

# National Gallery of Art

## NEWS RELEASE

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### NATIONAL GALLERY 1996 SUMMER FILM SEASON BEGINS JULY 6

#### FEATURES NEOREALIST AUTEUR VITTORIO DE SICA

#### AND POPULAR SILENT-ERA CLASSICS WITH ORIGINAL MUSIC

Washington, D.C. -- The National Gallery of Art's summer season of weekend film programs will feature films of eminent Italian film director Vittorio De Sica and the fourth annual series of classic silent films presented in live concert with their original musical scores.

All film programs are open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis and take place in the Gallery's East Building auditorium at Fourth Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W. A complete schedule follows. The public may obtain a summer film calendar by calling (202) 842-6799.

Grand Music Cinema IV: 1922-1928 takes place on July 20 and 27 and on August 3. Music historian and conductor Gillian Anderson has researched and reconstructed each of the historical scores and will conduct performances of The Passion of Joan of Arc (1928, Carl Theodore Dreyer) with Renée Falconetti, Robin Hood (1922, Allan Dwan) starring Douglas Fairbanks, and Ben-Hur (1925, Fred Niblo) with Ramon Novarro and Francis X. Bushman.

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summer films...page 2

The De Sica retrospective begins on Saturday, July 6 at 2:30 p.m. with two rarely seen feature films, Teresa Venerdi (1941) and A Garibaldian in the Convent (1942). The eleven-film series on one of Italy's most important post-war directors also features new prints of the landmark neorealist classics The Children are Watching Us (1943), Shoeshine (1946), and The Bicycle Thief (1948). All films are in Italian with English subtitles.

Vittorio De Sica transformed the way Italian films were produced in the early 1940s. Interested in actual locales rather than studio settings, naturalistic detail, black-and-white documentary photography, and nonprofessional actors, De Sica was one of the leaders of the new aesthetic of neorealism.

The program of De Sica's work is made possible through the cooperation of the Italian Cultural Institute, Washington D.C., and Cinecittà International, a division of Ente Cinema Spa, operating with the support of the Dipartimento dello Spettacolo-- Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri, Rome.

Weekday documentary films presented during the summer will relate to some of the current exhibitions at the National Gallery of Art: Frank Stella at the Fogg, Looking with Ellsworth Kelly, Roy Lichtenstein--Tokyo Brushstrokes, Thomas Eakins: A Motion Portrait, and Thunder Over Mexico.

SUMMER FILMS AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

July 6 at 2:30

**Teresa Venerdi**

Vittorio De Sica, 1941, 90 minutes.

Also

**A Garibaldian in the Convent (Un garabaldino al convento)**

Vittorio De Sica, 1942, 87 minutes.

July 7 at 6:00

**The Gates of Heaven (La porta del cielo)**

Vittorio De Sica, 1944, 89 minutes.

July 13 at 2:00

**The Children are Watching Us (I bambini ci guardano)**

Vittorio De Sica, 1943, 92 minutes.

July 13 at 4:00

**Shoeshine (Sciuscià)**

Vittorio De Sica, 1946, 93 minutes.

July 14 at 1:00

**Miracle in Milan (Miracolo a Milano)**

Vittorio De Sica, 1951, 100 minutes.

July 14 at 6:00

**The Bicycle Thief (Ladri di biciclette)**

Vittorio De Sica, 1948, 90 minutes.

July 20 at 3:00

**The Passion of Joan of Arc (La Passion de Jeanne d'Arc)**

Carl Theodore Dreyer, 1928, ca. 90 minutes, with live orchestral accompaniment.

July 21 at 1:00

**Umberto D**

Vittorio De Sica, 1952, 89 minutes.

July 21 at 6:00

**The Gold of Naples (L'oro di Napoli)**

Vittorio De Sica, 1954, 107 minutes.

July 27 at 3:00

**Robin Hood**

Allan Dwan, 1922, 120 minutes, with live piano accompaniment.

summer films...page 4

July 28 at 1:00

**The Roof (Il tetto)**

Vittorio De Sica, 1956, 98 minutes.

July 28 at 6:00

**Two Women (La ciociara)**

Vittorio De Sica, 1960, 100 minutes.

August 3 at 3:00

**Ben-Hur**

Fred Niblo, 1925, 141 minutes, with live orchestral accompaniment.

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