Italian Neorealism

What is Italian Neorealism?

A movement of film **realistically** reflecting the difficult economic and moral conditions in post-WWII Italy

Origins of Neorealism

World War II

Mussolini and Fascists rejected to make realism films.

Did not want to show the negative side of Italian Society. (unemployment,inequality.etc)

Origins of Neorealism

- WW II destroyed Italy as economically and politically.
- Fascism fall off.
- The war destroyed studios and created economic crisis.
- The directors search a new method to give life to Italian Film.
- The inventions of technology help them to take camera and focus them to street.
- It destroy all other isms in cinema and created a neorealist method.

Definition

- Italian neorealism also known as the Golden Age of Italian Cinema, is a national film movement characterized by stories set amongst the poor and the working class, filmed on location, frequently using non-professional actors. Italian neorealism films mostly contend with the difficult economic and moral conditions of post-World War II Italy, representing changes in the Italian psyche and conditions of everyday life, including poverty, oppression, injustice and desperation.

Characteristics

- filmed on location
- use unprofessional actors (most famously in The Bicycle Thief)
- Working Class Protagonist
- explore the conditions of the poor and the lower working class
- employ long takes
- use wide shots -- which were thought to capture more "reality."
- use natural light

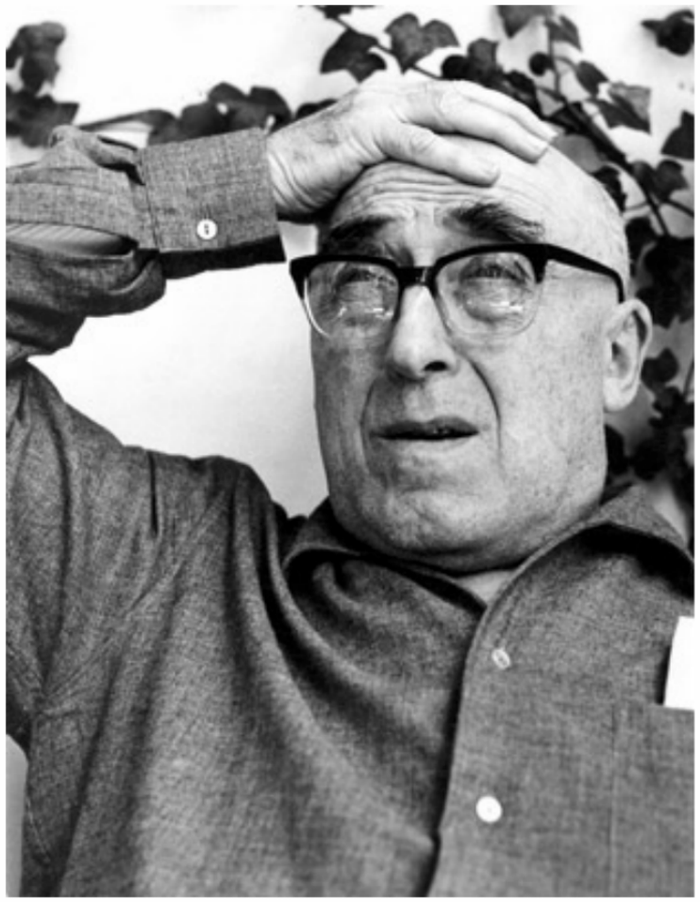
The Bicycle Thief

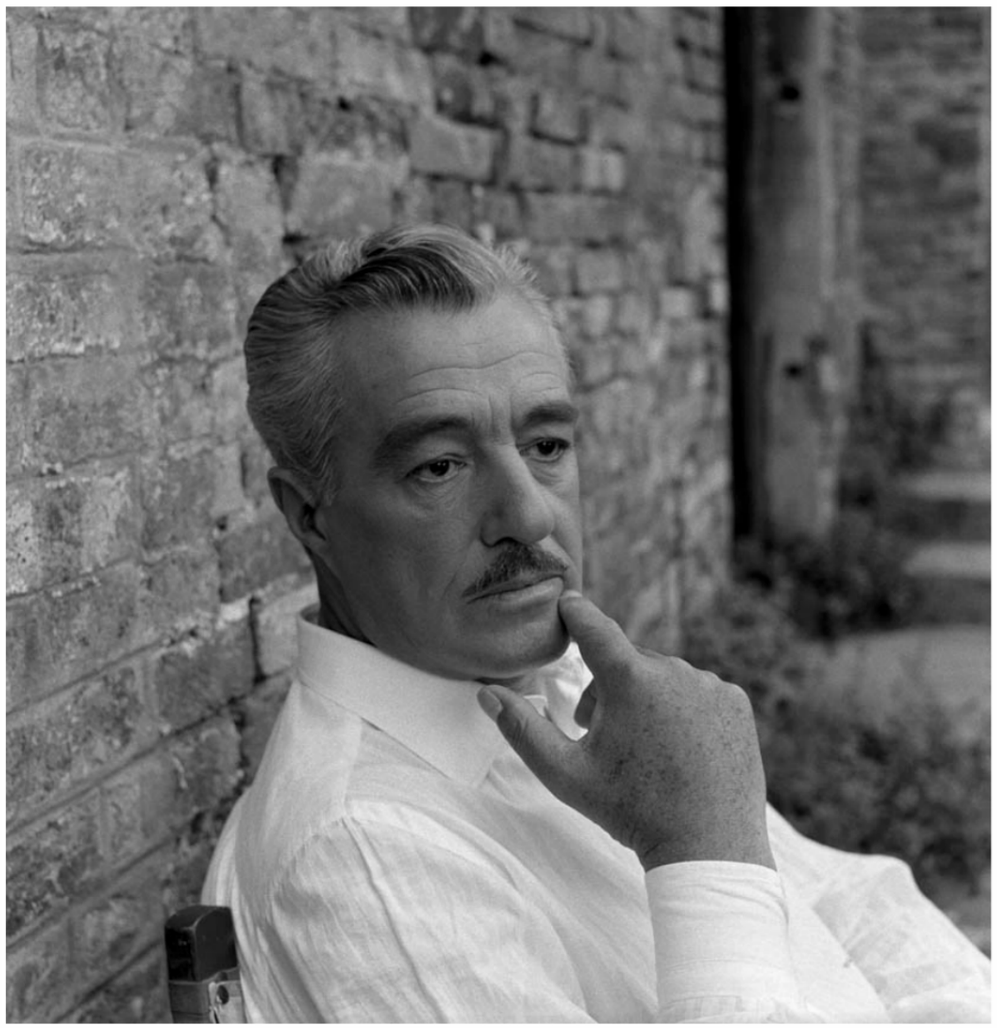
The Bicycle Thief

- originally based on Luigi Bartolini's novel, *Ladri di Biciclette* (1946)

- later adapted for film and was directed by Vittorio de Sica

Story adapted by Cesare Zavattini





Vittorio de Sica

Neorealism

- "Neo" stemming from the Greek word "Néos" meaning new or revived
- film/literature movement
- often referred to as the "Golden Age" of Italian cinema
- started at the end of WWII
- means to call attention to the political turmoil and poor economy plaguing Italy
- left wing

Prezi

Characteristics of NEOREALISM

- typically low budget films
- realistic/typical setting
  - outdoor shooting
- aimed to capture real people with real problems in real places
  - non-professional actors

Prezi

Plot

- In post WWII Italy, a father has his bike stolen and he must find it to keep his job.

Prezi

The Bicycle Thief and Food

