

Rinaldo Smordoni

Titles: 2 Sources: 2 Stills: 3

Born: Rome; February 5th 1933



Giuseppe (Rinaldo Smordoni, left) and Pasquale (Franco Interlenghi) are about to find that falling foul of the law will strip them of dignity, hope, friendship and – in Giuseppe's case – life itself Source: *The Moving Picture Boy*

The Moving Picture Boy entry:

“Rinaldo, a carpenter’s son, was chosen to play the younger of the two innocent delinquents in De Sica’s harrowing *“SCIUSCIA”*. (The 16-year old Franco Interlenghi – born 29 October 1930 – who played his older companion, went on to marry the actress Antonella Lualdi and become a leading man in Italian films of the Fifties and Sixties.) Young Smordoni knew the background well enough: he had for some time

been shining Roman shoes on his own account. In *“SCIUSCIA”* he graduates to black-marketeering, and so to prison, escape and sudden death.

He played one more important role, a classic one for French boy actors: that of Gavroche in an Italian version of *“Les Miserables”*, directed by Riccardo Freda. When last heard of, he was still living in Rome, working as a bus-driver.”

Smordoni and Interlenghi were both amateurs, spotted by director De Sica and screenwriter Zavattini as they were shining shoes on the streets of Rome.

The younger boy's loyalty to his older friend is undermined when he thinks Pasquale has "squealed" to the authorities, but the older boy only does so when he's tricked into thinking Giuseppe is being beaten in an adjacent interrogation room.

Source: Classics of the Foreign Film



Excerpt from **Classics of the Foreign Film** review of "SCIUSCIA":

"...The obvious, tarnished plot comes alive with de Sica's fresh, sympathetic understanding and the extraordinary naturalism he coaxed from boy and adult actors..."

Excerpt from **Great Italian Films** review:

"...Young Rinaldo Smordoni and Franco Interlenghi (who went on to pursue a successful film career as an adult) are absolute perfection as the two lads. Never for a moment does either one appear to be acting..."

FILMOGRAPHY

<i>Year</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Role</i>
deb 46	13	SCIUSCIA ("Shoeshine") with Franco Interlenghi	in central role, Giuseppe
49	16	I MISERABILI ("Les Miserables")	(as Gavroche ?)