

The Museum of Modern Art

Ugo Tognazzi: Tragedies of a Ridiculous Man Screening Schedule

December 5–30, 2018

The Roy and Niuta Titus Theaters

Ritratto di mio padre (Portrait of my Father). 2010. Italy. Directed by Maria Sole Tognazzi. Screenplay by Manuela Tempesta, Tognazzi. With Ugo Tognazzi, Bernardo Bertolucci, Mario Monicelli, Michel Piccoli. DCP courtesy Surf Film. In Italian; English subtitles. 85 min. Directed by his daughter, this affectionate portrait reveals the complicated brilliance of Ugo Tognazzi, both as a famous actor and as a family man, through rare home movies, film clips and on-set footage, and warm and witty remembrances by his children and close collaborators.

Wednesday, December 5, 4:30 p.m. T1 (Introduced by Maria Sole Tognazzi)

Saturday, December 22, 1:00 p.m. T2

La tragedia di un uomo ridicolo (Tragedy of a Ridiculous Man). 1981. Italy. Written and directed by Bernardo Bertolucci. With Ugo Tognazzi, Anouk Aimée, Laura Morante. In Italian; English subtitles. 116 min. Tognazzi gives the performance of his career as the impotent, “ridiculous” man in Bertolucci’s extraordinary late-period film, about the anguished relationship between a failing industrialist and his son, who is kidnapped by left-wing terrorists under mysterious circumstances. Archival 35mm print from Luce Cinecittà; courtesy Warner Bros.

Wednesday, December 5, 7:00 p.m. T1

Sunday, December 30, 4:00 p.m. T2

Il federale (The Fascist). 1961. Italy. Written and directed by Pier Paolo Pasolini. With Pierre Clémenti, Jean-Pierre Léaud, Ugo Tognazzi, Anne Wiazemsky. In Italian; English subtitles. 98 min. An anarchical comedy of the first order, Luciano Salce’s *Il federale* stars Ugo Tognazzi in his breakthrough performance as Primo Arcovazzi, a fanatical graduate of the Black Brigade (the Northern Italian fascist paramilitary), who stands to earn a promotion if he transports a notorious anti-fascist intellectual to Rome for “rehabilitation”—with the partisans, Germans, and Allied Forces all nipping at their heels. DCP from Luce Cinecittà. In Italian; English subtitles.

Thursday, December 6, 4:30 p.m. T2

Sunday, December 16, 6:00 p.m. T2

Porcile (Pigsty). 1969. Italy. Written and directed by Pier Paolo Pasolini. With Pierre Clémenti, Jean-Pierre Léaud, Ugo Tognazzi, Anne Wiazemsky. In Italian; English subtitles. 98 min. Pasolini’s vicious satire interweaves the strangely perverse stories of two sacrificial victims: a cannibal who devours his own father in a medieval volcanic wasteland, and the pig-fetishist son of a bourgeois magnate who is locked in battle with a former Nazi industrialist (Ugo Tognazzi, in a role originally intended for Jacques Tati!). 35mm print from Luce Cinecittà; courtesy Movie-Time.

Thursday, December 6, 7:00 p.m. T2

Friday, December 14, 4:00 p.m. T2

La vita agra (It’s a Hard Life). 1964. Italy. Directed by Carlo Lizzani. Screenplay by Sergio Amidei, Luciano Bianciardi, Lizzani, Luciano Vincenzoni. With Ugo Tognazzi, Giovanna Ralli, Rossana Martini. In Italian; English subtitles. 104 min. Based on Luciano Bianciardi’s semiautobiographical bestselling novel—which Italo Calvino praised as a key example of the “industrial literature” produced during Italy’s economic boom years—*La vita agra* stars Ugo Tognazzi as a neurotic intellectual who seeks to avenge the deaths of 43 miners by blowing up the company’s modern Milanese headquarters. DCP from Luce Cinecittà; courtesy Surf Film.

