

Bugie Bianche

(translation unknown) [Footloose]

Italy : 1980 [1979] : dir. Stefano Rolla:

: 95 min

prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

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Ronnie Valente; Max von Sydow; Virna Lisi

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Speelfilm Encyclopedie review:

"Marcello and Luisa, a happily married couple, have the surprise of their lives when one day a young man calls who claims to be Marcello's son, the result of a long-forgotten affair. After some confusion the boy proves to be a fraud. Nevertheless Marcello and Luisa do not show him the door... Romantic-comedy melodrama with a miscast Von Sydow in the father role. Although the idea's not new, it certainly has potential. But Rolla's colourless directing does not make use of it. ****1/2**"

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "Bloomsbury Foreign Film Guide", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Radio Times Guide to Films", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

Whether or not you find this film appealing hinges to a great extent on how you'd feel about Ronnie Valente calling at your door and blithely adopting you as his father. Aged 16 or 17, he would certainly find a warm welcome at the homes of many a homosexual. But not only is he very good looking, it is his easy charm and beguiling personality which wins over the affluent childless Von Sydow and Lisi in the story, so that they rapidly develop an attachment to him., even though they don't *quite* buy his story. Later, when a posse of indignant couples the boy had previously adopted show up demanding to see him, Von Sydow and Lisi facilitate his escape. Von Sydow remonstrates with Valente for living his life as a serial impostor, but the youth reacts with some annoyance, explaining that he has brought them the gift of his company for a brief while, and must now simply move on and find another couple to adopt. He suggests, in parting, that if they enjoyed having an instant son about the place, they might want to take a leaf from his book. As the end credits roll, the couple set off happily to tour a Venetian piazza in search of a suitable candidate.

"BUGIE BIANCHE" was recently remade after a fashion – doubtless uncredited – in Hollywood as "SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION", with an affable young black in Valente's part, claiming to be the son of Sidney Poitier. However, the reason this film has been included in the archive, while the other probably would not be, is that Valente makes a boyish late teenager, and settles into his filial role with the deftness of a high class courtesan. The film's homoerotic undercurrents are clear – he is a "rent boy" who keeps his trousers on.

See subject index under [ORPHANS / ADOPTION](#). One other title in which successive couples were adopted by a family of orphaned children, was "ALL THE KIND STRANGERS".