

8½

(Otto e mezzo)

Directed by Federico Fellini

Italy 1963, 138 mins, Cert 15

A BFI release

Marcello Mastroianni, Claudia Cardinale, Anouk Aimée, Sandra Milo

New Digital Restoration

***'8½ speaks as much about life as it does about art ... a lustful, sweaty, gluttonous poem to cinema'* Guillermo del Toro**



Opening on 1 May 2015 at BFI Southbank and selected cinemas UK-wide

Federico Fellini's legendary **8½**, now beautifully restored from the original negatives by Gaumont and Eclair, will be back on the big screen in selected cinemas from 1 May. Not only a superb film about film-making itself – and a favourite of many film directors – it is widely considered to be Fellini's masterpiece. In this, his eighth and a half film, the director plays out his own creative issues through an alter-ego.

Following a big hit, film director Guido Anselmi (the charismatic Marcello Mastroianni) is suffering from creative block. In his search for inspiration, he wrestles with his dreams, memories and desires. At the same time, he is endlessly pursued by other people – his wife Luisa (Anouk Aimée), his mistress Carla (Sandra Milo), his ideal actress Claudia (Claudia Cardinale), friends, the paparazzi and his producers.

Blending surreal visions with reality, this visually stunning film offers a unique and often humorous portrayal of a restless artist, battling with his past and the distractions of the present.

The sheer scale and extravagant ambition of the film, from its baroque sets to its huge cast of characters, is a remarkable expression of Fellini's vivid imagination. The striking photography (Gianni Di Venanzo) captures a world of pure Italian style, with black and white images that wouldn't look out of place in Vogue magazine. They are brilliantly complemented by a score from the great Nino Rota who worked with Fellini for over 25 years.

8½ has influenced countless filmmakers – from Woody Allen to Wes Anderson. The music video for R.E.M's "Everybody Hurts" borrowed from the opening dream sequence, as did the road rage scene in Joel Schumacher's *Falling Down* (1993).

Back in 1964, *8½* won two Oscars (from five nominations) for Best Foreign Language Film and Best Costume Design. Nearly 50 years later it was voted No. 4 in the Directors' Poll of [Sight & Sound's The Greatest Films of All Time](#) (2012) and came No. 10 in the Critics' Poll.

This new restoration was showcased in the Classics strand of last year's Cannes Film Festival, also providing the key image for the Festival's 2014 poster.

Best enjoyed on the big screen, *8½* is an undisputed classic of world cinema, awaiting discovery by a new generation of film lovers.

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