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New International Cinema 31
AFI FEST LOS ANGELES, 1987

ITALY



Identification of a Woman

Identificazione di una donna

14F Saturday, March 14 11:30 pm

Producer: Giogio Nocella, Antonio Macri

Director: Michelangelo Antonioni

Screenplay: Michelangelo Antonioni, Tonino Guerra, Gerard Brach

Cinematography: Carlo di Palma

Music: John Fox

Editing: Michelangelo Antonioni

Principal Cast: Tomas Milian, Christine Boisson, Daniela Silverio, Marcel Bozzuffi

Production Company: Iter-SACIS Film

Export Agent: SACIS, Via Tomacelli 139/00186, Rome

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1982/Color/110 mins.

In Italian with English subtitles

Identification of a Woman is the last film of Italian director Michelangelo Antonioni and is a masterpiece, a summation of his cinematic ideas. Because of particular circumstances, it was never released commercially in the U.S.A. and has never been seen before in Los Angeles. Nigel Andrews, the film critic of the *Financial Times* in London, wrote this review of the film after its world premiere in the Cannes Film Festival in 1982: "The best film at Cannes, though many who fidgeted through it will howl me down for the opinion, was Antonioni's *Identification of a Woman*. Why? Because the story of a movie director (Tomas Milian) searching for the ideal woman to star in his next film has poetic and philosophical ripples that spread far far beyond the simple splash of its plot premise. The two women who become the hero's consecutive lovers and "mysteries" (Daniela Silverio and Christine Boisson) catalyse a whole tragi-comedy about the impossibility of ever truly *knowing* other human beings: however vigorously one may share their bed or swap soulful *pensees* across the candlelit dinner. Poetic opacity is the movie's imagistic key—a foggy country road at night, the misted mirror of the Venice lagoon—and there is a wonderful rueful comedy in the background play of reticence and whispered secrecy: at parties, in hotel lobbies, lamp-lit, in salons and snaking stairways."