

EIGHT POPULAR COMEDIES BY ITALIAN DIRECTOR DINO RISI EXEMPLIFY HIS SHARP-WITTED HUMOR IN AN EXHIBITION AT MoMA

Exhibition Includes the International Premiere of a Documentary About Dino Risi and His Films

Dino Risi: Comedy with a Twist

December 10–17, 2009

The Roy and Niuta Titus Theaters

Press Screening: Wednesday, December 2, 2009, 4:00 p.m. *Il sorpasso (The Easy Life)*. 1962. RSVP to meg_blackburn@moma.org.

New York, November 23, 2009—The Museum of Modern Art will screen eight films by Italian director Dino Risi (1916–2008), from December 10 through 17, 2009 in the exhibition ***Dino Risi: Comedy with a Twist***. Among the acclaimed films presented here are Risi's masterpiece *Il sorpasso (The Easy Life)* (1962); *Profumo di donna (Scent of a Woman)* (1974), which was remade as the 1992 English-language film starring Al Pacino; and the first screening outside Italy of the documentary profile of Risi made for his 90th birthday, *Una bella vacanza (A Beautiful Vacation)* (2006), directed by Fabrizio Corallo and Francesca Molteni, with segments from his most famous films, and commentaries from such personalities as Monica Bellucci, Umberto Eco, Giancarlo Giannini, Martin Scorsese, and Carlo Verdone. The retrospective is organized by Jytte Jensen, Curator, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art, Davide Azzolini, Director, 41° Parallelo; and Antonio Monda, Professor, New York University.

Risi, who was able to maintain an active career into his 90s, attracted celebrated actors and collaborators to his very special brand of intelligent, sparkling humor. His films stand as a passionate testament to the enduring attraction that actors have to the true soul of comedy as Risi presented it. He possessed, beneath his apparently cynical and even cruel gaze, the traits of a true humanist. Throughout his prolific career, he made films that exhibited a profound morality while giving life to complex characters played by some of the most beloved and accomplished Italian stars of the time.

Considered in its entirety, his work forms an impassioned human comedy, and carries a melancholy mood that results from a deep empathy for his characters. His films frequently produce laughter tinged with bitterness from audiences, and viewers often feel affection and understanding for even the most controversial and questionable protagonists.

Dino Risi: Comedy with a Twist is produced by Associazione Napolicinema and 41° Parallelo (Napoli, Mediterraneo-New York, USA), with support from MiBAC Direzione Generale per il Cinema, Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia-Cineteca Nazionale, and Cinecittá Luce SpA.

Press Contact: Meg Blackburn, (212) 708-9757, meg_blackburn@moma.org

For downloadable images, please visit www.moma.org/press.

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Public Information: The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street, New York, NY 10019

Hours: Films are screened Wednesday-Monday. For screening schedules, please visit www.moma.org.

Film Admission: \$10 adults; \$8 seniors, 65 years and over with I.D. \$6 full-time students with current I.D. (For admittance to film programs only.) The price of a film ticket may be applied toward the price of a Museum admission ticket when a film ticket stub is presented at the Lobby Information Desk within 30 days of the date on the stub (does not apply during Target Free Friday Nights, 4:00–8:00 p.m.). Admission is free for Museum members and for Museum ticketholders.

The public may call (212) 708-9400 for detailed Museum information. Visit us at www.moma.org

SCREENING SCHEDULE

***Dino Risi: Comedy with a Twist*
December 10–17, 2009**

All films are directed by Dino Risi, from Italy, and in Italian with English subtitles, unless otherwise noted.

Thursday, December 10

- 4:30** *Profumo di donna (Scent of a Woman)*. 1974. Cowritten by Dino Risi. With Vittorio Gassman, Alessandro Momo, Agostina Belli.
A surly army captain is forced to retire as a result of an accident that has left him blind. He travels across Italy accompanied by a young recruit, intent on committing suicide, but his relationship with the young man and an encounter with an old flame soon change his mind. 102 min.
- 8:00** *Il sorpasso (The Easy Life)*. 1962. Cowritten by Dino Risi. With Vittorio Gassman, Jean-Louis Trintignant, Catherine Spaak.
When Bruno, an insatiable lover of sports cars and beautiful women, meets timid college student Roberto, he decides to drag him along for a trip on a seemingly endless August day. The trip becomes a rite of passage of sorts for Roberto, albeit one with a tragic ending. 106 min.

