



PRESS RELEASE

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BAMPFA Mounts Bay Area Premiere of Vittorio De Sica's Unseen Masterpiece *Il Boom*

New Restoration of 1963 Italian Satire Receives First Ever US Theatrical Release

Screeners Available on Request

Five Public Screenings:

Friday, September 1 at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 2 at 6 p.m.

Sunday, September 10 at 7 p.m.

Saturday, September 23 at 6 p.m.

Friday, September 29 at 4 p.m.

(Run Time: 88 min.)



(Berkeley, CA) August 21, 2017—A new digital restoration of Vittorio De Sica's acclaimed comedy *Il Boom* receives its Bay Area premiere next month at the UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA), as part of the film's first-ever US theatrical release. A biting satire of the Italian bourgeoisie made in 1963 at the height of Italy's economic miracle, the film is regarded as one of the best—and certainly the funniest—works by the director of such Neorealist classics as *The Bicycle Thief* and *Shoeshine*. Though it was celebrated by European critics in its day, *Il Boom* never secured distribution in the United States.

The film follows the challenges faced by its hapless protagonist Giovanni, a clowning, often desperate businessman who struggles to support his family's extravagant lifestyle. As Giovanni's financial situation spins out of control, he soon finds himself in debt up to his eyeballs—literally. Written by the director's longtime collaborator Cesare Zavattini, the film stars Alberto Sordi, one of the most highly regarded comic actors of postwar Italy, who is best known for his performances in the films of Federico Fellini, *The White Sheik*, and *I Vitelloni*; Mario Monicelli's *The Great War*; and Alberto Lattuada's *Mafioso*, made the year before *Il Boom*.

More than fifty years after its initial European release, Bay Area audiences are finally able to see this comic masterpiece in a new restoration by Rialto Pictures, presented in BAMPFA's state-of-the-art

Barbro Osher Theater. Attendees at the screening on September 23 can also enjoy a **Film to Table** program hosted by Babette Café, which offers a four-course, prix-fixe Italian meal at 7:45 following the 6 p.m. screening. Reservations are \$65 per person and can be purchased at [Babette's website](#).

Tickets for *Il Boom* can be purchased [online](#) or in person and are \$12 for general admission; \$7 for BAMPFA members and UC Berkeley students; and \$8 for UC Berkeley faculty & staff, non-UC Berkeley students, disabled, seniors, and 18 & under. Press comps are available on a limited basis.

Visitor Information

Address

2155 Center Street, Berkeley, CA 94720

Hours

Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Fridays and Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Information

bampfa.org

(510) 642-0808

Social Media

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About BAMPFA

An internationally recognized arts institution with deep roots in the Bay Area, the University of California, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA) is a forum for cultural experiences that transform individuals and advance the local, national, and global discourse on art and film. BAMPFA is UC Berkeley's premier visual arts venue, presenting more than 450 film screenings, scores of public programs, and up to twenty exhibitions annually. With its vibrant and eclectic programming, BAMPFA inspires the imagination and ignites critical dialogue through art, film, and other forms of creative expression.

The institution's collection of more than 19,000 works of art dates from 3,000 BCE to the present day and includes important holdings of Neolithic Chinese ceramics, Ming and Qing Dynasty Chinese painting, Old Master works on paper, Italian Baroque painting, early American painting, Abstract Expressionist painting, contemporary photography, and Conceptual art. BAMPFA's collection also includes more than 17,500 films and videos, including the largest collection of Japanese cinema outside of Japan, impressive holdings of Soviet cinema, West Coast avant-garde film, seminal video art, as well as hundreds of thousands of articles, reviews, posters, and other ephemera related to the history of film.