

## **ROME, OPEN CITY**

(Roma, città aperta)

**Directed by Roberto Rossellini**

Italy 1945, 103 mins, Cert 12A

**Aldo Fabrizi, Anna Magnani, Marcello Pagliero**

**In a new 4K restoration**



**Opening on 7 March 2014 at BFI Southbank, Curzon Mayfair  
and selected cinemas nationwide**

15 January 2014 – Rossellini's masterpiece, described by Martin Scorsese as 'the most precious moment of film history', was awarded the *Grand Prix* (forerunner of the *Palme d'Or*) at the 1946 Cannes Film Festival. Returning to the big screen in a new 4K restoration based on the original negatives preserved by the Cineteca Nazionale, *Rome, Open City* opens in selected cinemas nationwide on 7 March.

"A landmark of Italian neorealism often cited as one of the greatest films ever made, Rossellini's portrait of life under the Nazi Occupation remains remarkable for its sheer immediacy, tension and power.

Made in extraordinarily straitened circumstances immediately after the liberation of Rome, the film follows engineer Giorgio (Marcello Pagliero) in his attempts to evade the Germans and the collaborating Italian authorities by seeking help from Pina (Anna Magnani), fiancée of a fellow member of the underground resistance, and Don Pietro (Aldo Fabrizi), the priest due to oversee her marriage. Giorgio is confident he'd never betray his comrades even if caught – but not everyone can be so strong...

Basing their story partly on real people and events, Rossellini and co-writers Sergio Amidei and Federico Fellini brought a vivid authenticity to their depiction of daily lives dominated by poverty, desperation and constant fear of betrayal and violence. Shot both on the ravaged streets and in the studio (most memorably for the painfully frank second half set largely at Gestapo headquarters), the film seamlessly blends sequences reminiscent of documentary with more conventional dramatic scenes notable for their pace, precise staging and affectingly naturalistic performances. Its emotional punch remains undiminished."

Geoff Andrew

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**Notes to editors**

- *Rome, Open City* was restored by Fondazione Cineteca di Bologna, CSC – Cineteca Nazionale, Coproduction Office and Istituto Luce Cinecittà
- *Rome, Open City* is released by the BFI in selected cinemas nationwide
- The BFI Film Classics book, *Rome, Open City* by David Forgacs (2000) is available from bookshops

**About the BFI**

The BFI is the lead body for film in the UK with the ambition to create a flourishing film environment in which innovation, opportunity and creativity can thrive by:

- Connecting audiences to the widest choice of British and World cinema
- Preserving and restoring the most significant film collection in the world for today and future generations
- Investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world
- Growing the next generation of film makers and audiences