Friday, December 7, 4:00 p.m. T2

Wednesday, December 12, 4:00 p.m. T2

La Cage aux folles (Birds of a Feather). 1978. France/Italy. Directed by Édouard Molinaro. Screenplay by Jean Poiret, Francis Veber, Molinaro, Marcello Danon. With Ugo Tognazzi, Michel Serrault, Claire Maurier. In Italian; English subtitles. 97 min. An international blockbuster that begat two sequels and a Tony Award-winning Broadway musical, *La Cage* was adapted from Jean Poiret's warm-and-winning stage farce about a pair of aging queens—Renato, owner of a scandalous St. Tropez nightclub (Tognazzi), and Albin (Serrault), his transvestite “roommate”—who, through a series of exquisitely timed comic set pieces, attempt to conceal their gay “lifestyle” from the ultraconservative soon-to-be in-laws of Renato's son. DCP courtesy Park Circus.

Friday, December 7, 6:30 p.m. T2

Sunday, December 23, 4:00 p.m. T1

Il fischio al naso (The Seventh Floor). 1967. Italy. Directed by Ugo Tognazzi. Screenplay by Rafael Azcona, Renzo Tarabusi, Giulio Scarnicci, Alfredo Pigna, Tognazzi. With Tognazzi, Tina Louise, Olga Villi. In Italian; English subtitles. 112 min. Tognazzi channels the ridiculous absurdity of Pirandello and his longtime collaborator Marco Ferreri in this, his second directing effort, playing a powerful industrialist who enters the purgatory of a hospital clinic to cure himself of his incessant nose whistling. DCP courtesy Surf Film.

Saturday, December 8, 1:00 p.m. T1

Thursday, December 13, 4:30 p.m. T2

L'ape regina (The Conjugal Bed). 1963. Italy/France. Directed by Marco Ferreri. Screenplay by Goffredo Parise, Rafael Azcona, Ferreri, Diego Fabbri. With Ugo Tognazzi, Marina Vlady, Walter Giller. In Italian; English subtitles. 90 min. A satirical Buñuelian grotesquerie that was cruelly censored, Ferreri's first Italian feature involves the grim fate of a dotting, middle-aged husband (Tognazzi) who struggles to get over his neurotic impotence and his fierce wife's impatience, only to be devoured like a male praying mantis. DCP from Luce Cinecittà; courtesy Rialto.

Saturday, December 8, 4:00 p.m. T1

Friday, December 21, 6:30 p.m. T2

La donna scimmia (The Ape Woman). 1964. Italy, France. Directed by Marco Ferreri. Screenplay by Rafael Azcona, Ferreri. With Ugo Tognazzi, Annie Girardot, Achille Majeroni. In Italian; English subtitles. 92 min. In Ferreri's riff on *Nightmare Alley*, or a perverse *La Strada*, Ugo Tognazzi is the scheming Neopolitan drifter who seduces a gentle woman with a hairy monkey face (Girardot) into marrying him and becoming a sideshow freak. Digital restoration from Cineteca di Bologna, TF1 Studio in collaboration with Surf Film; courtesy Rialto Pictures and Surf Film.

Saturday, December 8, 6:30 p.m. T1

Friday, December 21, 4:00 p.m. T2

Una questione d'onore (A Question of Honor). 1966. Italy/France. Directed by Luigi Zampa. Screenplay by Zampa, Leonardo Benvenuti, Piero De Bernardi, Bertrand Tavernier. With Ugo Tognazzi, Nicoletta Machiavelli, Bernard Blier. 35mm. In Italian; English subtitles. 110 min. This unsung soap opera about honor killings in Sardinia, a sendup of spaghetti Westerns, was born of the unlikeliest of collaborations between a Roman director (Luigi Zampa) and cinematographer (Carlo di Palma), an aspiring young French screenwriter (Bertrand Tavernier), and actors from Lombardy (Tognazzi), Emilia-Romagna (Machiavelli) and Argentina (Blier).

