

## Il vedovo (1959) [The Widower]

Eng version

Director: **Dino Risi**

Actors:

Alberto Sordi: Alberto Nardi

Franca Valeri: Elvira Almiraghi

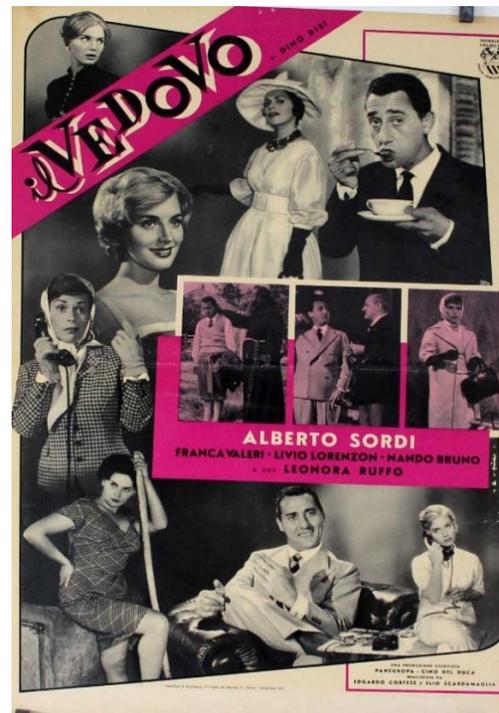
Livio Lorenzon: marchese Stucchi

Leonora Ruffo: Gioia

Nando Bruno: zio di Nardi

Nanda Primavera: mamma Italia

Mario Passante: commendator Lambertoni



Wednesday ' 20 Luglio 2022,

H.6.30 pm

**Script:** Rodolfo Sonego, Dino Risi, Fabio Carpi; **Written by** Rodolfo Sonego, Fabio Carpi, Sandro Continenza, Dino Verde, Dino Risi; **Photography:** Luciano Trasatti; **Music:** Armando Trovajoli; **Edited by:** Alberto Gallitti; **Scenografia:**

In Milan, the Roman commendator Alberto Nardi, dreams of becoming a great businessman, but his fantasies do not correspond to reality, and only the intervention of the wealthy wife Elvira, manages to keep him from making irreparable mistakes.

One day Elvira refuses to help him, just when Nardi finds himself in a tragic financial situation due to his busted business and personal pleasures. Pressed by creditors and on the verge of bankruptcy, he begins to think of an infallible plan to become rich. A rich widower in fact.

Sonego and Dino Risi work together for the first time, creating a neurotic character (Alberto), who talks, talks and accuses others of his failures, when he is the loser.

The film is very accurate, with characters written on paper and not improvised in front of the camera, with a story inspired by reality (the Fenaroli case), but with its own originality, made up of funny situations and dialogues. The socio-economic context is that of a country like Italy, especially northern Italy, just before the "economic boom" of the 1960s. Against this background we find Nardi and his uncle, typical "lazy Roman" characters, who are a little uncomfortable with the entrepreneurial rhythms of the north. This is the humorous background for Risi's "dark comedy".

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Franca Valeri and Alberto Sordi respectively personify the lucid, ruthless Lombard wife and her helpless incompetent husband: together they form one of the funniest couples in the history of “Commedia all’Italiana”. Sordi takes another important step in his career as an actor here, but it is Franca Valeri who fully rewards Risi who chose her to represent the cynical and snobbish Elvira.

The script offer us a satirical film that describes the rich Milanese industrial bourgeoisie, intent on moving billions but also always ready to speculate. A class bourgeoisie and not exactly a democratic one in the context of the young Italian republic built after the war: exemplary is the joke about the two yachts prepared for the holidays. One boat is for the "nice people" and the other for the "unpleasant people". A clear reference to the producer Carlo Rizzoli, who owned two yachts, but never wanted to finance any film starring Alberto Sordi in his life.

(Fabiana Figoni, July 2022)