



Lecture and Video Presentation



Spaghetti Cold War

Italian Spy Movies and the Making of a Collective Imagination

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Unlike American and British movies, for a long period after the Second World War, Italian movies did not deal directly with the issue of the Cold War, in part because the propaganda struggle between the superpowers did not involve Italy openly, and in part because of the presence of a strong Italian Communist party, particularly influential in cultural matters. Only a few movies openly addressed the issue of the Cold War. More often, in order to emphasize the secondary role that Italy played in the conflict of ideas, Italian movies dealt with the topic of the Cold War in a comic or parodying key. In comedy films, the main genre of the time, references to the theme of the Cold War were recurrent, even if fleeting. However, after the appearance of James Bond movies in the Sixties, the Italian film industry threw itself enthusiastically in the Cold War culture with the exploitation of the spy-genre. The Italian spy-movies belong to Eurospy, the American nickname for the genre of European international co-production films that in the second half of the Sixties imitated and parodied the British James Bond series of films. The Eurospy category includes over 370 films, of which 170 are Italian, which is to say, the Italian co-production is predominant.

The first part of my presentation provides a brief description of the Italian spy movies genre. Then I'll devote the second part to a reflection on the correlation of Italian spy movies with the culture of the Cold War, that is, on how these films were affected by the Cold War and how, in turn, this genre had some effect on the collective imagination of the Italian public opinion about the Cold War.

Wednesday, October 21

1:00 – 1:50 p.m.

Au Sable 2302

Sponsored by the Department of Political Science. For more information, call Dr. John Constantelos at 331-2320.