

## Document Citation

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# LA TERRA TREMA

Director: Luchino Visconti

Italy 1948 162 minutes

One of the essential works of world cinema, Visconti's epic has been called "that solitary and unapproachable summit of neorealism," "a landmark in Italian cinema," and "the masterpiece of Italian neorealism" (Mira Liehm). Francesco Rosi and Francesco Zeffirelli were both assistant directors on LA TERRA TREMA, which was shot over seven months on location in a Sicilian fishing village, the birthplace of Giovanni Verga, upon whose novel the film is based. True to neorealist tenets, Visconti employed the local townspeople (speaking their own dialect) to enact its story of struggle against the elements and economic oppression. Distinguished by its superb cinematography and visual design, and by its detailed evocation of a place and a way of life, Visconti's masterpiece "achieves a true epic vision. The film is lyrical yet austere, and it's beautifully proportioned" (Pauline Kael). "A film of infinite visual beauty and intense emotional impact" (Liehm). Compare and contrast with Ermanno Olmi's magisterial THE TREE OF WOODEN CLOGS, playing on July 26.

**Thursday, July 13 8:30**

(please note early start time)