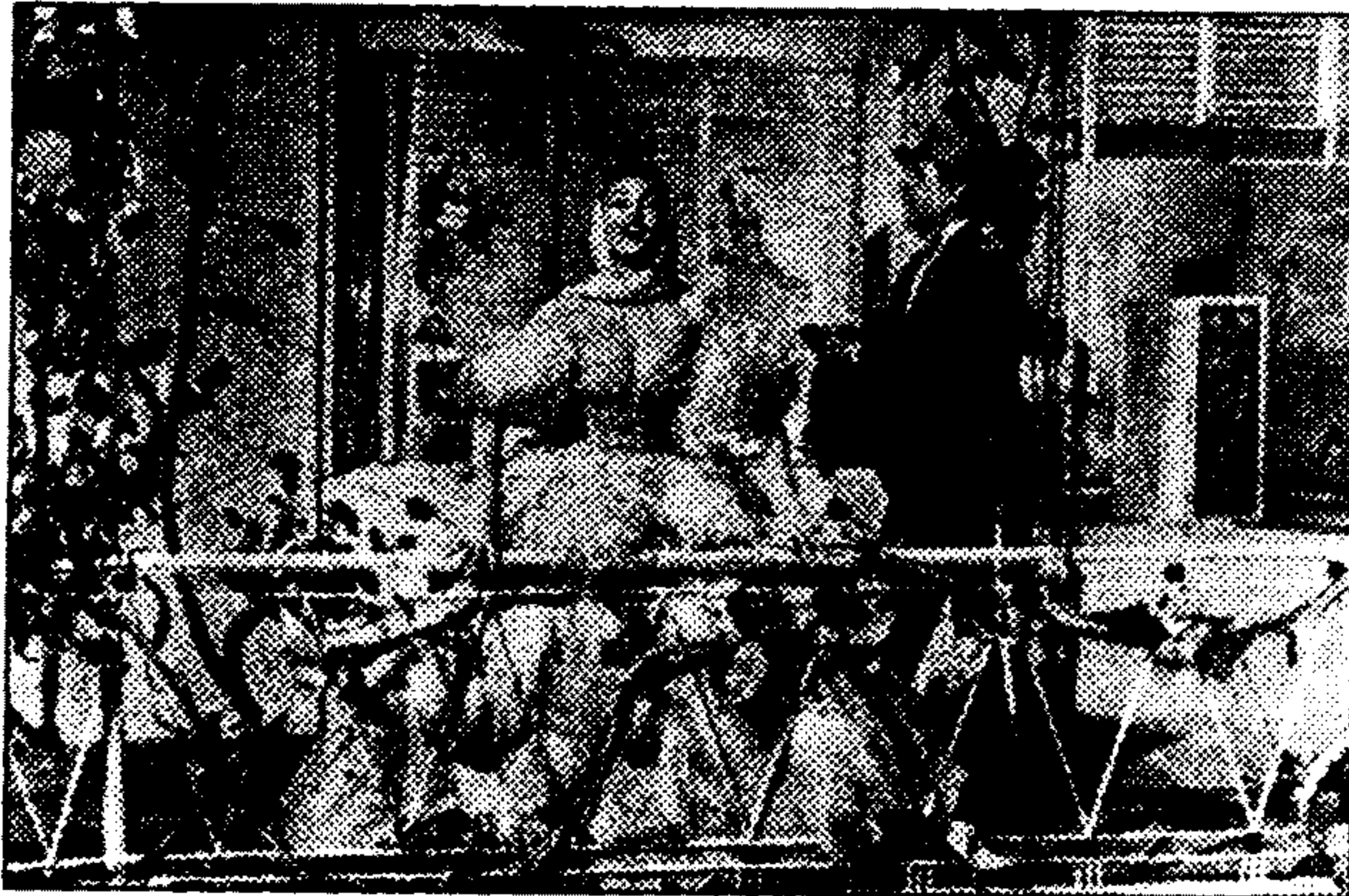


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5/8, 1:00 CAS

Oh...Rosalinda!!

ENGLAND 1955, 101 min.

DIR/PROD/SCR Michael Powell, Emeric Pressburger
CAM Christopher Challis **ED** Reginald Mills **CAST** Michael Redgrave, Mel Ferrer, Ludmilla Tcherina, Anton Walbrook, Anthony Quayle **PRINT** BFI/Champagne Piper-Heidsieck Classic Film Collection

Oh...*Rosalinda!!* does not seem promising; aren't two exclamation marks at least one more than a title needs? Director Michael Powell admitted that the picture was a mixed bag, and an inadequate companion to his earlier adventures in music, dance and movies, *The Red Shoes* (1948) and *The Tales of Hoffmann* (1951). Powell and Emeric Pressburger wanted to pursue that line. They nearly persuaded Dylan Thomas and Stravinsky to collaborate on a version of the *Odyssey*. Then there were thoughts of *The Tempest*. But as those plans faded, they settled on *Die Fledermaus*. Still, as they adapted the Johann Strauss operetta to postwar Vienna (it's a little like Harry Lime on pink ice), they got tangled in dreams of doing *Ondine*, with Audrey Hepburn and Mel

U.S. Premiere Revival

Ferrer. Then Orson Welles dropped out at the last moment. And yet...this is *Die Fledermaus*, and it does have the magnificently droll Anton Walbrook as master of ceremonies. Oh... *Rosalinda!!*

never got a release in this country, and fans of the music, of Powell and Pressburger, pastel Technicolor and the fanciful pursued for its own sake, can hardly miss the chance to see such a pretty folly — as dainty and startling as Babar in a tutu!! Yes, the two exclamation marks *are* merited, for this is so tongue-in-cheek, such a wry parody of the conventions of operetta, the whole thing seems to be taking place on top of a wedding cake. *The first in the Film Society's Opera on Film series (see p. 75).*

SAIFF 1994 David Thomson