

Malena



Nostalgia
Fantasising relationships
and
The Power of the Close-up

Nostalgia

What cinematic devices are used to evoke a sense of nostalgia?

- Music - romantic
- Location - historical
- Colour palette – warm, soft
- Voice over narrative – looking back to childhood from old age
- Setting - wartime
- Casting – Renato looks very young, childish
- Emphasis on fantasy/reality through perspective





- The relationship between the two characters in Malena (Renato and Malena) is constructed through the film's narrative construction and emphasised through cinematography.
- NB there is a relationship **because Renato, our narrator says there is**. He (and we) are aware that this relationship is a fantasy

- Renato's perspective is further developed through the medium of film – his POV, the fantasy sequences



Parasocial relationship

- This is a term used to describe one-sided, "parasocial" interpersonal relationships in which one party knows a great deal about the other, but the other does not.
- The most common form of such relationships are one-sided relations between celebrities and audience or fans
- Even though such one-way friendships are based on illusion of interaction via television or radio rather than actual social interaction, a bond of intimacy is created and the viewers feel they really know the media character.
- The viewer is made to believe that the person on the screen is communicating directly to them, even though the other participants—actors or players—have no knowledge or attachment to fans, other than as an aggregation of numbers comprising an audience and their income.





The film's emphasis on cinema, looking and fantasy identification equates Renato's 'looking' with our own.

How does this make us feel – guilty? Powerful?

The film is patterned around shot/reverse shot

- We become increasingly 'close' to Malena through the cinematography, creating the illusion of Renato's/our relationship growing closer



The power of the close-up



Our relationship with Renato becomes more pronounced as he mirrors our actions, watching the unobtainable Malena on screen.



- Remember the 'cinematic' nature of the fantasy sequences

Note the contrast in our other study film and how we are asked to relate to the main characters

