

Il Conformista: A Haunting Tale of Fascism and Identity



Released in 1970, *Il Conformista* (The Conformist) is a gripping and visually stunning film directed by Bernardo Bertolucci. The film, which is based on the novel of the same name by Alberto Moravia, tells the story of

Marcello Clerici, a young Italian man who joins the fascist party in Free Download to conform to the political and social norms of his time.



Il conformista (The Conformist) (BFI Film Classics)

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 2744 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 96 pages



Plot Summary

The film begins in 1938, as Marcello Clerici (Jean-Louis Trintignant) returns to Rome after spending several years in Paris. He has recently joined the fascist party, and he is eager to prove his loyalty to the regime. Marcello's father, a former socialist, is horrified by his son's decision, but Marcello is determined to succeed in the new Italy.

Marcello is assigned to investigate the activities of Professor Quadri (Enzo Tarascio), a former anti-fascist who is now living in exile in Paris. Marcello travels to Paris and meets with Quadri, who tells him that he is planning to return to Italy and assassinate Mussolini. Marcello is torn between his loyalty to the regime and his sympathy for Quadri. He eventually decides to inform the police of Quadri's plans, and Quadri is arrested and executed.

Marcello's decision to betray Quadri haunts him for the rest of his life. He becomes increasingly paranoid and isolated, and he eventually descends

into madness. The film ends with Marcello sitting in a mental hospital, reflecting on his past actions.

Themes

Il Conformista is a complex and multilayered film that explores a wide range of themes, including Fascism, identity, and political conformity. The film's central character, Marcello Clerici, is a man who is deeply conflicted about his own identity and beliefs. He tries to conform to the social and political norms of his time, but he is ultimately unable to reconcile his own individuality with the demands of the fascist regime.

The film also explores the corrosive effects of Fascism on Italian society. The fascist regime, with its emphasis on conformity and obedience, creates a climate of fear and paranoia. People are afraid to speak their minds, and they are forced to conform to the regime's ideology. The film's haunting visuals, which include images of violence, torture, and sexual abuse, reflect the horrors of Fascism and the damage it inflicts on both individuals and society.

Critical Reception

Il Conformista was a critical and commercial success upon its release. The film was praised for its complex and nuanced storytelling, its stunning visuals, and its powerful performances. The film won the Golden Bear at the 20th Berlin International Film Festival, and it was nominated for two Academy Awards (Best Foreign Language Film and Best Original Screenplay).

Legacy

Il Conformista remains one of the most important and influential films of Italian cinema. The film has been praised for its groundbreaking use of flashbacks and its innovative visual style. The film has also been praised for its complex and nuanced exploration of the themes of Fascism, identity, and political conformity.

Il Conformista is a must-see for fans of Italian cinema and psychological thrillers. The film is a haunting and provocative exploration of the corrosive effects of Fascism on both individuals and society.

Il Conformista is a powerful and unforgettable film that explores the dark side of human nature. The film's complex characters, evocative cinematography, and haunting score create a truly immersive experience. Il Conformista is a must-see for anyone interested in Italian cinema, psychology, or history.



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