bangkok puts off an amorous American businessman who is really searching for a mother. It's good for a few laughs, but Rossellini doesn't possess the comic vision or invention of a director such as Vittorio De Sica. The fade-out is anticipated long before it's reached.

With the exception of the Rossellini seg, which looks like it was filmed on a miniscale budget, the physical production is good. Performances are more than okay, though Orson Welles, dubbed into Italian, has been given a voice sounding like Dennis Day's—if that can be imagined. Pic's title, "Rogopag," a conjunction of the first letters in the names of the four directors, obviously doesn't mean a thing, and could very well have been "Paggoro." Anby.

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