

Human Capital

Cert 15

Italy 2013

106 mins

Crew

Directors	Paolo Virzì
Screenplay	Paolo Virzì, Francesco Piccolo, Francesco Bruni
Cinematography	Jérôme Alméras
Film Editing	Cecilia Zanuso
Original music	Carlo Virzì

Cast

Fabrizio Bentivoglio	Dino Ossola
Valeria Bruni Tedeschi	Carla Bernaschi
Fabrizio Gifuni	Giovanni Bernaschi
Valeria Golino	Roberta Morelli
Luigi Lo Cascio	Donato Russomanno
Bebo Storti	Inspector
Gigio Alberti	Giampi

Synopsis

Italy, the recent past. On the night before Christmas Eve a cyclist on his way home from work is hit by an SUV. The driver flees, leaving the badly injured cyclist at the side of the road.

Three stories follow, each recounting the events leading up to the accident from a different perspective. As the details emerge, the lives of the well-to-do Bernaschi family, privileged and detached, intertwine with the Ossolas, struggling to keep their comfortable middle-class life, in ways neither could have expected...



Booking Information

Distributor: Arrow Films

DVD bookings:

CINEMA for ALL Booking Scheme

see page 8 for more information

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Available: Now

Spring Viewing Sessions April-May 2015



Reviews

A slick, stylish drama, *Human Capital* starts as a class critique wrapped around a whodunit, and though the mystery elements have overtaken the social assessment by the final third, the picture remains an engrossing, stinging look at aspirational parvenus and the super-rich they emulate. Perfectly cast with actors who give life to very recognizable Italian types, it confirms Paolo Virzì as one of the more dynamic directors on the peninsula, blending biting commentary with expert narrational skills.

... The performances are flawless, from Bentivoglio's unthinking, foolish windbag to Gifuni's patronizing yet superficially charming VIP. Bruni Tedeschi's overanxious schtick often feels tired in other films, but here her nervous tension is absolutely right, and Gioli is a real find whose down-to-earth intelligence comes through best in the third chapter. Golino's role is small yet offers a welcome dash of warmth.

French d.p. Jérôme Alméras (*The Love Punch*, *The French Minister*) provides coldly handsome visuals that capture the aloof formality of the Bernaschi home, contrasted with looser lensing when Serena is on the scene. Location work around Varese and Como highlights the region's wealth, luxurious yet heartless. .

Jay Weissberg, Variety, April 2014

... a huge box-office hit in Italy, *Human Capital* tells the story of unchecked financial speculation, naïve admiration of wealth and dehumanization by dwindling life down to a dollar sign. While this is a somewhat familiar tale, director Paolo Virzì adds nuance with a carefully structured screenplay and a unique visual style.

We've seen all these devices before: the mysterious opening teaser, the tale told in chapters...but somehow under Virzì's direction it seems new and fresh. It's not about the telling but what lies beneath the surface. There are really no pure good guys or pure bad guys; there is just one long grey cloud where everyone dukes it out for survival the only way they know how.

James Paszko, Film Slate, January 2015

FILM FACTS...

- ☆ *Human Capital* won a total of seven Donatello Awards, including Best Film and Best Actress (Valeria Bruni Tedeschi)
- ☆ It was the Italian entry for Best Foreign Language Oscar in 2015.
- ☆ The story is based on Stephen Amidon's novel of the same title, published in 2004, which is set in Connecticut.