

# The Museum of Modern Art

## MoMA AND LUCE CINECITTÀ PRESENT RETROSPECTIVE TO CELEBRATE ITALIAN ACTOR, SCREENWRITER, AND DIRECTOR UGO TOGNAZZI

### *Ugo Tognazzi: Tragedies of a Ridiculous Man*

December 5–30, 2018

The Roy and Niuta Titus Theaters

**NEW YORK, November 16, 2018 (Updated November 28)**—The Museum of Modern Art, in association with Luce Cinecittà, Rome, presents *Ugo Tognazzi: Tragedies of a Ridiculous Man*, a retrospective celebrating the renowned Italian actor, screenwriter, and director Ugo Tognazzi. With screenings December 5–30, 2018, in the Roy and Niuta Titus Theatres, the series features 25 of Tognazzi's nearly 150 films over a four-decade career, including his unforgettable, award-winning performances in Luciano Salce's *The Fascist* (1961); Carlo Lizzani's *La Vita agra* (1964); Pier Paolo Pasolini's *Porcile* (1969); four films with director Marco Ferreri, including *La Grande Bouffe* (1973); Elio Petri's *Property Is No Longer a Theft* (1973); Mario Monicelli's *We Want the Colonels* (1973); Édouard Molinaro's *La Cage aux folles* (1978); and Bernardo Bertolucci's *Tragedy of a Ridiculous Man* (1981), for which he won the Cannes prize for Best Actor. *Ugo Tognazzi: Tragedies of a Ridiculous Man* is organized by Joshua Siegel, Curator, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art, and Camilla Cormanni and Paola Ruggiero, Luce Cinecittà.

The great Italian actor, director, and screenwriter Ugo Tognazzi (1922–1990) was among the inimitable quintet of actors from Italian cinema's golden age—Tognazzi, Marcello Mastroianni, Vittorio Gassman, Alberto Sordi, and Nino Manfredi—who invented and popularized *commedia dell'Italia*, that tragicomic admixture of folly and melancholy, and commanded the lion's share of Italy's box-office receipts in the 1960s and '70s. Tognazzi's career began opposite Raimondo Vianello in satirical sketch comedies of fledgling 1950s Italian television—his gifts of impersonation and improvisation are hilariously on display in films like Dino Risi's *I mostri* (1963) and Luigi Zampa's *A Question of Honor* (1965)—and deepened as his roles in later years became more acidic and introspective.

Joshua Siegel observes, “If a typical Tognazzi character was virile and dissolute, sweet-talking his way into beds, executive offices, and corridors of power, he was also confronted with the sinking awareness of his own mortality. One witnesses in this retrospective, then, a man's seemingly inexorable passage from brash ambition to bitter regret, a man seeking to preserve his dignity in the face of diminishing prowess.”

Roberto Cicutto, CEO of Luce Cinecittà, states, “We are grateful to The Museum of Modern Art for providing a platform for Italian films. This important retrospective, *Ugo Tognazzi: Tragedies of a Ridiculous Man*, features 25 films celebrating the brilliant career of one of

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Italy's finest actors. Maria Sole Tognazzi represents the family, and her documentary, *Ritratto di Mio Padre (Portrait of My Father)* is featured in the retrospective."

See the accompanying screening schedule for full program details and guest appearance dates.

**SPONSORSHIP:**

Support for the exhibition is provided by the Annual Film Fund. Leadership support for the Annual Film Fund is provided by the Kate W. Cassidy Foundation and Steven Tisch, with major contributions from Jo Carole and Ronald S. Lauder, Association of Independent Commercial Producers (AICP), Yuval Brisker Charitable Foundation, The Brown Foundation, Inc., of Houston, Marlene Hess and James D. Zirin, Karen and Gary Winnick, and The Junior Associates of The Museum of Modern Art.

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**Public Information:**

The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019, (212) 708-9400, [moma.org](http://moma.org). Hours: Saturday–Thursday, 10:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m., Friday, 10:30 a.m.–8:00 p.m. Museum admission: \$25 adults; \$18 seniors, 65 years and over with I.D.; \$14 full-time students with current ID; free, members and children 16 and under (includes admittance to Museum galleries and film programs). Free admission during Uniqlo Free Friday Nights: Fridays, 4:00–8:00 p.m. No service charge for tickets ordered on [moma.org](http://moma.org). Tickets purchased online can be printed out and presented at the Museum without waiting in line (includes admittance to Museum galleries and film programs). Film and after-hours program admission: \$12