Friday, December 11

- 4:30** *Poveri ma belli (Poor, but Beautiful)*. 1957. Cowritten by Dino Risi. With Marisa Allasio, Maurizio Arena, Renato Salvatori.
Best friends Romolo and Salvatore are more interested in chasing girls than finding work. When they both fall in love with the same young woman, she amuses herself by playing them against one another. 102 min.
- 8:00** *Una vita difficile (A Difficult Life)*. 1961. With Alberto Sordi, Lea Massari, Franco Fabrizi.
The story of Silvio Magnozzi, ex-partisan and unsuccessful journalist, who refuses to compromise his ideals in any way. Abandoned by his wife, he finds himself forced to work for a rich industrialist who he once skewered in print. As he learns life's lessons he retrieves his pride—and all else that's dear to him. 118 min.

Saturday, December 12

- 1:00** ***Una bella vacanza (A Beautiful Vacation)***. 2006. Directed by Fabrizio Corallo, Francesca Molteni.
In this long interview with Dino Risi, which premiered in December 2006 on the occasion of his ninetieth birthday, the filmmaker talks about the fun and melancholy behind sixty years of directing comedies, Italian style. Sequences from his most famous films are shown, along with testimonies from Jean Louis Trintignant, Monica Bellucci, Giancarlo Giannini, Catherine Spaak, Martin Scorsese, Umberto Eco, and Carlo Verdone. 66 min.
- 3:30** ***Pane, amore e... (Scandal in Sorrento)***. 1955. Italy/France. Cowritten by Dino Risi. With Vittorio De Sica, Sophia Loren, Lea Padovani.
When Marshal Antonio Carotenuto returns to Sorrento to take command of the local police force, he finds his former home occupied by a beautiful fish vendor named Sofia. But instead of throwing her out, he falls madly in love with her. 101 min.
- 6:00** ***Il mattatore (Love and Larceny)***. 1959. Italy/France. With Vittorio Gassman, Dorian Gray, Anna-Maria Ferrero, Peppino De Filippo.
Gerardo, aka the Artist, is a master con man. Having performed as a variety actor from a young age, he can take on a range of diverse personas in order to trick his victims. Still, his loving wife tries in vain to reform him. 104 min.

Sunday, December 13

- 1:00** ***Caro papà (Dear Father)***. 1979. Italy/France/Canada. Cowritten by Dino Risi. With Vittorio Gassman, Andrée Lachapelle, Aurore Clément.
Albino Milozza is an unscrupulous but successful businessman...and a terrible family man. Busy with his mistress, he completely disregards his kids: a drug-addicted teenage daughter who decides to follow her guru to India, and a son who is an extreme militant terrorist. 109 min.
- 3:00** ***Una vita difficile (A Difficult Life)***. 1961. (See Friday, December 11, 8:00.)
- 5:30** ***Profumo di donna (Scent of a Woman)***. 1974. (See Thursday, December 10, 4:30.)

Monday, December 14

- 4:30** ***Il segno di venere. (The Sign of Venus)***. 1955. Cowritten by Dino Risi. With Sophia Loren, Franca Valeri, Vittorio De Sica.
Agnese is very beautiful and has plenty of male suitors, but her cousin and housemate Cesira merely dreams of the day her Prince Charming will come. Things start looking up when a fortune-teller informs Cesira that she is in the promising phase of the "Sign of Venus." 100 min.
- 6:30** ***Una bella vacanza (A Beautiful Vacation)***. 2006. (See Saturday, December 12, 1:00.)
- 8:30** ***Pane, amore e... (Scandal in Sorrento)***. 1955. (See Saturday, December 12, 3:30.)

Wednesday, December 16

- 4:00** ***Il mattatore (Love and Larceny)***. 1959. (See Saturday, December 12, 6:00.)
- 6:15** ***Il sorpasso (The Easy Life)***. 1962. (See Thursday, December 10, 6:15.)
- 8:30** ***Il segno di venere. (The Sign of Venus)***. 1955. (See Monday, December 14, 4:30.)

Thursday, December 17

4:00 *Caro papà (Dear Father)*. 1979. (See Sunday, December 13, 1:00.)

7:00 *Poveri ma belli (Poor, but Beautiful)*. 1957. (See Friday, December 11.)