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Since 1945 there have been countless film festivals in Europe, but only three cities have succeeded in developing them into a regular annual event that fulfils the expectations with which people come to an international film festival. I am thinking of Cannes, Venice, and Locarno.

While the Festival in Cannes and the Biennale in Venice are sufficiently official in character to distribute a big first prize and numerous special prizes for outstanding films, the charm of Locarno's annual Film Festival lies precisely in its unofficial and friendly nature.

As a regular visitor of almost all of Locarno's past Film Festivals, I have often thought about the great attraction this event could present to tourists, offering them wonderful days of relaxation in sunny Ticino, coupled with a few evenings of suspense and excitement in the large outdoor cinema theatre of the Grand Hotel in Locarno.

The atmosphere in this open-air cinema has its own individual charm. Down in the parquet circle the local residents give vent to their Latin temperament by catcalls, whistles, and lusty cheers—depending on the action unfolding before them. Meanwhile the “official” guests—film experts, critics and producers from a long list of countries—have settled down comfortably in garden chairs. This special audience looks on with a distinctly «high-brow», sometimes cool and lofty air. The fact that they have to conduct themselves as dispassionate connoisseurs—plus the presence of guests who have worked on and in the films being previewed—means that a certain reserve is in order.

The environment itself offers the perfect antidote for the occasional dull film. Whenever the action on the screen loses its attraction, our gaze wanders beyond the edge of the picture—past the dark silhouettes of the surrounding trees, up to the sky above. We watch the stars or the moon a few seconds before returning dutifully to the more prosaic reality of the film.

The temptation to wander off from the business of the moment becomes all the more powerful when some dismal, long-winded film grinds on and on,

#### VII. INTERNATIONALER FILMFESTIVAL IN LOCARNO

Seit 1945 haben in Europa unzählige Filmfestivals stattgefunden, aber nur drei Städten ist es gelungen, ihren Anlaß zu einer ständigen, jedes Jahr wiederkehrenden Einrichtung auszubauen und jeweils die Erwartungen zu erfüllen, welche man in das Motto «Internationaler Filmfestival» setzt. Ich denke an Cannes, Venedig und Locarno.

Während der Festival in Cannes und die Filmbiennale in Venedig insofern einen offiziellen Charakter besitzen, als daß sie einen Großen Preis und zahlreiche Spezialpreise für hervorragende Filme verteilen dürfen, liegt der Reiz des Filmfestivals von Locarno gerade im Inoffiziellen, Intimen, jeder Massenveranstaltung Abholden.

Als Besucher fast aller vergangener Filmfestivals von Locarno hat es mich immer erstaunt, wie wenig Touristen die Gelegenheit wahrnehmen, herrliche Tage der Entspannung im sonnigen Tessin mit einigen Abenden der Spannung zu verbinden, wie sie einem anlässlich der Filmvorführungen im großen Freilichtkino des Grandhotels von Locarno geboten werden.

Wenn man von all den oft amüsanten Intermezzi – darunter den Ausflügen in die Umgebung oder den Pressekonferenzen mit Regisseuren und Stars – absieht, kann Locarno anlässlich des Filmfestivals drei große Trümpfe ausspielen: Einmal werden neue Filme gezeigt, viele künstlerisch hochstehende Streifen. Zum zweiten hat sich Locarno zu einer Art inoffizieller Mustermesse des Films entwickelt, an welcher Verleiher, Kinobesitzer und Journalisten den neuen «Filmjahrgang» degustieren.

Vor allem aber ist Locarno ein Fest, an dem die menschlichen Kontakte wertvoll bleiben. Franzosen, Engländer, Italiener, Deutsche, Österreicher und Schweizer lassen sich von der Tessiner Sonne küssen, erhitzen sich bei Fachdiskussionen, kühlen sich im Langensee ab und freuen sich über die Einheimischen, unter denen das filmgeübte Auge auch manchen «Star», manche Schönheit entdeckt, die wohl nie in einem Film auftreten werden, es sei denn im bunten Dokumentarfilm des Filmfestivals von Locarno, den seine Teilnehmer am Ende in ihrem Innern heimtragen dürfen. P. R.

spreading an atmosphere that comes far from harmonizing with the balmy, vacationy air of Locarno. At such moments the visiting critic feels a certain irresistible urge to get into other surroundings. Silently he arises and slips off among the trees, to come to light again under the friendly arcades of a Locarno restaurant. There he may meet colleagues who have “run away from school” before him. Time passes quickly in friendly discussion until the group, almost by mutual consent, decides it's time to go back to see the bitter end or—as the case may be—a happy end.

