

'Confessions,' Film Study Of Bribery and Immunity

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By NORA SAYRE

A corrupt Public Prosecutor—whose guilt has just been discovered by his former disciple, a young District Attorney—asks the latter, "Is anything wrong?", and the line has almost as much dramatic impact as if it had been uttered by Richard M. Nixon to James D. St. Clair. "Confessions of a Police Captain", directed by Damiano Damiani, was made in Italy in 1971, but it's nicely up to date on the questions of political cover-ups, bribery and immunity. The movie is playing today and tomorrow at the First Avenue Screening Room.

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Martin Balsam has a brash, brisk authority as a police captain obsessed with nailing criminals who have stayed above the law, thanks to the aid of local politicians. He and Franco Nero, as the elegant District Attorney, both initially suspect each other of shielding the Mafia, which controls the construc-

The Cast

CONFESSIONS OF A POLICE CAPTAIN, directed by Damiano Damiani; screenplay by Mr. Damiani and Salvatore Laurenti; director of photography, Claudio Ragona; editor, Antonio Siciliano; cameraman, Giuseppe Di Blase; produced by Bruno Turchetto and Mario Montanari; a Euro International Films Explorer Film '58 Production; an Avco Embassy Release. At the First Avenue Screening Room, at 61st Street, today and tomorrow at noon and midnight. Running time: 92 minutes.

Bonavia.....Martin Balsam
Traini.....Franco Nero
Serena LiPuma.....Marilyn Tolo
Attorney General Melita.....Claudio Gora

tion trade. Meanwhile, official corruption flourishes, and uncooperative witnesses tend to wind up in cement.

The elaborate plot is occasionally confusing. But this thoughtful, modest movie about the perversion of justice is worth seeing—especially for Mr. Balsam's performance as a man accused of fanaticism. This actor is always good at losing his temper, and he brings subtlety to a complex character who has come to feel that the police are the instruments of the gangsters and who breaks the law because he has lost all faith in the courts.