# Retrospective

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## Federico Fellini

Retrospective

One of Italy's great modern directors, Federico Fellini was a larger-than-life maestro who created an inimitable cinematic style combining surreal carnival with incisive social critique.

After all, not only was the maestro's vision so singular and fascinating that it introduced its own adjective into the cinematic vernacular - 'Felliniesque'. His films also showed generations of film-makers the way forward – how to experiment and take risks, how to create an imagery which is dreamy, bizarre, and quite strange; while putting out a very personal storytelling element through it.

Born in 1920, in the town of Rimini, Italy, Fellini began his film-making career as a screenwriter on Roberto Rossellini's Neo-realist 1945 classic *Rome, Open City*. After working with Rossellini on few films, he ventured on to making his own films as a director. Fellini broke away from neorealism's political structures with the beloved *La Strada*, and from there boldly explored his obsessions with the circus, societal decadence, spiritual redemption, and, most controversially, women. His early, Rossellini-inspired films such as *I Vitelloni* (1953) were cast aside for the more sentimental and gaudy style of *La Strada* (1954) and 1957's *The Nights of Cabiria*, which thrummed with an aching sense of humanity among underclass circus performers and streetwalkers.

With *La Dolce Vita* (1960), Fellini's style shifted, and we move from artful naivety to a bright and fragmented world, one, as Fellini himself put it, marked by "the silence of God". It is a spiritual and social critique of then contemporary 'high society' and its morals. Its existential crisis became one of the important themes in Fellini's latter films like *8 and 1/2* (1963). *La Dolce Vita* won him prestigious Palme d'or at Cannes, and an Oscar for Best Foreign Language film with multiple other awards. Similarly, *8 and 1/2* won him an Oscar and multiple accolades across the globe. These two films in particular catapulted him on the world stage as one of the most important filmmaker.

To date, Fellini remains an inimitable figure in the history of cinema. His films, his style has inspired generations while creating a magical world through themselves. His work and Fellini himself, remain an indivisible part of cinema.





8 1/2 - 8 1/2 1963 | 138' | Italian | French | German | English | Italy | France | Black & White



Exhausted from the success of his latest blockbuster film, already feeling pressured to come up with another smash hit, and suffering from a massive creative block, filmmaker Guido Anselmi heads off for a mountain resort to recharge and come up with a new idea. His search for inspiration leads him down many strange, twisted paths and these journeys provide the basis of the rollicking, at times riotous, long and mesmerizing 8 1/2. The film is a shimmering dream, a circus, and a magic act.

#### Retrospective

Director: Federico Fellini

Producer: Angelo Rizzoli

**Cast:** Marcello Mastroianni, Anouk Aimée, Rossella Falk, Sandra Milo, Bruno Agostini

**Screenplay:** Federico Fellini, Ennio Flaiano, Tullio Pinelli, Brunello Rondi

Cinematographer: Gianni Di Venanzo

Editor: Leo Catozzo

**Sound Designer:** Alberto Bartolomei, Mario Faraoni

Music Composer: Nino Rota

Costume Designer: Piero Gherardi Production Designer: Piero Gherardi Production Company: Cineriz, Francinex World Sales: Umbrella Entertainment Festivals: Cannes FF 1963, San Sebastian IFF 1963. Moscow IFF 1963

#### Director's Biography



One of Italy's great modern directors, Federico Fellini was a larger-than-life maestro who created an inimitable cinematic style combining surreal carnival with incisive social critique. Fellini started as a screenwriter and collaborated with Roberto Rossellini on *Roma, Open City*. Fellini broke away from neorealism's political strictures with the beloved La strada, and from there boldly explored his obsessions with the circus, societal decadence, spiritual redemption, and, most controversially, women. His work and Fellini himself remain to be an influential and indivisible part of cinema.

