

PART I: BEFORE VIEWING

Posti in piedi in paradiso/A Flat for Three (look up missing info on IMDb)

Director: _____

Year: _____

Cast

Character

Actor/ Actress

Fulvio Brignola

Domenico Segato

Ulisse Diamanti

Gloria

Claire

Lorenza

Agnese

- 1) *Posti in piedi in paradiso* is film comedy that documents the mishaps of a trio of disenfranchised dads turned reluctant roommates in light of the precarious social and economic circumstances faced by divorced fathers in Italy. Can you think of other films that use comedy and/or humor to portray the struggles of divorced fathers (in Italy or international cinemas)? Do you notice any themes/trends/tropes in the qualities of masculinity/ paternity that are associated with these onscreen male characters? Write a minimum of 5 sentences.

***If you're struggling to come up with examples, consider *Mrs. Doubtfire* (Columbus, 1993), *The Santa Clause* (Pasquin, 1994), *Liar Liar* (Shadyac, 1997)

1) Pick one technique/element to focus on: music/sound, camerawork, symbolism/iconography. Describe how this technique/element is used in one scene. Be sure to jot down the minutes so you can re-view it and expand upon this response after viewing the film in its entirety. Write a minimum of 7-10 sentences.

- 1) Catherine O'Rawe identifies a trope of popular Italian [comedy] films, the *italiano medio* in crisis ("Comedy and Masculinity, Italian Style," p. 45). What qualities of the *italiano medio* in crisis do you observe in *Posto in piedi in paradiso*? Include specific examples from the film. Write at least 5 sentences.

- 2) Do you agree with O'Rawe's claim that "*Posti in piedi in paradiso* can be read symptomatically"? (p. 51). Is "[t]he threat of feminization everywhere for the [male protagonists]"? (p. 52). Does securing a homosocial bond require the onscreen men to (a) reassert heterosexuality as normal and (b) stave off the 'threats' of homosexuality and feminization? Cite examples from O'Rawe in addition to others from the film. Write at least 5-7 sentences.

Posti in piedi in paradiso - A Flat for Three

- 3) The literal translation of the original title of the film is “Standing Room in Paradise.” In [an interview](#) Carlo Verdone shares that he came up with this title for a few reasons: (1) His male characters commit minor sins so they’ll probably go to Heaven but will likely have to wait a bit before being accepted, (2) One evening when he was purchasing tickets the box office attendant yelled out that the cinema was ‘standing room only’ rather than ‘sold out’, and (3) The cinema is ‘Eden cinema.’ The film was distributed under the title ‘A Flat for Three’ for English speaking audiences. Does the change in title capture and uphold Verdone’s intent? Should distributors have opted to use a literal translation? Write 3-5 sentences.
- 4) Carlo Verdone acts in many of the films he directs, including *Posti in piedi in paradiso*. He is also a divorced father who experienced a long period of separation (1996-2019) with his now ex-wife, Gianna Scarpelli, before the legal dissolution of their marriage in 2020. Verdone and Scarpelli maintained an amicable relationship throughout the years. How might the aforementioned personal experiences have shaped Verdone’s acting, directing, and screenwriting of *Posti in piedi in paradiso*? Write a minimum of 3-5 sentences.