Prezi

Notes about the food & restuarant:

- father tries to make son happy by creating an illusion of wealth
- no pizza, orders mozzarella sandwiches and wine
- juxtaposition of Enzo and the wealthy boy
  - wealthy boy is eating pasta followed by dessert
- says we must find the bike

Prezi

"The Bicycle Thieves" Example 1

- **A major feature of Neorealism is the use of nonprofessionals, even in leading roles. For the adult 'star' of Bicycle Thieves, De Sica chose a factory worker, Lamberto Maggiorani instead of Hollywood star Cary Grant. (Mooney)**
- **This distinction between Hollywood 'stars' and the 'real people' used in neorealist films is shown to great effect when Ricci is told to avoid putting creases in a poster of Rita Hayworth – real people, unlike Hollywood stars, have wrinkles. (Mooney)**

Prezi

"The Bicycle Thieves" Example 2

- Antonio walks into a church during a service with his son Bruno.
- He begins speaking with an older man whom is involved in the theft of his bike.
- The older man denies that he is involved and refuses to give Ricci any information although he is obviously in need of help.
- Technically, if one is attending church, they are trying to become better people, improving in honesty and helping others. This is quite contrary to this old man's nature as he does nothing to help Antonio. (Kaufmann)
- This double standard emphasizes the negative light portrayed on religion by De Sica. By demonstrating that even those who attend church are fake and dishonest, it reflects badly on the institution itself because those are the members that make up the church. (Kaufmann)

Prezi

"The Bicycle Thieves" Example 3

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- Neorealist films differ from their Hollywood counterparts in terms of their lack of a happy ending or a resolution of any kind - a form of what might be called epistemic ambiguity - evident in the final scene from Bicycle Thieves. (Mooney)
- If Realist films offer us a window on a small portion of the world then we cannot ever hope for the omniscience that Hollywood offers us over their creation. In Neorealist film, as in life, sometimes there are no answers. (Mooney)

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Prezi

Source

- https://prezi.com/vknomxmrrwj_/italian-neorealism-and-the-bicycle-thief/

- https://prezi.com/dgtrr-cu6w3b/the-bicycle-thief/

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italian_neorealism