#### Selected Filmography

1973 Amarcord 1960 La Dolce Vita

1957 Nights of Cabiria

1954 La Strada



national fitm archive of India

La Dolce Vita - La Dolce Vita 1960 | 174' | Italian | English | French | German | Italy | France | Black & White



A look at the darkness beneath the seductive lifestyles of Rome's rich and glamorous, the film follows a notorious celebrity journalist during a hectic week spent on the peripheries of the spotlight. This mordant picture was an incisive commentary on the deepening decadence of contemporary Europe, and it provided a prescient glimpse of just how gossip- and fame-obsessed our society would become. Soared over seven parts, indicating seven days of week, each part tells new story in an underbelly of fame, deception, and a society that is engulfed, or perhaps captured in perceived reality of make belief world.

#### Retrospective

Director: Federico Fellini

**Producer:** Angelo Rizzoli, Giuseppe Amato

**Cast:** Marcello Mastroianni, Anita Ekberg, Anouk Aimée, Yvonne Furneaux, Magali Noël, Alain Cuny

**Screenplay:** Tullio Pinelli, Ennio Flaiano, Federico Fellini, Brunello Rondi

Cinematographer: Otello Martelli

Editor: Leo Cattozzo

**Sound Designer:** Oscar Di Santo, Agostino Moretti

Music Composer: Nino Rota Costume Designer: Piero Gherardi Production Designer: Piero Gherardi Production Company: Riama Film World Sales: Neo Films Festivals: Cannes FF 1960

#### Director's Biography



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#### Selected Filmography

1973 Amarcord 1960 La Dolce Vita 1957 Nights of Cabiria 1954 La Strada

### Hrishikesh Mukherjee

Retrospective

Hrishi Da... A person as simple as his films. An everyman who understood the common man and his little joys. Hrishikesh Mukherjee, an iconic director, writer, and editor was fondly known to everyone as Hrishi Da.

Born on 30 September 1922, in Kolkata, he had a normal life and education like any Indian; graduating with a BSc. in Chemistry wanting to become a Biochemist, and eventually teaching. However, he soon caught the art bug and worked at an editing lab before taking on the role of a cameraman and editor in New Theatre, a Kolkata based film studio, where he mastered the art of film editing.

After initial work in Kolkata, he got an opportunity to work with acclaimed filmmaker Bimal Roy in Mumbai as his film editor in landmark films like *Do Bigha Zamin* and *Devadas*. Under the mentorship of Roy, he learnt all aspects of filmmaker and even contributed in writing of *Do Bigha Zameen*.

It took some time for him to take the reins of a film in his hand and be a director. It was another legendary filmmaker, Ritwik Ghatak's story which he explored for his debut feature. *Musafir* (1957) was a film with some "stars" and yet, it portrayed ground reality without any flamboyance. Most of his films Mukherjee made in his career depicted the human condition. There was nothing extravagant, pretentious or experimental in form, themes or treatment he adopted. However, it was the simple charm of his characters, their easy dialogues which conveyed beyond what met the eye, resonated deeply with both critics and audiences alike.

Heart warming is perhaps the crudest way to describe his films. They always have a fantastic sense of humour about them as well like *Gol maal* and, *Chupke Chupke*, and it was not of the kitschy slapstick variety. Hrishi Da would go onto be honoured by the Dadasaheb Phalke Award by the Government of India, in 1999 and the Padma Vibhushan for his contributions to Indian cinema.

His approach was simple, as he explains in an interview, "Standing on your balcony, one can look down and see the dirty drains or can look up and see the beautiful sky and stars."





Anand - Anand 1971 | 122' | Hindi | India | Colour



This multi-handkerchief film about a dying cancer patient whose infectious joie de vivre transforms the lives of those around. Anand, a terminally ill cancer patient knows that he has very little time, but his positivity is more than his life. He decided to live whatever he has left, to its fullest. His attitude sometimes shocks people, makes them sad, angry, happy and everything that a human can experience. Through his playful way of life, Anand tells us the difference between living and, being alive.

