

Incompreso

("Misunderstood")

Italy : 1967 : dir. Luigi Comencini : Rizzoli / Cineriz

: 105 min

prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

Stefano Colagrande; Simone Giannozzi

Anthony Quayle; Graziella Granata; Giorgia Moll; John Sharp; Adriane Facchetti

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	KBytes	Ω □ ≠ Z ∞	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Speelfilm Encyclopedie review:

"Widower takes his elder son's insularity for insensitivity and favours the younger son. All attempts to win the father's respect and affection have the opposite effect until it's nearly too late. Comencini's attentive and spontaneous direction of the children, and his critique of child-rearing systems, guard the film against false sentiment. Jeered off at its première, it was rediscovered ten years later and much praised. *** "

Video Movie Guide 1993 review:

"This is an Italian production of the US film release that starred Gene Hackman¹. The slow, depressing story did not need to be done twice. In this version, Anthony Quayle is a British consul in Italy. He is trying to raise his two sons following the death of his wife. The focus is on the father's relationship with the older son, which lacks understanding and compassion. The director, Luigi Comencini, takes far too long to reach the too late conclusion. Rated "PG" for adult themes² [what, d'you mean death?] ** "

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Colagrande:

"Luigi Comencini's screen version of "Misunderstood", the admirable Victorian novel by Florence Montgomery, is much superior to Jerry Schatzberg's 1983 remake, which is only made bearable by the peerless honesty of Henry Thomas. The more conventionally good-looking Colagrande (son of a business-man, and discovered by Comencini in Florence) is not quite in Thomas's league, but gives an immensely touching and dignified performance as the wronged boy who can't do right in his father's eyes. Simone Giannozzi plays the charming but irresponsible younger brother."

[no listing in "Classic Foreign Films", "Great Italian Films", "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 1996", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "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" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

¹ Putting the cart before the horse, aren't we?

² By what perverse logic does a child's death become an "adult" theme?

No further information currently available. Holmstrom lists no other films for Colagrande, who was 11, nor for Giannozzi (Simone is not a girl's name in Italy then?). **"MISUNDERSTOOD"** in 1984, with Gene Hackman in Anthony Quayle's role, Henry Thomas as the elder brother and Huckleberry Fox the younger, was a total washout, a thin and unconvincing family melodrama with the usually fine Hackman looking distinctly out of place, and Henry Thomas, keen to cut his acting teeth on a less sugary part than Elliot, given little to do but look soulful in sun-bleached surroundings. It was shot in Tunisia in 1982 and shelved for a year, but did not acquire any merit on the shelf.

See subject index under **DIRECTORS** for other interesting work by Comencini, and under **DEATH / DYING CHILDREN**. In the early 70s Italian audiences had quite a penchant for pretty young boys dying of the vapours, in maudlin productions such as **"L'ULTIMA NEVE DI PRIMAVERA"** ("The Last Snows of Spring") and **"VENDITORE DI PALLONCINI"** ("The Balloon Seller").