

The Museum of Modern Art

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FACT SHEET

EXHIBITION ANNA MAGNANI

DATES October 28 - November 27, 1988

ORGANIZATION Stephen Harvey, assistant curator, and Adrienne Mancina, curator, Department of Film, in association with Gene Lerner and the Incontri Internazionali d'Arte, Rome.

CONTENT The first major American retrospective devoted to the work of film actress Anna Magnani features over twenty films spanning nearly four decades. During her singular career, working in collaboration with such directors as Roberto Rossellini, Luchino Visconti, Vittorio De Sica and Pier Paolo Pasolini, Magnani's spontaneity and naturalism came to symbolize the school of Italian Neo-Realism, one of the brightest eras in Italian cinema. A number of the early Magnani films in this series have never been shown in the United States; others have not been seen since they enjoyed brief art-house runs in the forties and fifties.

Reflecting Magnani's versatility as an artist, the films in this series range from neo-realist melodrama and satirical comedy to sumptuous period pieces and adaptations of stage plays. Highlights include her landmark appearances in Rossellini's Open City (1945) and The Miracle (1948); Jean Renoir's wry tribute to commedia dell'arte, The Golden Coach (1952); and Pasolini's despairing fresco of contemporary working-class Rome, Mamma Roma (1962). Rare titles in the series include the comedy Tempo Massimo (1934) and a pair of films Magnani made for Italian television, La Sciantosa (1970) and 1870 (1971). The exhibition also features several of Magnani's American films, including her Academy Award-winning performance in David Mann's The Rose Tattoo (1955) and George Cukor's Wild is the Wind (1957).

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For further information or photographs contact Sarah Eaton, film press representative, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9752.