#### Retrospective

**Director:** Hrishikesh Mukherjee **Producer:** Hrishikesh Mukherjee, N. C. Sippy, Romu N. Sippy

**Cast:** Rajesh Khanna, Amitabh Bachchan, Ramesh Deo, Seema Deo, Sumita Sanyal, Lalita Pawar, Johnny Walker

**Screenplay:** Hrishikesh Mukherjee, Gulzar, D. N. Mukherjee, Bimal Dutta

Cinematographer: Jaywant Pathare

Editor: Hrishikesh Mukherjee

Sound Designer: George D'Cruz

Music Composer: Salil Chowdhury

**Costume Designer:** M. R. Bhutkar, Mohan Pardesi

Production Designer: Ajit Banerjee Production Company: Rupam Chitra World Sales: Shemaroo Video Pvt. Ltd. World Sales Phone: +91-2240319911 World Sales Email:

shemaroo@shemaroo.com

**Festivals:** National Film Awards 1971, Venice FF 1971

#### Director's Biography



Hrishikesh Mukherjee is one of the most popular and beloved filmmakers in Indian cinema. His magic was in its simplicity and warmth. In a glorious career spanning over four decades, he made some 50 films. Working with established big stars to creating a generation of stars through his films, Hrishida, as he was fondly known, always made films that made audiences feel a deep personal connect. The success of his films lies in the fact that he is not only remembered fondly, but he is considered by everyone as, one of us.

#### Selected Filmography

1979 Gol Maal

1973 Abhimaan

1971 Anand

1960 Anuradha

1957 Musafir



PIFF

Anari - The Simpleton 1959 | 166' | Hindi | India | Black & White



Raj Kumar is a painter by trade, but unable to earn a living, and unable to pay rent to his kind-hearted but foul-mouthed landlady, Mrs. D'sa. One day Raj finds a wallet containing money, and he returns it to the owner, Ramnath. Pleased with his honesty, Ramnath employs Raj in his office. Raj meets with Ramnath's maidservant, Asha, and soon both fall in love. This all ends when Raj finds out that Asha is really Aarti, the daughter of his employer. He then alienates himself from his employer and his daughter, and looks after his ailing landlady. Unfortunately, she passes away suddenly. The police conduct a post-mortem, and as a result find out that Mrs. D'sa was poisoned. Raj is taken in for questioning, and is subsequently arrested and imprisoned. Later on Raj planned a narrow escape which was successful and goes out to find evidence to prove his innocence.

#### Retrospective

Director: Hrishikesh Mukherjee Producer: L. B. Lachman Cast: Raj Kapoor, Nutan, Lalita Pawar, Shubha Khote, Motilal Screenplay: Inder Raj Anand **Cinematographer:** Jaywant Pathare Editor: Hrishikesh Mukherjee Sound Designer: Allauddin Khan Qureshi Music Composer: Shankar - Jaikishan Costume Designer: Dada Khadilker Production Designer: M. R. Achrekar Production Company: L. B. Films World Sales: Shemaroo Video Pvt. Ltd. World Sales Phone: +91-2240319911 World Sales Email: shemaroo@shemaroo.com

#### Director's Biography



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#### Selected Filmography

1979 Gol Maal

- 1973 Abhimaan
- 1971 Anand
- 1960 Anuradha
- 1957 Musafir





Anuradha - Love of Anuradha 1960 | 141'| Hindi | India | Black & white



Anuradha, a noted radio singer, falls in love with an idealistic doctor, Dr. Nirmal Chowdhary. She decides to marry him against her father's will. She rejects the wedding proposal set by her father with the London-returned. After the marriage and a daughter, Anuradha realises the gravity of the choice of living in a village. Taking care of the family, doing all household chores, she quits singing, the singing that once was her life. Deepak, while travelling with his girlfriend meets with a car accident and is hence rushed to Dr. Nirmal. Nirmal does successful plastic surgery on his girlfriend. Deepak gets to stay with Anuradha for a few days and realises her hardships. He requests her to leave Nirmal and move to the city and pursue her passion for music. It is then that she has to decide between her love for her husband and music.