Sunday, December 9, 1:30 p.m. T2

Thursday, December 13, 7:30 p.m. T2

Il commissario Pepe (Police Chief Pepe). 1969. Italy. Directed by Ettore Scola. Screenplay by Ruggero Maccari, Scola, Ugo Facco De Lagarda. With Ugo Tognazzi, Silvia Dionisio, Tano Cimarosa. In Italian; English subtitles. 107 min. In this fond homage to Simenon by Ettore Scola, the writer-director of *A Special Day* and *We All Loved Each Other So Much*, police commissioner Pepe (Tognazzi) uncovers, through a series of poison pen letters, the sordid sexual doings of his small Veneto town. Digital restoration from Luce Cinecittà; courtesy True Colors.

Sunday, December 9, 4:30 p.m. T2

Wednesday, December 12, 6:30 p.m. T2

L'Immorale (The Climax). 1967. Italy. Directed by Pietro Germi. Screenplay by Carlo Bernari, Germi, Alfredo Giannetti, Tullio Pinelli. With Ugo Tognazzi, Stefania Sandrelli, Renée Longarini. 97 min. Tognazzi plays the first violinist of a touring orchestra who accumulates wives, mistresses, and children in every port. Pathetic and buffoonish by turns, he tries to do right by all of them, a delicate balancing act that threatens to land him in an early grave. 35mm print from CSC-Cineteca Nazionale, courtesy Park Circus.

Tuesday, December 11, 4:00 p.m. T1

Saturday, December 15, 1:30 p.m. T2

I mostri (The Monsters). 1963. Italy/France. Directed by Dino Risi. Screenplay by Agenore Incorcci, Furio Scarpelli, Elio Petri, Risi. With Ugo Tognazzi, Vittorio Gassman, Lando Buzzanca. In Italian; English subtitles. 121 min. "The ultimate Italian omnibus film, with no fewer than 20 episodes depicting, as director Dino Risi put it, 'a distrust in humanity' resulting from the Italian economic boom of the late 1950s. Ugo Tognazzi and Vittorio Gassman interpret a variety of human monsters, from princes to prizefighters, in brief, satirical sketches that spare no one, including the viewer. Released in the United States in a radically shortened version, *I mostri* is back—at some 31 minutes longer—in the full fury of its original Italian release" (Dave Kehr). New 35mm print from Luce Cinecittà, digitally restored by Cineteca di Bologna and Museo Nazionale del Cinema di Torino in collaboration with Surf Film, Lyon Film, RTI Gruppo Mediaset; courtesy Janus Films.

Saturday, December 15, 4:00 p.m. T2

Tuesday, December 18, 6:30 p.m. T2

Il magnifico cornuto (The Magnificent Cuckold). 1964. Italy/France. Directed by Antonio Pietrangeli. Screenplay by Diego Fabbri, Ruggero Maccari, Ettore Scola, Stefano Strucchi, based on a 1921 farce by Fernand Crommelynck. With Claudia Cardinale, Ugo Tognazzi, Bernard Blier. In Italian; English subtitles. 124 min. "A happily married businessman (Ugo Tognazzi) allows himself to be seduced by the wife of a colleague—a meaningless affair that makes him realize how easy it would be for his young and beautiful wife (Claudia Cardinale) to betray him as he betrayed her. His unfounded suspicions grow into madness, as he obsessively imagines her in the arms of other men" (Dave Kehr). 35mm print from Luce Cinecittà; courtesy Movie-Time.

Saturday, December 15, 7:00 p.m. T2

Wednesday, December 19, 4:30 p.m. T2

Venga a prendere il caffè da noi (Come Have Coffee with Us). 1970. Italy. Directed by Alberto Lattuada. Screenplay by Elio Petri, Ugo Pirro. With Ugo Tognazzi, Francesca Romana Coluzzi, Angela Goodwin. In Italian; English and French subtitles. 101 min. In what would make a great double bill with the Dino Risi-Alberto Sordi comedy *The Widower* (1959), Ugo Tognazzi plays a man of utter mediocrity and pretense, a middle-aged tax inspector who insinuates himself into the home of the rich (and sexually overheated) Tettamanzi sisters by marrying one while secretly sleeping with the others. Archival 35mm print from Luce Cinecittà; courtesy Minerva Pictures.

