

## Document Citation

Title	<b>The moment of truth</b>
Author(s)	
Source	<i>Cinematheque Ontario/a division of Toronto International Film Festival Group</i>
Date	
Type	program note
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Il momento della verita (The moment of truth), Rosi, Francesco, 1965

# THE MOMENT OF TRUTH

(IL MOMENTO DELLA VERITÀ)

Italy-Spain 1965 110 minutes

Cast: Miguel Mateo Miguelin, José Gomez Sevillano

In an influential review of this, perhaps Rosi's masterpiece, Pauline Kael wrote: "I saw **THE MOMENT OF TRUTH** at the opening night of the Montreal Film Festival where the audience acted with shock and admiration to the bloody brilliance of the work. . . . [Rosi's] intentions were overwhelmingly achieved. . . . The beauty of **THE MOMENT OF TRUTH** is not in bullfighting . . . but in the beauty of an achieved vision—the beauty of rage, masterfully rendered in art." **TRUTH** opens with one of Rosi's virtuoso sequences, plunging the audience into a roiling religious fiesta, a widescreen convulsion of sand, blood, heat, blinding sunlight, and crowds of penitents with alter-pieces parading through narrow, canopied streets. **TRUTH** tells a classic neorealist story, that of a young man who travels from the country in the south to the northern city to escape poverty, and, drawn by the promise of quick money, destroys himself. Rosi's tutelage under Visconti is readily apparent—the film has often been compared to Visconti's **ROCCO AND HIS BROTHERS**—but his approach is entirely his own. Following the young man as he gains fame on the bullfighting circuit, the film becomes an angry indictment of a society which saves its greatest rewards for those who sacrifice themselves in a senseless, bloody ritual. "Wonderful" (Jay Scott). "One of my all-time favourite films" (Donald Richie).

*Can. Ontario*

**Friday, November 18 6:30 p.m.**