

Rubini, Sergio

b. 21 December 1959, Grumo Appula, Bari

Actor and director

Rubini began his artistic career acting and directing for the stage. He also appeared in movies, his first big starring role being in Federico **Fellini's** *Intervista* (Interview) (1987). He acted in several generational films such as Giuseppe Piccioni's *Il grande Blek* (The Great Blek) (1987) and *Chiedi la luna* (Ask for the Moon) (1991) and, more importantly, in Giuseppe **Tornatore's** extraordinary existential thriller, *Una pura formalità* (A Mere Formality) (1994). Rubini made his impressive directorial debut in 1990 with *La stazione* (The Station). Although a close adaptation of a play by Umberto Marino with the same title, *La stazione* was far from just 'filmed theatre', and the film's greatest originality is in fact its investigation of original avenues for a reciprocal contamination of filmic and theatrical discursive strategies. Among his later films are *La bionda* (The Blonde Woman) (1992), *Prestazione straordinaria* (Extraordinary Service) (1994) and *Il viaggio della sposa* (The Journey of the Bride) (1997).

MANUELA GIERI

Ruini, Camillo

b. 19 February 1931, Sassuolo (Reggio Emilia)

Cardinal

As the Cardinal Vicar of the Rome diocese and president of the Italian Bishops' Conference (CEI), Ruini is the second most powerful man in the Italian Church after the Pope himself. Ruini was born and brought up in the region of Emilia, 'Don Camillo' territory, where he also served his first pastoral ministry. He was made secretary of the CEI in 1985. In January 1991 he was made proVicar of Rome and six months later, Vicar and cardinal. His absolute authority over the Italian Church was demonstrated by his orchestration of its decennial gathering at Palermo in 1995. He was also a strong supporter of the **DC** and tried to stave off splits in the Catholic party when it refounded itself as the **PPI** in January 1995 by persuading the pope to intervene with an open letter invoking the political unity of Italian Catholics. Since then, accepting the reality of Catholic political pluralism, he has advocated 'a Christian cultural project' to unite the Catholic political diaspora through its common values and priorities.

JOHN POLLARD