

European 60s

# Blow-Up 1966

Friday, May 23 - Thursday, May 29, 2008



## Film Information

### Directed by

Michelangelo Antonioni

### Language

English

### Running Time

90 minutes

## Film Notes

When Michelangelo Antonioni passed away in July of last year—amazingly, on the very same day as his contemporary Ingmar Bergman—*The New York Times* published a 2,800-word obituary in tribute. “In a generation of rule breakers, Mr. Antonioni was one of the most subversive and venerated,” the story read. “He challenged moviegoers with an intense focus on intentionally vague characters and a disdain for conventions like plot, pacing and clarity. He raised questions and never answered them, had his characters act in self-destructive ways and failed to explain why, and sometimes kept the camera rolling after a take in the hope of catching the actors in an unscripted but revealing moment.”

In the 1960s, Antonioni was one of the most famous and controversial filmmakers in the world, and pretty much for the same reasons. When his breakthrough *L'AVVENTURA* first screened at Cannes in 1960, it was practically run out of the festival by a furious audience—only to be trumpeted by a group of filmmakers, led by

Roberto Rosellini, who went so far as to issue a written screed in its defense. “The undersigned critics and members of the profession are anxious to express their admiration for the maker of this film,” they wrote.

Of all Antonioni’s films, *BLOW-UP*, released in 1966, perhaps best encapsulates this fascinating dichotomy that surrounded his work. It was at once the most successful of his films, and tremendously controversial (for what was, at the time, considered strong sexual content). It is also both completely of its time and endlessly cool—dated, but magnificently—subversive and venerated.

—Casey



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### More Information

#### Screenplay by

Michelangelo Antonioni

#### Featuring

Vanessa Redgrave

Sarah Miles

David Hemmings

John Castle

Jane Birkin

#### Cinematography by

Carlo Di Palma

#### Original Music by

Herbie Hancock

#### Film Editing by

Frank Clarke

#### Country of Origin

USA/Italy/UK

“My scripts are not formal screenplays, but rather dialogue for the actors and a series of notes to the director. When shooting begins, there is invariably a great amount of changing. When I go on the set of a scene, I insist on remaining alone for at least 20 minutes. I have no preconceived ideas of how the scene should be done, but wait instead for the ideas to come that will tell me how to begin.”

—Michelangelo Antonioni

### Also Recommended by Michelangelo Antonioni

L'Avventura 1960

La Notte 1961

L'Eclisse 1962

The Passenger 1975