Sunday, December 16, 1:00 p.m. T2

Thursday, December 20, 4:00 p.m. T2

La califfa (Lady Caliph). 1970. France/Italy. Written and directed by Alberto Bevilacqua. With Romy Schneider, Ugo Tognazzi, Massimo Farinelli. In Italian; English subtitles. 96 min. Presented in competition at the 1971 Cannes Film Festival, Bevilacqua's committed debut film is set against the backdrop of a violent workers' strike in Parma, as a factory owner (Ugo Tognazzi) and a widowed labor organizer (Romy Schneider) begin a clandestine love affair that forces them to question their own allegiances. Archival 35mm print courtesy Luce Cinecittà; courtesy Mediaset.

Sunday, December 16, 3:30 p.m. T2

Monday, December 17, 4:00 p.m. T1

In nome del popolo italiano (In the Name of the Italian People). 1971. Italy. Directed by Dino Risi. Screenplay by Agenore Incrocci, Furio Scarpelli. With Ugo Tognazzi, Vittorio Gassman, Ely Galleani. . In Italian; English subtitles. 102 min. Set in early 1970s Rome, city of rotting garbage and moral decay, this rarely screened piece of political buffoonery stars Vittorio Gassman as a vainglorious industrialist who would sooner commit his father to an insane asylum than face charges in the murder of a young girl. His foil, Ugo Tognazzi, is the cynically bemused magistrate bent on holding him accountable not only for this sordid crime, but for the venal sins of an entire populace. Archival 35mm print courtesy Luce Cinecittà.

Monday, December 17, 6:30 p.m. T1

Tuesday, December 18, 4:00 p.m. T2

La mazurka del barone, della santa e del fico fiorone (The Mazurka of the Baron, the Saint and the Florentine Fig Tree). 1975. Italy. Directed by Pupi Avati. Screenplay by Avati, Antonio Avati, Gianni Cavina. With Ugo Tognazzi, Paolo Villaggio, Delia Boccardo. In Italian; English subtitles. 110 min. Set in the Emilian countryside, Pupi Avati's Fellini-esque comic fable begs to be rediscovered. Ugo Tognazzi is Anteo "Gambina Maledetta" (Bum Leg) Pellacani, a misanthropic, anticlerical nobleman who is hell-bent on destroying the fig tree that crippled him as a child—until, that is, he discovers its miraculous properties.
Wednesday, December 19, 7:30 p.m. T2
Thursday, December 27, 7:30 p.m. T2

Splendori e miserie di Madame Royale. 1970. Italy. Directed by Vittorio Caprioli. Screenplay by Caprioli, Enrico Medioli, Bernardino Zapponi. With Ugo Tognazzi, Maurice Ronet, Jenny Tamburi. In Italian; English subtitles. 103 min. Years before *La Cage aux folles*, Ugo Tognazzi starred in this virtually unknown gay comedy-drama as the rococo confection "Madame Royale," a flamboyant drag performer who gets mixed up with a police inspector (Ronet) when his voluptuous teenage charge (Tamburi) goes missing. Vittorio Caprioli, a popular character actor turned director, wrote this unusually sensitive film with Visconti's and Fellini's frequent collaborators, Enrico Medioli and Bernardino Zapponi. DCP courtesy CSC Cineteca Nazionale.
Thursday, December 20, 6:30 p.m. T2
Sunday, December 23, 1:30 p.m. T1

La proprietà non è più un furto (Property Is No Longer a Theft). 1973. Italy. Directed by Elio Petri. Screenplay by Petri, Ugo Pirro. With Ugo Tognazzi, Flavio Bucci, Daria Nicolodi. In Italian; English subtitles. 127 min. In the early 1970s, as the revolutionary Red Brigade waged its terrifying campaign to bring down Italy through kidnappings, murders, and bank robberies, Elio Petri made this proto-*giallo*, Brechtian satire about a neurotic bank clerk (Bucci) who commits to a Marxist life of thievery, choosing as his principal target a client known as The Butcher (Tognazzi). New 35mm print from Luce Cinecittà, restored by Cineteca di Bologna and Museo Nazionale del Cinema di Torino in collaboration with Titanus.
Saturday, December 22, 3:30 p.m. T2
Monday, December 24, 1:00 p.m. T1