#### Retrospective

Director: Hrishikesh Mukherjee Producer: L. B, Lachman, L. B. Thakur Cast: Balraj Sahni, Abhi Bhattacharya, Leela Naidu, Nasir Hussain, Mukri, Rashid Khan Screenplay: Sachin Bhowmik, D. N. Mukherjee, Samir Chowdhary **Cinematographer:** Jaywant Pathare Editor: Das Dhaimade Sound Designer: George D'Cruz Music Composer: Pt. Ravi Shankar Costume Designer: Ibrahim Mamoo Production Designer: Ajit Banerjee Production Company: L. B. Lachman Films World Sales: Shemaroo Films Pvt. Ltd. World Sales Phone: +91-2240319911 World Sales Email: shemaroo@shemaroo.com Festivals: Berlin IFF 1961

#### Director's Biography



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- 1979 Gol Maal
- 1973 Abhimaan
- 1971 Anand
- 1960 Anuradha
- 1957 Musafir



PIFF

Asli-Naqli - Real or Fake 1962 | 145'| Hindi | India | Black & white



Renu, a poor girl is struggling to live her life normally. She has lost her younger brother, and father. She has to pretend in front of her mother that everything is all right, while working a job which barely puts the food on table. She meets a charming but poor, homeless man; Anand. Both begin to share an emotional bond. Renu wishes to get married to this man, but as fate would have it, Renu is...unlucky, again! Anand is not who he tells. In fact, he is the son of a rich man. Anand is known for his exorbitant expenses without earning a penny. That is the reason he has had to leave the house and be homeless. But now, his family believes he can be rehabilitated after a marriage with Rekha, an heir of another wealthy family in town. The fate has indeed played a cruel game with Renu.

#### Retrospective

Director: Hrishikesh Mukherjee Produce: L. B. Lachman, L. B. Thakur Cast: Dev Anand, Sadhana, Leela Chitnis, Keshto Mukherjee, Mukri Screenplay: Inder Raj Anand Cinematographer: Jaywant Pathare Editor: Das Dhaimade Music Composer: Shankar - Jaikishan Production Designer: Ajit Banerjee, Sudhendu Roy Production Company: L. B. Films World Sales: Shemaroo Video Pvt. Ltd. World Sales Phone: +91-2240319911 World Sales Email: shemaroo@shemaroo.com

#### Director's Biography



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- 1971 Anand
- 1960 Anuradha
- 1957 Musafir



PIFF

Musafir - Traveller 1957 | 149'| Hindi | India | Black & white



Set in an old suburban house, the film narrates three tenuously related stories about three sets of the house's occupants. The first has an orphaned young woman, Shakuntala, who desperately wants her husband Ajay to make up with his estranged parents so that she may belong to a family once more. The second story has a wayward young man, Bhanu, desperate to find a job to support his aged father and his widowed sister-in-law. The third and longest story focuses on the shadowy figure of a neighbourhood 'madman' who crops up in the previous stories as well. He was in love with Uma, who lived in the house but disappeared just before their wedding day. In the end, the madman's death and the miraculous recovery of Uma's paralysed son coincide. The stories invoke a cyclical sequence of marriage, birth, death and rebirth.

#### Retrospective

**Director:** Hrishikesh Mukherjee **Producer:** Hrishikesh Mukherjee

**Cast:** Dilip Kumar, Kishore Kumar, Niroopa Roy, Usha Kiran, Daisy Irani, Shekhar, Suchitra Sen, Durga Khote

**Screenplay:** Ritwik Ghatak, Hrishikesh Mukherjee

**Cinematographer:** Kamal Bose **Editor:** Das Dhaimade

Sound Designer: Essa M. Suratwala

Music Composer: Salil Chowdhury

Costume Designer: Ibrahim Mamoo

Production Designer: Sudhendu Roy

Production Company: Film Group

World Sales: Super Cassettes Industries Limited

World Sales Email: rpsharma@tseries.net Festivals: National Film Award 1957

#### Director's Biography



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