

Ladri di biciclette (1948)

Directed by:
Vittorio De Sica

Writing credits:
Luigi Bartolini (novel)
Cesare Zavattini

Cast:

Lamberto Maggiorani	Antonio Ricci
Enzo Staiola	Bruno
Lianella Carell	Maria
Gino Saltamerenda	Baiocco
Vittorio Antonucci	The Thief

Factoids:

1. Title actually translates to plural: **Bicycle Thieves**
2. Fides, the make of the bike, means faith in Latin
3. Given and honorary Oscar in 1949
4. (a large portrait of Rita Hayworth provides an ironic contrast between the world of Hollywood and the everyday lives of neorealism).
5. At the time it was released, it was seen as a Marxist fable (Zavattini was a member of the Italian communist party).
6. One of the 1999 Oscar nominees for best foreign film is "Children of Heaven," from Iran, about a boy who loses his sister's shoes.
7. Iranian Neo Realism- Kiorstami "The White Balloon", "Taste of Cherry"
8. Visconti's "Ossessione." The Visconti film, based on James M. Cain's hard-boiled novel *The Postman Always Rings Twice* is often named as the first of the neorealist films
9. "The Bicycle Thief" had such an impact on its first release that when the British film magazine *Sight & Sound* held its first international poll of film makers and critics in 1952, it was voted the greatest film of all time.

10. The actors in the film were all amateurs. Vittorio De Sica decided not to use professionals.
11. The one poster Ricci is putting up that we see in detail features Rita Hayworth in Gilda (1946).
12. DeSica claimed he selected the actors for the characters of both Bruno and Antonio because of their walks.
13. There's a scene later in the movie where Bruno is nearly run over twice while crossing the street. This was absolutely unrehearsed - it was filmed on location and the two cars happened to pass by at that time.
14. Lead actor Lamberto Maggiorani really did struggle for work after this film was completed.
15. **1950 Nominated** Oscar Best Writing, Screenplay
[Cesare Zavattini](#)
16. **1950 Won** Golden Globe Best Foreign Film
Italy.
17. Honorary Award
Italy. Voted by the Academy Board of Governors as the most outstanding foreign language film released in the United States during 1949.
18. **THE BICYCLE THIEF** is clearly paid homage to in Benigni's **LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL**