

Terminal Station (film)

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Terminal Station (Italian: *Stazione Termini*) is a 1953 film by Italian director Vittorio De Sica. It tells the story of the love affair between an Italian man and an American woman. The film was entered into the 1953 Cannes Film Festival.^[1]

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Production

The film is based on the story *Stazione Termini* by Cesare Zavattini. Truman Capote was credited with writing the entire screenplay, but later claimed to have written only two scenes.^[2] The film was an international co-production between De Sica's own company and the Hollywood producer David O. Selznick, who commissioned it as a vehicle for his wife, Jennifer Jones. The production of the film was troubled from the very beginning. Carson McCullers was originally chosen to write the screenplay, but Selznick fired her and replaced her with a series of writers, including Paul Gallico, Alberto Moravia and Capote.^[2] Disagreements ensued between De Sica and Selznick, and during production, Selznick would write 40- and 50-page letters to his director every day, although De Sica spoke no English. After agreeing to everything, De Sica has said, he simply did things his way.^[2]

Montgomery Clift sided with De Sica in his disputes with Selznick, claiming that Selznick wanted the movie to look like a slick little love story, while De Sica wanted to depict a

Terminal Station



Directed by	Vittorio De Sica
Produced by	Vittorio De Sica
Written by	Cesare Zavattini (story) Luigi Chiarini Giorgio Prosperi Truman Capote (dialogue)
Starring	Montgomery Clift Jennifer Jones Richard Beymer
Music by	Alessandro Cicognini
Cinematography	Aldo Graziati
Edited by	Eraldo Da Roma Jean Barker
Distributed by	Columbia Pictures De Sica Productions Selznick International Pictures
Release date	April 2, 1953 (Italy) May 10, 1954 (United States)
Running time	89 minutes

ruined romance. "Love relationship are ludicrous, painful, and gigantically disappointing. This couple loves each other but they become unconnected."^[3]

During the filming, Jones was distracted and saddened by the recent death of her former husband, actor Robert Walker, and badly missed her two sons, who were at school in Switzerland.^[4] She had been married to Selznick less than two years at that point, and they were having difficulties in the marriage.

The original release of the film ran 89 minutes, but it was later re-edited by Selznick down to 64 minutes and re-released as *Indiscretion of an American Wife* (and as *Indiscretion* in the UK). Clift declared that he hated the picture and denounced it as "a big fat failure."^[4] Critics of the day agreed, giving it universally bad reviews.^[2] The two versions have been released together on DVD by The Criterion Collection. A 1998 remake of the film was made for television under the title *Indiscretion of an American Wife*.

Country	Italy United States
Language	Italian English

Cast

- Jennifer Jones as Mary Forbes
- Montgomery Clift as Giovanni Doria
- Richard Beymer as Paul
- Gino Cervi as Police Commissioner

Accolades

- Nomination for the Grand Prix of 1953 International Film Festival in Cannes (Vittorio De Sica).
- Nomination for the 1955 Academy Award for Best Costume Design in black and white (Christian Dior).

References

1. "Festival de Cannes: Terminal Station". *festival-cannes.com*. Retrieved 2009-01-24.
2. Patricia Bosworth, *Montgomery Clift*, p. 244
3. P. Bosworth, *Montgomery Clift*, p. 245
4. P. Bosworth, *Montgomery Clift*, p. 246

External links

- *Terminal Station* (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0046366/>) at the Internet Movie Database
- *Terminal Station* (<http://www.allmovie.com/movie/v24775>) at AllMovie
- Criterion Collection essay by David Kehr (<http://www.criterion.com/current/posts/295>)

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