

Academy Cinema

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ACADEMY CINEMA

presents

PURSUIT (a)

(Caccia Tragica).

Pursuit brings to the attention of the English public one of the youngest of the Italian directors who have risen to prominence in Italy since the end of the war. Giuseppe de Santis is only 32 years old, and was formerly a critic. He worked as assistant director with Visconti on the Italian version of "The Postman Always Knocks Twice" and on a post-war liberation film, "Il Sole Sgora Ancora," which had considerable success in France and elsewhere. *Pursuit* is the first major film for which he is solely responsible. Made in 1947, it was presented the same year at the Venice and Cannes Festivals and won first prizes at both.

The central theme of *Pursuit* is the chaotic conditions in Italy just after the end of the war, and the bitter struggle facing returning prisoners of war as they try to re-establish themselves in civilian life. Round this theme, de Santis has woven an exciting tale of the theft of a vital government loan by a gang led by an ex-collaborator, a woman, and the subsequent rising of the whole peasant farming community against them.

The central figures in this drama are realistically interpreted by a cast, who, though well-known in Italy, are newcomers over here. Vivi Gioi as the woman bandit, Daniela, combines arresting physical beauty with a tempestuous performance which makes Daniela a wholly believable complex personality, who despite her viciousness still manages to win and retain sympathy. Andrea Checchi's portrayal of Alberto, the ex-prisoner from a concentration camp, who is drawn into the gang by her when he cannot find employment, creates a character of inherent decency, whose sense of values has been warped by frustration. Massimo Girotti as his ex-comrade, now a member of the farming community, is a virile figure, while Carla del Poggio as the bride, kidnapped by the gang a few hours after marriage, almost matches the cyclonic ardour of Vivi Gioi and effectively underlines their differences of character.

Pursuit has an elemental vigour and bite, due in no small measure to the fact that, fantastic though many of the incidents may appear to English eyes, gangster operations such as these are still common occurrences in Italy to-day.

De Santis keeps his camera continually on the move, creating a tension and suspense which press close to reality in a thoughtful and exciting entertainment.

Pursuit will commence at the Academy Cinema on Friday, October 14th, in a programme which includes William A. Wellman's "Nothing Sacred" with Carole Lombard and Frederic March.

"SCHWEIZERBUND" (SWISS CLUB).

At the General Meeting of the "Schweizerbund" (Swiss Club) which took place on Monday, September 5th, 1949, at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1, the following members were elected to the Committee: *President*: W. Schneeberger, *Vice-President*: H. Ellenberger, *Treasurers*: S. Jeker and E. Ritzmann. *Committee Members*: Messrs C. Rossier, C. Ferrari, A. Bossert, G. Gluck, E. Tobler, H. Heimberger, A. Isenschmid, Mrs. Schneeberger and Mrs. Ellenberger.



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