When I “tell tales out of school” this way, some of my readers may get wrong ideas about the quality of the films. So I hasten to add that such tales serve merely to characterize the pleasant atmosphere of freedom and fun prevailing at the Festival.

Put briefly, Locarno's Film Festival offers three major attractions. First come the films. Many show high artistic talent. Then, Locarno has developed into a kind of unofficial sample fair where distributors, cinema owners and the press can get a taste of the “new crop”.

The most important feature, however, is the fact that the event is a real festival in the true sense. After all is said and done, it's the personal contacts that are the most valuable. Here in Locarno, the nations of the world join hands. Many Italians attend. They particularly enjoy Ticino because it is like a “little Italy”—yet lies in a “foreign” country. German film people turn up during an excursion perhaps and discover some old colleagues. Such a meeting calls for a special celebration over Nostrano and salami in an Ascona grotto where the amount of spice in the food is compared to that in the films just previewed. French, British, Austrians and Swiss enjoy the caressing sunshine of the Locarno climate, get all heated up in technical discussions, cool off again in the welcoming waters of Lake Maggiore and take turns eyeing the natives and “discovering” could-be stars who may never appear in any film—except the colourful “documentary of the Locarno Film Festival” which each guest takes home in his mind and his heart.

#### VII° FESTIVAL INTERNAZIONALE DEL FILM A LOCARNO

Quanti festival del cinema in Europa dopo il 1945! Eppure soltanto tre città sono riuscite a farne una manifestazione annuale ed a giustificare pienamente il nome impegnativo di «Festival internazionale del film»: voglio dire Cannes, Venezia e Locarno.

Mentre il Festival di Cannes e la Biennale del film di Venezia hanno piuttosto carattere ufficiale per il fatto che assegnano un Gran Premio e numerosi altri premi speciali ai film più significativi, il fascino del Festival di Locarno sta appunto nella mancanza di una etichetta ufficiale, in una certa sua singolare intimità che rifugge da ogni forma spettacolare di massa.

Quale ospite di quasi tutti i passati Festival di Locarno, mi sono sempre meravigliato che così pochi turisti approfittino dell'occasione di combinare le piacevoli giornate di distensione trascorse sotto il sole del Ticino con qualche serata di deliziosa . . . occupazione come ne vengono offerte dagli spettacoli del cinema all'aperto nel giardino del Grand Hotel.

Prescindendo dagli intermezzi, talvolta spassosi, come le gite nei dintorni o le conferenze stampa con dive e registi, Locarno offre durante il Festival del film tre grandi attrattive speciali, e cioè: anzitutto vengono visionati dei nuovi film, molti film di alto valore artistico; in secondo luogo, la manifestazione locarnese è diventata una specie di fiera campionaria inofficiale del film, dove noleggiatori, proprietari di sale cinematografiche e giornalisti assaggiano la nuova «annata filmistica».

Ma v'è di più: Locarno è una vera festa. Quello che più conta sono sempre ancora i contatti umani. E qui, Francesi, Inglesi, Italiani, Tedeschi, Austriaci e Svizzeri si lasciano baciare dal sole locarnese, si accendono in discussioni tecniche, per rinfrescarsi poi nei flutti del lago Maggiore, e godono ad osservare la gente del paese, fra la quale gli occhi esperti dei cineasti ravvisano spesso una bellezza che non vedranno mai sullo schermo, ma che si porteranno con sé nel variopinto documentario del Festival di Locarno che ogni partecipante fissa infallantemente nel proprio cuore.



