

European 60s

# La Dolce Vita 1960

Friday, May 16 - Thursday, May 22, 2008



## Film Information

### Directed by

Federico Fellini

### Language

Italian with English subtitles

### Running Time

174 minutes

## Film Notes

Italian director Federico Fellini had made seven films prior to 1960, but in many ways *LA DOLCE VITA*, released that year, was a first. The picture marked a clear shift in style for Fellini, a departure away from the realism that defined his 1950s output and toward the sort of experimental storytelling and visual splendor that would in part contribute to that most enigmatic but pleasurable of cinematic phrases: “a Fellini film.”

It’s a term that, while evoking certain characteristics, pressed even the director himself for a precise definition. “Every time I start a picture, I begin my first picture,” he once said. “Each time, before I begin, I feel the same fear, the same self-doubts. Will I ever be able to do it again? More is expected each time... The audience has a preconception of a Fellini film... [T]he strange part of it is I would not know how to make a *LA DOLCE VITA*-type picture if I wanted to. It’s terrifying to realize that I don’t have the secret for *LA DOLCE VITA* any more than anyone else.”

Or maybe it’s liberating. Even with classics preceding it (including Oscar-winners *LA STRADA*

and *LE NOTTE DI CABIRIA*), *LA DOLCE VITA* represented a creative leaping point for its director. Fellini made relatively little money on the film, despite its commercial success, but he earned something more valuable: the cache to continue making challenging and artistic films, including, just three years later, his masterwork *8 ½*.

Which is not to say *LA DOLCE VITA* was roundly embraced. The film’s length raised eyebrows in Italy, though not quite as much as its sexuality and nods to religion. Walking down the street one day, Fellini spotted his name posted outside a church, a piece of reverse marketing suggesting that his latest film had very much struck a chord: “Let us pray for the salvation and soul of Federico Fellini, public sinner.”

—Casey



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“You are the first woman on the first day of creation. You are mother, sister, lover, friend, angel, devil, earth, home.”

### More Information

#### Screenplay by

Federico Fellini  
Ennio Flaiano  
Tullio Pinelli

#### Featuring

Marcello Mastroianni  
Anita Ekberg  
Anouk Aimée  
Yvonne Furneaux  
Magali Noël  
Walter Santesso

#### Cinematography by

Otello Martelli

#### Original Music by

Nino Rota

#### Film Editing by

Leo Catozzo

#### Country of Origin

Italy

“LA DOLCE VITA was the first picture on which I worked with Marcello Mastroianni. I knew him, of course, because he was already well established in Italy as a stage and film actor... We would see each other sometimes in restaurants. He was always eating a lot. I noticed that because I have a natural affinity with people who eat like that. You can always recognize a person who likes to eat not because of the quantity he consumes, but because of a sort of gusto, a person experiencing true pleasure. So I first noticed Marcello because I felt this restaurant rapport with him.”

—**Federico Fellini**

### Also Recommended, by Federico Fellini

I Vitelloni 1953  
La Strada 1954  
Le Notti di Cabiria 1957  
8 ½ 1963  
Juliet of the Spirits 1965  
Amarcord 1974