

# I Piccioni



No one knew why “A Star is Born” attracted such a fervent following of pigeons. In vast numbers they flocked to any cinema where George Cukor’s movie was being screened, only to be turned away by theater managers who, in those days, maintained a strict no-bird policy among theater-goers. So, the birds hung around outside, waiting, sometimes for days on end. Again, no one knew why. The borderline creepiness of the situation did not go unnoticed by rival filmmaker A. J. Hitchcock, who nine years later exploited mankind’s innate fear of pigeons in his Italian horror movie, *I Piccioni*. When A.J. made his English language version, however, he wisely re-titled it and toned it down to placate squeamish U.S. audiences.