

La grande bellezza - The Great Beauty

PART I: BEFORE VIEWING

La grande bellezza - The Great Beauty (look up missing info on IMDb)

Director: _____

Year: _____

Cast

Character

Actor/ Actress

Jep Gambardella

Romano

Ramona

Alfredo

Stefania

Anna Della Rosa

Arturo

Talia Concept

Carmelina

Cardinale

Santa

1) Watch the English language trailer to *La grande bellezza*/ The Great Beauty (<https://ldolasinski.wixsite.com/website-5/films>). Who do you imagine the characters to be (occupations, relations/interrelations, challenges/solutions)? What do you think *La grande bellezza* will be about? Write a minimum of 5 sentences.

PART II: WHILE VIEWING

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 10 sentences.

PART III: After Viewing

1) Jep Gambardella (Toni Servillo) and Romano (Carlo Verdone) appear in a handful of scenes together. Focusing in particular on the episode at Romano's studio apartment (40:33- 46:54; 2:09:00- 2:13:06; see Fig. 1 & Fig. 2) and recurring references to Elisa, Jep's first love, that haunt the film narrative in photographs and fragmented flashbacks (36:20- 41:35; see Fig. 3, Fig. 4 & Fig. 5), do you believe these onscreen characters incarnate the qualities on the 'Sorrentinian subject' discussed during class ("The 'Primal Scene'," p. 381)? What about, Alfredo, Elisa's widowed husband? What do these men appear to value? Write 7-10 sentences.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

* The text reads: "Ti immagini essere qui" (*Can you imagine yourself here?*) "Con il tuo cane qui?" (*With your dog here?*) "E tua moglie qui?" (*And your wife here?*). "Con tuo figlio qui?" (*With your son here?*).



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

2) After having viewed *La grande bellezza*, do you agree with Kilbourn's assertion that the 'Sorrentinian subject' is nearly always completed by an enigmatic 'Woman' (class discussion & "The 'Primal Scene'," p. 381)? Is Elisa Jep's salvation? What does Ramona represent for Jep? What role does she serve? What about the other female characters Jep frequents (lovers, friends, associates)? Include specific examples from the film. Write 7-10 sentences.

3) Do you agree with Asciuto's claim that the *terrazza* (roof terrace) represents intimacy and hedonism in Italian films ("Intimacy and Hedonism: The Aesthetics of the Terrazza in Italian Cinema")? In addition to these divergent qualities (intimacy- *closeness, affinity, attachment, familiarity* vs. hedonism- *self-indulgence, pleasure-seeking, excess, luxury*), does the cinematic space of the *terrazza* support the representation of other contradictions ("public" vs. "private"; "security" vs. "community")? Has the function and semiotic purpose of the *terrazza* in Italian films evolved over time? Think about the roof terrace in the very first film we screened in ITA 375, *Una giornata particolare* (A Special Day, Scola, 1977) and this cinematic space in *La grande bellezza* (The Great Beauty, Sorrentino, 2013). Cite examples from Asciuto's article (see pages 394-396; 401-405) in addition to your own observations. Write 7-10 sentences.

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