



## Rapsodia Satanica

(Rapsodia Satanica)

Italy 1916

Drama

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RAPSODIA SATANICA was the last film directed by Nino Oxilia and is undoubtedly one of the finest achievements of the early Italian cinema. Oxilia spins a variation on the Faust myth, embodied here by the diva Lyda Borelli. Typical of extravagant D'Annunzian aestheticism at its height, RAPSODIA SATANICA was one of the summits of what was later called the 'tail coat film.' Diametrically opposed to the 'cinema of reality' practiced by Serena, Martoglio and others, 'tail coat films' set their melodramatic stories in the salons and villas of the upper middle class and the aristocracy, deploying narrative structures contrived to showcase their actors and especially its actresses. This had the effect of accentuating their physical presence and turning them into stars - probably the first stars in movie history. The success of the 'dive' contributed to the development of motion picture grammar in its special use of the close-up.

In 2016 the Cineteca di Bologna gives new brilliancy with a 4K restauration to the film.

to shine with new brilliancy

Through the inspired direction of Nino Oxilia, the music of opera composer, Pietro Mascagni, this melodrama takes on an operatic style. The film represents the continuation of a long Italian tradition of operas and cantatas whose combination of elements has, after almost a century, still not lost its power. Eric de Kuyper once wrote that: '(the theatrical) style of acting which almost borders on the ridiculous (...), becomes totally acceptable, compelling and inevitably precise when it is accompanied by quasi-operatic music sounding from the orchestra pit'.

In her role as Alba D'Oltrevita, Lydia Borelli makes a pact with the devil. In exchange for her eternal beauty she will give up love forever. She leads a carefree life until she meets two brothers who fall in love with her. She flirts with them but cannot love them. When one of the brothers commits an act of despair, she can no longer withhold her feelings.



Director: Oxilia, Nino  
Music: Mascagni, Pietro  
Cast: Lydia Borelli, Andrea Habay, Ugo Bazzini, Giovanni Cini, u.a.

### Compositions:

Pietro Mascagni 0

large orchestra (from 46 Musicians)

stafflist

3+pic.2+ca.2+piccl+bcl+cbcl.3 - 4.4.4.1 - timp.perc - pno/cel - 2hp - str

Duration

41

sync fps

18

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