L'Udienza (The Audience). 1972. Italy/France. Directed by Marco Ferreri. Screenplay by Ferreri, Rafael Azcona, Dante Matelli. With Ugo Tognazzi, Claudia Cardinale, Michel Piccoli, Vittorio Gassman. In Italian; English subtitles. 112 min. In Marco Ferreri and Rafael Azcona's clever spin on Kafka's *The Castle*, a young man seeking an audience with the Pope is put through a series of maddening trials. The film's all-star cast represents the different stations of bureaucracy (military, political, and Vatican) that crush his spirit. DCP courtesy Cineteca di Bologna and Museo Nazionale del Cinema di Torino in collaboration with Cristaldi Film.
Saturday, December 22, 6:30 p.m. T2
Friday, December 28, 4:30 p.m. T2

Vogliamo i colonnelli (We Want the Colonels). 1973. Italy. Directed by Mario Monicelli. Screenplay by Agenore Incrocci, Furio Scarpelli, Monicelli. With Ugo Tognazzi, Claude Dauphin, Duilio Del Prete. In Italian; English subtitles. 98 min. Based on the notorious Golpe Borghese incident of December 1970—a botched neo-fascist coup that enabled the Christian Democrats to turn the Republic into a veritable police state—Monicelli's withering satire stars Ugo Tognazzi as a thinly disguised Junio Valerio Borghese ("The Black Prince"), who tries to restore Italy to its former glory by forming an unholy alliance among army dissidents, the CIA, the Sicilian Mafia, and the Vatican. Digital restoration courtesy CSC-Cineteca Nazionale in collaboration with Dean Film.
Wednesday, December 26, 4:00 p.m. T2
Saturday, December 29, 1:30 p.m. T2

Romanzo popolare (Come Home and Meet My Wife). 1974. Italy. Directed by Mario Monicelli. Screenplay by Agenore Incrocci, Furio Scarpelli, Monicelli. With Ugo Tognazzi, Ornella Muti, Michele Placido. In Italian; English subtitles. One of the fathers of *commedia all'Italia* in the 1950s, Mario Monicelli teamed with Ugo Tognazzi in 1973 on the political farce *We Want the Colonels* (screening on December 26 and 29), and then the following year on this corruscating gem about sexual jealousy and class envy, a film that Monicelli himself described as "a bitter investigation into the conditions of workers in a large metropolis like Milan."
Wednesday, December 26, 6:30 p.m. T2
Saturday, December 29, 4:00 p.m. T2

La Faille (Weak Spot). 1975. France/Italy/Germany. Directed by Peter Fleischmann. Screenplay by Antonis Samarakis, Jean-Claude Carrière, Martin Walser, Fleischmann. With Ugo Tognazzi, Michel Piccoli, Mario Adorf. 35mm. In Italian; English subtitles. 110 min. With echoes of Costa-Gavras's *Z*, *Weak Spot* is a paranoid political thriller set in Greece during the Regime of the Colonels, in which an innocent tourist agent (Tognazzi), accused of belonging to the underground resistance, gets mixed up in a cat-and-mouse game with the secret police (Piccoli, Adorf).

Thursday, December 27, 4:30 p.m. T2

Saturday, December 29, 6:30 p.m. T2

La Grande Bouffe (The Big Feast). 1973. France/Italy. Directed by Marco Ferreri. In French, Italian; English subtitles. 129 min. Ferreri's notorious orgy of Rabelaisian appetites brings together some of Europe's greatest actors (Mastroianni, Piccoli, Tognazzi, Noiret) for a defiantly scatological Last Supper.

Friday, December 28, 7:30 p.m. T2

Sunday, December 30, 1:00 p.m. T2

Dates and times are subject to change; please refer to moma.org for the most up-to-date information.

Organized by Joshua Siegel, Curator, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art, and Camilla Cormanni and Paola Ruggiero, Luce Cinecittà.

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.