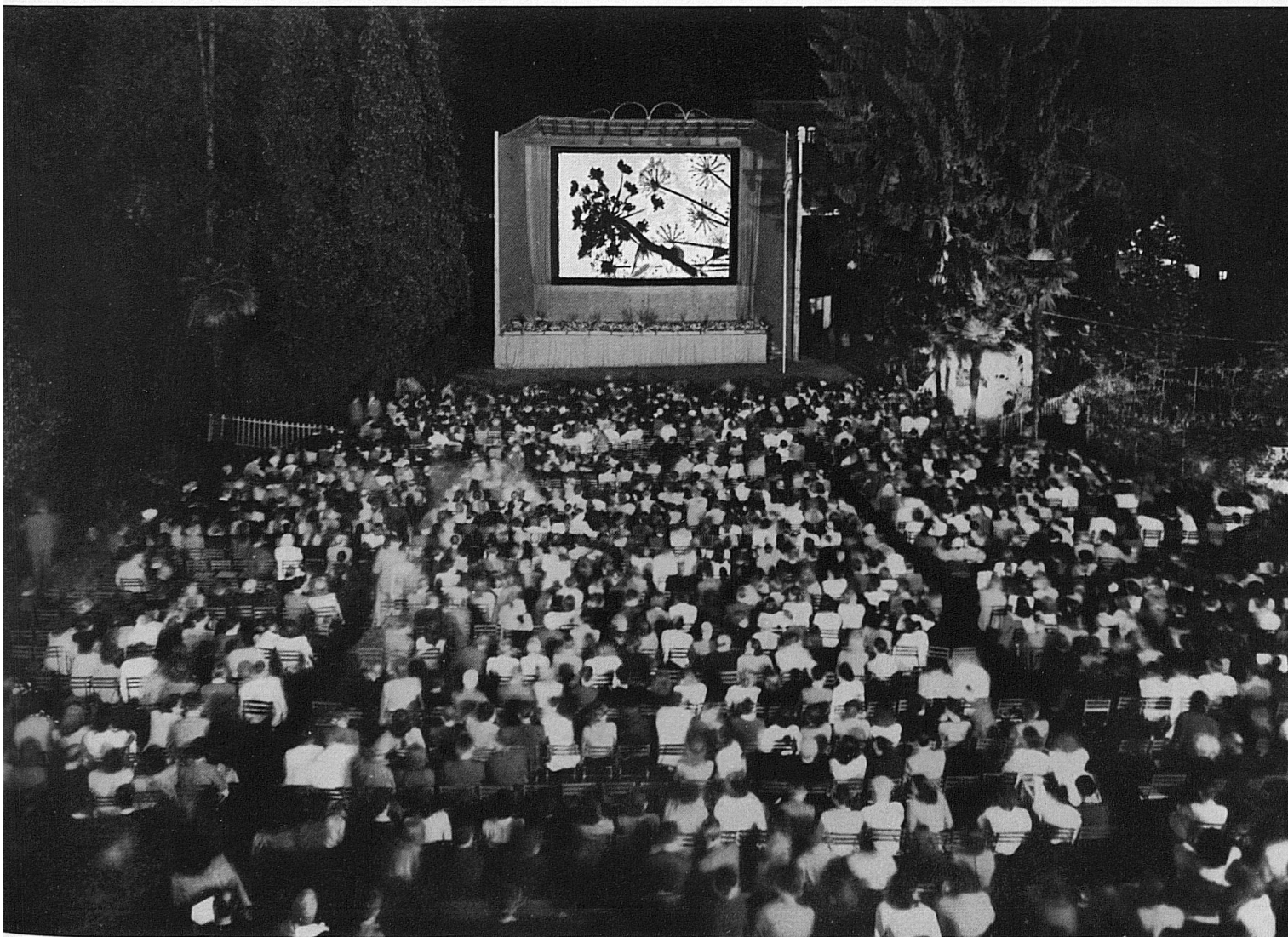
Aldo Fabrizi, le grand comique italien du film, et Carla De Poggio, actrice et épouse du réalisateur Alberto Lattuada, hôtes du Festival de Locarno.

Aldo Fabrizi e Carla Del Poggio, due glorie del cinema italiano, ospiti del Festival di Locarno. Carla Del Poggio è moglie del regista Alberto Lattuada.

*Erstaufführungen neuester Filme  
aus Europa und Amerika  
Internationaler Festival des touristischen Films  
Retrospektive des Schweizer Films  
Retrospektive alter komischer Stummfilme  
Rendez-vous der Stars, der Filmschaffenden  
und der Filmkritiker  
Gesellige Anlässe und gemeinsame Ausflüge*

Aldo Fabrizi, der große italienische Filmkomiker und Carla Del Poggio, Filmschauspielerin und Gattin des Regisseurs Alberto Lattuada als Gäste des Locarneser Festivals.

Aldo Fabrizi, the great Italian film comedian and Carla Del Poggio, cinemactress and wife of film director Alberto Lattuada—seen at the Locarno Film Festival.



Im großen Freilichtkino von Locarno. — Das Tessin ist eine Welt lieblicher und romantisch gebirgiger Szenerien, in welcher der Gast des Festivals mannigfaltige Erholung findet. Photo Steinemann, Locarno

Dans le grand cinéma en plein air de Locarno. — Le Tessin est le pays des décors enchanteurs et des montagnes romantiques. L'hôte du festival y trouvera tout ce qui peut contribuer à une bienfaisante détente.

Il grande cinema all'aperto a Locarno. — Il Ticino, con la dovizia dei suoi aspetti, ora idillici, ora romantici o alpestri, offre agli ospiti del festival rare occasioni di svago e ristoro.

In the great outdoor cinema in Locarno. — Switzerland's "Riviera-canton" Ticino is a world of lovely and romantic mountain scenery in which guests of the Festival find an abundance of ways to relax.