

Film list + 50 releases

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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to Italian
Films Export

530417-35

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A gala preview of a new Italian film BELLISSIMA and a personal appearance of its star, the famous Italian actress Anna Magnani, will take place at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, on Wednesday, April 29 at 8:45 p.m. for the benefit of the Museum's Program Fund.

The benefit has been arranged through the co-operation of Italian Films Export, distributors of the film in America. Tickets, available at the Museum of Modern Art, are \$6.00, including contribution and admission.

Miss Magnani, who won the "Silver Ribbon," the Italian film industry's "Oscar," for her role in BELLISSIMA as an ambitious mother trying to make her child a movie star, first became known here for her role in Open City. She is one of Italy's most noted actresses on the stage and in films.

BELLISSIMA, set in Rome's Cinecitta Studios at the present time, was written by Cesare Zavattini who also wrote the screen plays of Open City and Shoe Shine. The director Lucino Visconti is also a leading figure in the Italian theatre and celebrated for his direction of a modern Orestes as well as the Italian stage productions of Death of a Salesman and A Streetcar Named Desire. BELLISSIMA is his first film to be shown in America.

Richard Griffith, Curator of the Museum of the Museum Modern Art's Film Library, says of BELLISSIMA:

Again the Italian film-makers have produced a work on a vital contemporary theme, this time their own art. The social role of the movies, their hold on the emotions of millions all over the world, the hopes and expectations they arouse, sometimes to disappointed, sometimes to be ironically fulfilled - all these themes are examined and defined in this searching film. They are defined in human terms, as we expect of the Italians (no film could be more Italian than BELLISSIMA, and none more universal) and they focus on the intense humanity of Anna Magnani, brightest star of the Italian cinema. Never has this great exponent of art and of life had a role more evocative of her talents, and as always she gives to it her all.

BELLISSIMA will open soon at the 60th Street Trans Lux Theatre.

Note: Stills are available from the Publicity Department, Museum of Modern Art.