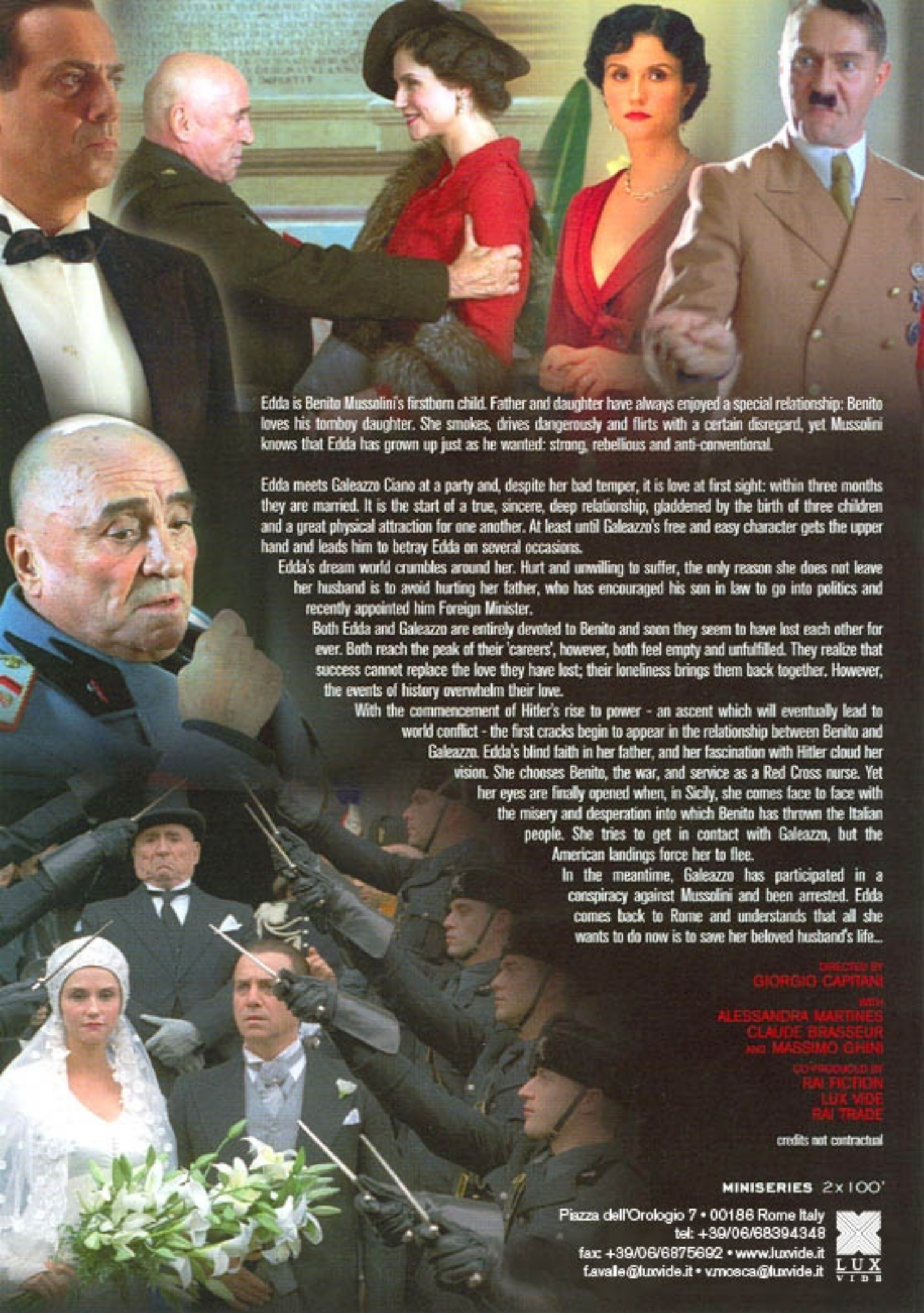


RAI FICTION LUX VIDE RAI TRADE PRESENT

# mussolini's daughter

DIRECTED BY GIORGIO CAPITANI





Edda is Benito Mussolini's firstborn child. Father and daughter have always enjoyed a special relationship: Benito loves his tomboy daughter. She smokes, drives dangerously and flirts with a certain disregard, yet Mussolini knows that Edda has grown up just as he wanted: strong, rebellious and anti-conventional.

Edda meets Galeazzo Ciano at a party and, despite her bad temper, it is love at first sight: within three months they are married. It is the start of a true, sincere, deep relationship, gladdened by the birth of three children and a great physical attraction for one another. At least until Galeazzo's free and easy character gets the upper hand and leads him to betray Edda on several occasions.

Edda's dream world crumbles around her. Hurt and unwilling to suffer, the only reason she does not leave her husband is to avoid hurting her father, who has encouraged his son in law to go into politics and recently appointed him Foreign Minister.

Both Edda and Galeazzo are entirely devoted to Benito and soon they seem to have lost each other for ever. Both reach the peak of their 'careers', however, both feel empty and unfulfilled. They realize that success cannot replace the love they have lost; their loneliness brings them back together. However, the events of history overwhelm their love.

With the commencement of Hitler's rise to power - an ascent which will eventually lead to world conflict - the first cracks begin to appear in the relationship between Benito and Galeazzo. Edda's blind faith in her father, and her fascination with Hitler cloud her vision. She chooses Benito, the war, and service as a Red Cross nurse. Yet her eyes are finally opened when, in Sicily, she comes face to face with the misery and desperation into which Benito has thrown the Italian people. She tries to get in contact with Galeazzo, but the American landings force her to flee.

In the meantime, Galeazzo has participated in a conspiracy against Mussolini and been arrested. Edda comes back to Rome and understands that all she wants to do now is to save her beloved husband's life...

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