

Renato Cestì

Titles: 14 Sources: 1 Stills: 11

Born: Rome; January 11th 1963



Source: *The Moving Picture Boy*

The Moving Picture Boy entry:

"This charming sandy-haired boy, the picture of health with his bright eyes and freckled button of a nose, became Italy's unlikely flag-bearer in the "Beautiful Death" genre launched by Terence Young's "**L'ARBRE DE NOËL**" and Arthur Hiller's "**LOVE STORY**".

In "**L'ULTIMA NEVE DI PRIMAVERA**", a big international box-office hit, Renato played the emotionally neglected son of a successful lawyer (Bekim Fehmiu). When his father shows belated affection and takes him off on a skiing holiday - luxurious surroundings pointing the familiar moral that money cannot buy love - Luca succumbs to leukaemia, and

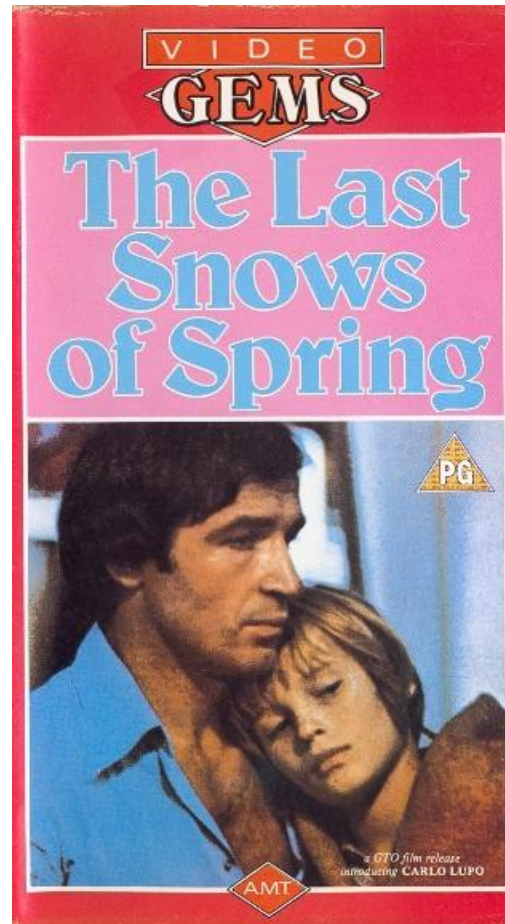
after a long illness bravely borne dies late at night, in his father's arms, in a deserted funfair.

Clearly believing that one could not have too much of a bad thing, the same marshmallow-peddler who had conceived this lamentable tale, Mario Gariazzo, rewrote it with a few differences as "**IL VENDITORE DI PALLONCINI**" and directed the result himself. This time Renato, as the neglected son of a drunken comedian (James Whitmore) wears himself to the point of terminal exhaustion and malnutrition in trying to earn, provide and housekeep for his father.

His death scenes are now even more prolonged and beautiful - with no disfiguring

tubes up the nose - and doctors, nurses, parents and friends gather at the bedside to proclaim the radiant boy a saint and martyr. Following its predecessor to the ultimate gasp, the film allows him to expire at a circus, guided heavenwards by the gnomish balloon-seller of the title. This wallow in glycerine tears, released in America and Britain (dubbed) as "**LAST MOMENTS**", should survive as a monument to the corrupted sentiments of our age.

Renato Cestiè, now the darling of Italy, had played nine further leads by his mid-teens, and by public demand was frequently allowed to survive till the final credits. He continued his career in more modest roles, and was seen for instance as the mute youth in the framing scenes of Zeffirelli's excellent film version of "**LA TRAVIATA**" (NL 83). He must have felt a pang of jealousy at the heroine's musical death."



FILMOGRAPHY

Year	Age	Title	Role
69	6	LEONARDO DA VINCI	
72	9	COSI SIA [So Be It]	
73	10	L'ULTIMA NEVE DI PRIMAVERA [The Last Snows of Spring]	in central role, Luca, 10
73		SI PUO FARE... AMIGO [Make Himself a Friend]	
74	11	L'ALBERO DALLE FOGLIE ROSA [The Tree of Pink Leaves]	
74		IL RITORNO DI ZANNA BIANCA [Return of White Fang]	
74		CUORE [Heart]	
74		IL VENDITORE DI PALLONCINI [The Balloon Seller – aka: Last Moments]	in central role with <i>Sven Valsecchi</i>
75	12	GIUBBE ROSSE [Red Jackets]	
75		BIANCHI CAVALLI DI AGOSTO [White Horses of August]	
75		NOI NON SIAME ANGELI [We're No Angels]	
76	13	COME TI RAPISCO IL PUPO [How I Kidnap the Baby]	
77	14	NERO VENEZIANO [Venetian Black]	
78	15	ENFANTASME [Spooks]	
83	20	LA TRAVIATA	as mute youth