

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
November 1987

ETTORE SCOLA TO INTRODUCE
STZ: THE FILMS OF SCOLA, TAVERNIER, AND ZANUSSI
AT MoMA DECEMBER 18

Three European directors--Ettore Scola, Italy, Bertrand Tavernier, France, and Krzysztof Zanussi, Poland--are the subjects of a major film exhibition at The Museum of Modern Art from December 18, 1987, to January 31, 1988. STZ: THE FILMS OF SCOLA, TAVERNIER, AND ZANUSSI surveys the works of these filmmakers, whose disparate careers have broad similarities. Each began working in his native country and later developed international projects; each is also at the midpoint of his career and is an accomplished screenwriter.

On Friday, December 18, at 2:30 and 6:00 p.m., the series opens with the American premiere of Mr. Scola's The Family/La Famiglia (1987), starring Vittorio Gassman, Fanny Ardant, and Stefania Sandrelli. The filmmaker will introduce the evening screening.

The opening continues on Saturday, December 19, with Mr. Tavernier's documentary Mississippi Blues (1984) at 2:00 p.m., followed by his 'Round Midnight (1986), with Dexter Gordon, at 5:00 p.m. On Thursday, January 28, at 6:00 p.m., the director will attend the American premiere of his most recent work, La Passion Béatrice (1988).

On Sunday, December 20, at 2:00 and 5:00 p.m., the inaugural weekend concludes with Mr. Zanussi's recent The Power of Evil/Le Pouvoir du Mal (1985), starring Vittorio Gassman, Marie-Christine Barrault, and Raf Vallone.

The films of Scola, Tavernier, and Zanussi have similar esthetic strategies and moral sensibilities. All three frequently use unconventional narrative techniques, as well as subtle and expressive camera work. They direct an international array of actors to achieve refined yet fully realized performances. The directors also share an unsentimental humanism and a strong

- more -

sense of irony. Each investigates the dynamics of the individual's choice in the face of determinism and grace under social pressure.

Among Mr. Scola's works in the exhibition that are known in this country are We All Loved Each Other So Much/C'eravamo tanto amati (1974), with Vittorio Gassman, Nino Manfredi, and Stefania Sandrelli; A Special Day/Una giornata particolari (1977), starring Marcello Mastroianni and Sophia Loren; and La Nuit de Varennes (1982), with Mr. Mastroianni, Jean-Louis Barrault, and Hanna Schygulla. The films of Mr. Tavernier which are familiar to American audiences include The Judge and the Assassin/Le Juge et l'assassin (1976) and Clean Slate/Coup de Torchon (1982), both starring Philippe Noiret and Isabelle Huppert; and A Sunday in the Country/Un Dimanche à la Campagne (1984), with Sabine Azéma, Louis Ducreux, and Michel Aumont. Mr. Zanussi's works known here include Ways in the Night/Wege in der Nacht (1979), starring Maja Komorowska and Mathieu Carrière; Contract/Kontrakt (1980), with Ms. Komorowska, Tadeusz Lomnicki, and Leslie Caron; and A Year of the Quiet Sun/Rok Spokojnego Slonica (1984), starring Ms. Komorowska and Scott Wilson. The director is expected to attend one program during the series.

The exhibition also includes several works seldom seen in this country. Among these films are Mr. Scola's Il Commissario Pepe (1969), Mr. Tavernier's Deathwatch (1979), and Mr. Zanussi's Death of a Provincial/Smierc Provinciala (1966).

STZ: THE FILMS OF SCOLA, TAVERNIER, AND ZANUSSI, which takes place in the Museum's Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 1, has been organized by Laurence Kardish, curator, and Stephen Harvey, assistant curator, Department of Film.

No. 106

For further press information and photographic materials, contact Howard Feinstein, film press representative, The Museum of Modern Art; (212) 708-9752.