

Document Citation

Title	Senso
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Source	<i>San Francisco International Film Festival</i>
Date	2010 Apr 29
Type	program note
Language	English
Pagination	135
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	Visconti, Luchino (1906-1976), Milan, Italy
Film Subjects	Senso (The wanton contessa), Visconti, Luchino, 1954



SENSO

ITALY
1954
118 MIN

DIR Luchino Visconti
SCR Luchino Visconti, Suso Cecchi d'Amico
CAM Aldo Graziati, Robert Krasker
ED Mario Serandrei
MUS Anton Bruckner, Giuseppe Verdi
WITH Alida Valli, Farley Granger, Heinz Moog, Rina Morelli, Christian Marquand
PRINT SOURCE Cineteca di Bologna, Andrea Meneghelli. EMAIL: andrea.meneghelli@comune.bologna.it

Restored by StudioCanal, Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia/Cineteca Nazionale and the Cineteca di Bologna/L'Immagine Ritrovata with funding provided by GUCCI, The Film Foundation and Comitato Italia 150.

Presented by The Film Foundation and GUCCI, with the support of the Italian Cultural Institute, San Francisco.

Luchino Visconti's 1954 film about the affair between an Italian countess (Alida Valli) with partisan sympathies and an Austrian officer from the occupying army (Farley Granger), set during Garibaldi's war of independence in the 1860s, is one of the most extraordinary historical films ever made. Rarely have the dramas of history and romantic passion been so skillfully and compellingly intertwined. It also marks one of the medium's most creative uses of color. Visconti and his cinematographers Aldo Graziati (who tragically died during the shoot) and Robert Krasker fashioned a palette that was both delicate and vivid, rich in its historical associations and its evocations of landscape painting of the period. For that reason alone, **Senso** has been extremely difficult to restore, and the shrinkage and overall damage to its original three-strip Technicolor camera negatives have only increased the level of difficulty. Now, with the advent of digital technology, the Cineteca di Bologna and L'Immagine Ritrovata have joined forces to restore this magnificent film to its original grandeur.

—Kent Jones

Senso's U.S. premiere was a highlight of the San Francisco International Film Festival's inaugural year in 1957.



LUCHINO VISCONTI

Italian neorealism begins with **Ossessione** (1943), the first film by Luchino Visconti (1906–76). Born into an aristocratic family, Visconti joined the Italian Communist Party during World War II. Also an accomplished theater and opera director, the masterful film career of the "Marxist count" includes **White Nights** (SFIFF 1958), **Rocco and His Brothers** (1960), **The Leopard** (1963, SFIFF 1983), **Conversation Piece** (SFIFF 1975) and his final film **The Innocent** (1976). With 1954's romantic Technicolor opus **Senso** Visconti briefly and abruptly departed from the neorealist school he helped found.

WORLD CINEMA

SFIFF '10

THU APR 29 6:30 PFA SENS29P
SUN MAY 2 12:30 CASTRO SENS02C

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