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“Sensitive and Bittersweet.” - Lisa Nesselson, *VARIETY*

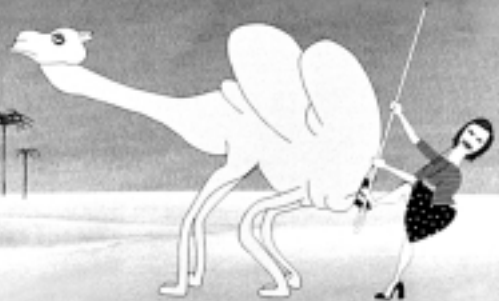
“A Rich Comedy!” - Andrew Sarris, *NEW YORK OBSERVER*



WINNER
Tribeca Film Festival
Best Actress
Valeria Bruni Tedeschi

WINNER
Tribeca Film Festival
Best Emerging Filmmaker
Valeria Bruni Tedeschi

**It's Easier
for a Camel..**



A film by Valeria Bruni Tedeschi
www.newyorkerfilms.com

Federica, a wealthy young woman living in Paris, is overwhelmed by her approaching inheritance and imprisoned by her Italian family's riches. She seeks comfort in the perfect reality of daydreams. Written, directed and acted by Valeria Bruni-Tedeschi who blends her two filmmaking backgrounds – French and Italian – with fantasies, animations, and character-enriching improvisations. Winner of the Audience Award at the Tribeca Film Festival.

FRANCE • 2003 • 110 mins • Color • In French with English subtitles

Little Dreamer Girl

ANDREW SARRIS



Valeria Bruni Tedeschi's *It's Easier for a Camel*, from a screenplay by Ms. Tedeschi, Noémie Lvovsky and Agnès de Sacy, could be dismissed (but shouldn't be) as a rich woman's ego trip—namely Ms. Tedeschi's, whose privileged Italian family emigrated to France in the 1970's to escape the wave of kidnappings by the Red Brigades. The title of the film is derived from the warning of the Gospels: "It is easier for a camel to fit through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God." Heaven knows that Ms. Tedeschi's only slightly fictional Federica is a poor little rich girl overendowed since childhood with a lively imagination that consoles her for the failure of reality to live up to her creative fantasies.

As the picture begins, Federica's career as a successful playwright is slowly falling apart; her now-married boyfriend is pressuring her (after having dumped her) to renew their affair; and her current lover, a left-wing history teacher from the lower classes, resents her family's wealth. To make matters worse, her younger sister is barely talking to her because she's jealous of her older sister's sense of direction; her brother is a self-centered wastrel who has never worked a day in his life and has never wanted to; and her loving father is terminally ill. Yet Federica still persists in daydreaming via animated cartoons that illustrate her wishful reconciliation of all the discordant elements in her life.

If Ms. Tedeschi were drop-dead gorgeous, one would

have to hate her pampered Federica, but her face is a little too obtrusively long, her features somewhat too pronounced for cover-girl purposes – and yet her infectiously generous smile, and her marvelously sensitive listening talent as a gifted actress, make us believe in her tortured individuality and her frustrated emotional aspirations.

She is brilliantly supported by the seriocomic performances of Chiara Mastroianni as her hapless sister; Jean-Hugues Anglade as her left-wing boyfriend; Dennis Podalydes as her brazen lover; her real mother, Marysa Borini (who is not a professional actress), as her fictional mother; Roberto Herlitzka as her father; Lambert Wilson as her comically slothful brother; and Pascal Bongard as her priestly confessor, awkwardly transformed into an amateur analyst.

This is a rich comedy that leaves you suspended, with all its hubbub, between wanting to laugh and wanting to cry.

IT'S EASIER FOR A CAMEL

Directed by Valeria Bruni Tedeschi; written (in French and Italian, with English subtitles) by Ms. Tedeschi and Noémie Lvovsky; director of photography, Jeanne LaPoirie; edited by Anne Weil; production designer, Emmanuelle DuPlay. Running time: 110 minutes. This film is not rated.

WITH: Valeria Bruni Tedeschi (Federica), Chiara Mastroianni (Bianca), Jean-Hugues Anglade (Pierre), Denis Podalydès (Philippe), Lambert Wilson (Aurelio), Roberto Herlitzka (The Father), Marisa Borini (The Mother), Karin Silla (Celine), Emmanuelle Devos (Philippe's Wife) and Yvan Attal (Man in the Garden).

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