

## Document Citation

Title	<b>La dolce vita</b>
Author(s)	
Source	<i>Cinematheque Ontario/a division of Toronto International Film Festival Group</i>
Date	2000 Jul 29
Type	program note
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	La dolce vita (The sweet life), Fellini, Federico, 1960

## **LA DOLCE VITA**

Director: Federico Fellini

Italy 1959 175 minutes

Cast: Marcello Mastroianni, Anita Ekberg

Cinematheque Ontario  
July 2000  
Vol 10 no 5

LA DOLCE VITA defined "decadence" for a generation with its widescreen, epic vision of Rome at the height of the postwar Italian economic miracle. ("The Rome I speak of," said Fellini, "is a city of the inner self; its topography is entirely spiritual.") Marcello Mastroianni plays a writer turned gossip columnist who drifts from party to party, a detached observer of the Eternal City's frenzy of false miracles, promiscuous sex and paparazzi culture. Clinging to the promise of "the sweet life" to keep himself from collapsing into despair, the writer is so utterly self-absorbed that he does not register the pain of those around him. Fellini's panorama of "la dolce vita" opens with a hilariously profane image – a statue of Jesus suspended from a helicopter on its way to the Vatican ("Oh, look, there's Jesus!" a woman exclaims, as if she had just sighted a telenovella star) – and offers as its signature sequence Anita Ekberg anointing her ample self in the Trevi Fountain.

**Cinematheque History** • The Classics: 21 Years of the OFI, 1990; Moreau/Mastroianni, 1992; Fellini In Memoriam, 1994; Summer in Italy I, 1994; Tutto Fellini, 1995; Summer in Italy III, 1996; The Stuff That Dreams Are Made On: Marcello Mastroianni, 1999

Saturday, July 29 8:00 (note early start time)



LA DOLCE VITA