



# The Reluctant Saint



# THE RELUCTANT SAINT

(1962, US, d. Edward Dmytryk )

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The Reluctant Saint is a biography of St Joseph of Cupertino, a 17th century Franciscan saint. He was a peasant, an ignorant young man. Somehow or other he was able to pass tests and eventually was ordained a priest. He was famous for his prayer and mystical experience, especially levitation.

This film, Italian made by director Edward Dmytryk, has a lot of the Italian religious tone. It also takes a pious and humorous look at the saint.

Maximilian Schell offers a very good performance in trying to bring such a saint to life. Reviews were quite unfavourable – but the theme was not exactly one for film critics. However, it became popular with audiences, especially those interested in seeing the lives of the saints on screen. It does present the saint's life in an enjoyable and credible fashion.



Edward Dmytryk was one of the Hollywood Ten and went to prison for his convictions and was blacklisted. He has made a wide variety of films including *The Caine Mutiny* and *Raintree County*, *The Young Lions*. About this time he made *Walk on the Wild Side* and *The Carpetbaggers*. The beautiful musical score is by Nino Rota, famous for scores Fellini films and for Zeffirelli's *Romeo and Juliet*.

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