

KINO LORBER

Presents

THE CONFORMIST

A Film by Bernardo Bertolucci



New 4K Restoration

Italy | 1970 | 114 mins | 1.66:1 | Color | Italian with English Subtitles

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“A TRIUMPH OF FEELING AND STYLE.

So operatic that you come away with sequences in your head like arias.”

- Pauline Kael

“TRANSPORTS YOU INTO A WORLD OF PURE STYLE...Intriguing as it is as the reconstruction of one vexed historical movement - the late 30s - it is even more evocative of another, the late 60s and the early 70s, when cinema seemed to be entering a period of decadence that was also a second youth.”

- A. O. Scott, The New York Times

“BERTOLUCCI’S BOLDEST AND MOST EXPRESSIVE FILM”

- Calum Marsh, The Village Voice

“Carries with it a remunerating jolt of youthful creative energy, the memory of a time when movies were the most important art and their creative possibilities seemed endless.”

- Dave Kehr

“A DAZZLING MOVIE. A SUPERIOR FILM. The most striking and baroque images you’re ever likely to see. A rich, poetic, cinematic style. Loving depiction of all the details of upper middle-class decadence.”

- Vincent Canby, The New York Times

“The unsettling blend of images and ideas in this movie cannot satisfactorily be disentangled or decoded, and it’s the very strangeness of Bertolucci’s masterpiece that has made it so influential in cinema history...Bertolucci and Storaro shaped not just film history but the aesthetic of advertising, design, fashion photography and music video.”

- Andrew O’Hehir, Salon

“One of only a handful of films made in the past 30 years that truly deserve to be called great... the brilliant mix of ideas, the audacity and originality of approach, the sensualist delight in the ravishing play of light and shadow -- all these remain, as bracing and inspirational as ever.”

- Hal Hinson, The Washington Post

“Photographed by Vittorio Storraro, it’s a mélange of the sensual haziness of ’70s European art-house fare and the high-contrast, anxious angles of film noir... Deliberate and sumptuous, it’s something that you could analyze for hours or passively devour to equal delight.”

- Violet Lucca, Slant Magazine

“THE CONFORMIST IS BERTOLUCCI’S GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT... its blistering political statement and gorgeous cinematic technique are still worth talking about today.”

- Aja Romano, Vox

SYNOPSIS

In Mussolini's Italy, repressed Jean-Louis Trintignant, trying to purge memories of a youthful, homosexual episode--and murder--joins the Fascists in a desperate attempt to fit in. As the reluctant Judas motors to his personal Gethsemane (the assassination of his leftist mentor), he flashes back to a dance party for the blind; an insane asylum in a stadium; and wife Stefania Sandrelli and lover Dominique Sanda dancing the tango in a working class hall. But those are only a few of this political thriller's anthology pieces, others including Trintignant's honeymoon coupling with Sandrelli in a train compartment as the sun sets outside their window; a bimbo lolling on the desk of a fascist functionary, glimpsed in the recesses of his cavernous office; a murder victim's hands leaving bloody streaks on a limousine parked in a wintry forest. Bernardo Bertolucci's masterpiece, adapted from the Alberto Moravia novel, boasts an authentic Art Deco look created by production designer Ferdinando Scarfiotti, a score by the great Georges Delerue and breathtaking color cinematography by Vittorio Storaro.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Bernardo Bertolucci's masterpiece is a political drama set in Mussolini's Italy starring Jean-Louis Trintignant as a repressed man trying to purge memories of a youthful, homosexual episode - and murder - who joins the Fascists in a desperate attempt to fit in.

RESTORATION CREDITS

Restored in 4K by Cineteca di Bologna in collaboration with Minerva Pictures under the aegis of Fondazione Bernardo Bertolucci at L'Immagine Ritrovata laboratory, from the original camera negative. With funding provided by Ministero della cultura and "A Season of Classic Films", initiative promoted by ACE - Association des Cinémathèques Européennes for the Creative MEDIA programme of the European Commission.

“I shot *The Conformist* leaving open the possibility to tell the story chronologically as Moravia does in his novel. As I began shooting, though, I became fascinated by the possibility to use the car journey as the present thread line, as the story’s container. Basically, the protagonist also travels in his memory. That’s why I shot a lot of footage of Trintignat’s journey.

With the aid of a great editor such as Kim (Arcalli), it was possible to see, bit by bit, the film shape up in front of one’s eyes. The structure of a film is announced by the screenplay, then during the shooting it begins to exist and manifest, but it is only during the editing that it takes its final shape”.

- **Bernardo Bertolucci**

CAST

Jean-Louis Trintignant (Marcello Clerici)

Stefania Sandrelli (Giulia)

Dominique Sanda (Anna Quadri)

Gastone Moschin (Manganiello)

Pierre Clémenti (Lino Seminara)

Enzo Tarascio (Professor Quadri)

José Quaglio (Italo Montanari)

Fosco Giachetti (The Colonel)

Yvonne Sanson (Giulia's Mother)

Milly (Marcello's Mother)

Giuseppe Addobbati (Marcello's Father)

Antonio Maestri (Confessor)

Alessandro Haber (Drunk Blind Man)

Massimo Sarchielli (Blind Man)

Christian Aligny (Raoul)

Pierangelo Civera (Franz)

Pasquale Fortunato (Young Marcello)

CREW

Directed by **Bernardo Bertolucci**

Story from the homonymous novel by **Alberto Moravia**

Screenplay by **Bernardo Bertolucci**

Cinematographer **Vittorio Storaro**

Editor **Franco Arcalli**

Set Design **Ferdinando Scarfiotti**

Art Direction **Ferdinando Scarfiotti**

Music **Georges Delerue**

Executive Producer, Producer **Giovanni Bertolucci**

Costume Designer **Gitt Magrini**