



A History of Italian Cinema

By Peter Bondanella

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An unprecedented survey of Italian film from the leading expert in the field

A History of Italian Cinema is a major new study from the author of the bestselling Italian Cinema - which has been published in three landmark editions and celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary in 2008. Building upon his decades of research, Peter Bondanella has now written the definitive history of the subject, from the birth of cinema to the present day. He has rethought, reorganized, and completely rewritten his previous work, which focused on postwar cinema, and has broadened his coverage of the spaghetti western and comedy genres. Bondanella also now covers a huge range of work that was not previously considered, particularly both popular and 'B' genres, including: the sword and sandal epic or "peplum" film of the 1950s; the Italian horror film, the so-called spaghetti nightmare films (including the subcategories of horror, the Italian zombie and cannibal films), that began in the 1950s and continue through the present; the giallo or Italian mystery thriller; and the poliziesco or Italian crime film from the 1970s to the present. This new book also examines the emergence of a "third wave" of new auteurs born in the 1950s as well as an even younger group of important directors born in the 1960s who have already made their mark on the direction of the Italian cinema in the third millennium.

Finally, A History of Italian Cinema now includes the most comprehensive bibliography of the subject ever to be assembled in an English-language publication. Erudite, comprehensive, and heavily illustrated throughout, this is an essential purchase for any fan of Italian film.

Praise for Bondanella's previous work in the field:

"Extremely interesting and stimulating."-Bernardo Bertolucci

"A very good book and a very accurate one."-Federico Fellini

"The librarian who does not get Bondanella immediately must be petitioned, picketed, importuned."-*Choice*

"To measure the progress and development of Anglo-American studies on Italian cinema, one needs

only to consider Peter Bondanella's pioneering and seminal *Italian Cinema*...Bondanella's work carries the crucial merit of having opened up a panoramic view of Italian national cinema to Anglo-American film scholars who in general were mostly familiar with only a few masterpieces. Over the years, Bondanella's systematic approach has enabled and inspired countless studies."- Gian Piero Brunetta, Professor of History and Film Criticism, University of Padua, Italy

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Editorial Review

Review

"Prior to this year—with the English translation of Gian Piero Brunetta's *The History of Italian Cinema* and this definitive rewrite and update of Bondanella's best-selling *Italian Cinema*, first published in 1983—there have been few encompassing histories of Italian cinema for the English-speaking world. Bondanella chronologically examines the development of cinema, and his uncommon analysis and accreditation of B movies reveal a layer of national identity previously marginalized or unconsidered. Of equal rarity are the detailed attention given to directors and the balanced critical representation of most, if not all, of their work. A comprehensive primer conversationally delivered and generously seasoned with film stills and photographs.

Verdict: This magnum opus of Italian film studies also contains what may be the most complete bibliography assembled on the subject. Important for students and cineastes, casuals and newbies."
-*Library Journal*, STARRED Review

"Likely to remain the standard work on the subject for years to come, Bondanella's book is a must-have for students and fans of Italian film."

—Book News

Normal 0 false false false MicrosoftInternetExplorer4 "Documents the history from very long experience and research...especially good at identifying and summarising trends."

The Stage, March 2010

"Bondanella has made significant contributions to the study of Italian literature and film, and this new history—though not billed as such—is in many respects an updated edition of his *Italian Cinema: From Neorealism to the Present*. But it is more than just that. Here, the author pays closer attention to films of the silent era and adds or extends chapters devoted to popular genres—looking, for example, at the peplum (or so-called sword and sandal film), the 'spaghetti nightmares' (horror films), the *giallo* mysteries, police dramas, and 'the truly B-film comedies.' Bondanella retains the crucial examinations of neorealism, political films, social criticism in Italian comedies, and significant auteurs (Visconti, Antonioni, De Sica, Fellini, Pasolini, Bertolucci). He concludes by placing the recent work of such young directors as Pupi Avati, Ferzan Özpetek, Pappi Corsicato, Antonio Luigi Grimaldi, Andrea Molaioli, and Francesca Archibugi among others in the context of earlier filmmakers and influences. A celebration of the author's long career as a scholar of Italian studies, this book is a sweeping course in Italian film from the silent era and Fascist period to the present. Includes photographs and extensive notes. **Summing Up:** Recommended."

-S. Vander Closter, *CHOICE*, June 2010

Reviewed in *The Times Literary Supplement* (*The Times Literary Supplement*)

"Prior to this year—with the English translation of Gian Piero Brunetta's *The History of Italian Cinema* and

this definitive rewrite and update of Bondanella's best-selling *Italian Cinema*, first published in 1983—there have been few encompassing histories of Italian cinema for the English-speaking world. Bondanella chronologically examines the development of cinema, and his uncommon analysis and accreditation of B movies reveal a layer of national identity previously marginalized or unconsidered. Of equal rarity are the detailed attention given to directors and the balanced critical representation of most, if not all, of their work. A comprehensive primer conversationally delivered and generously seasoned with film stills and photographs.

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