

D'Amico, in fact, had never met Anna but he'd seen the rushes of *Domani è troppo tardi*, so he telephoned Signora Pierangeli and told her that there was an American looking for a girl just like Anna. Although she hadn't seen the advertisement, her mother agreed to take Anna to be interviewed by Stern.

"A couple of days went by, and I was told that she would come and her mother would be coming too," Stern said. "They said she didn't speak English, and that she was very, very shy. Then, la Signora walked in with this *child*, and I thought I would die. I had never felt that kind of *heart-break*—a part of it was that she looked ex-

actly like the girl, Diane Nemerov, I had been in love with at high school who grew up to be Diane Arbus, one of our greatest photographers. Also, she had that quality Maxwell Anderson called 'a white chalice holding fire' in her face. I was smitten."

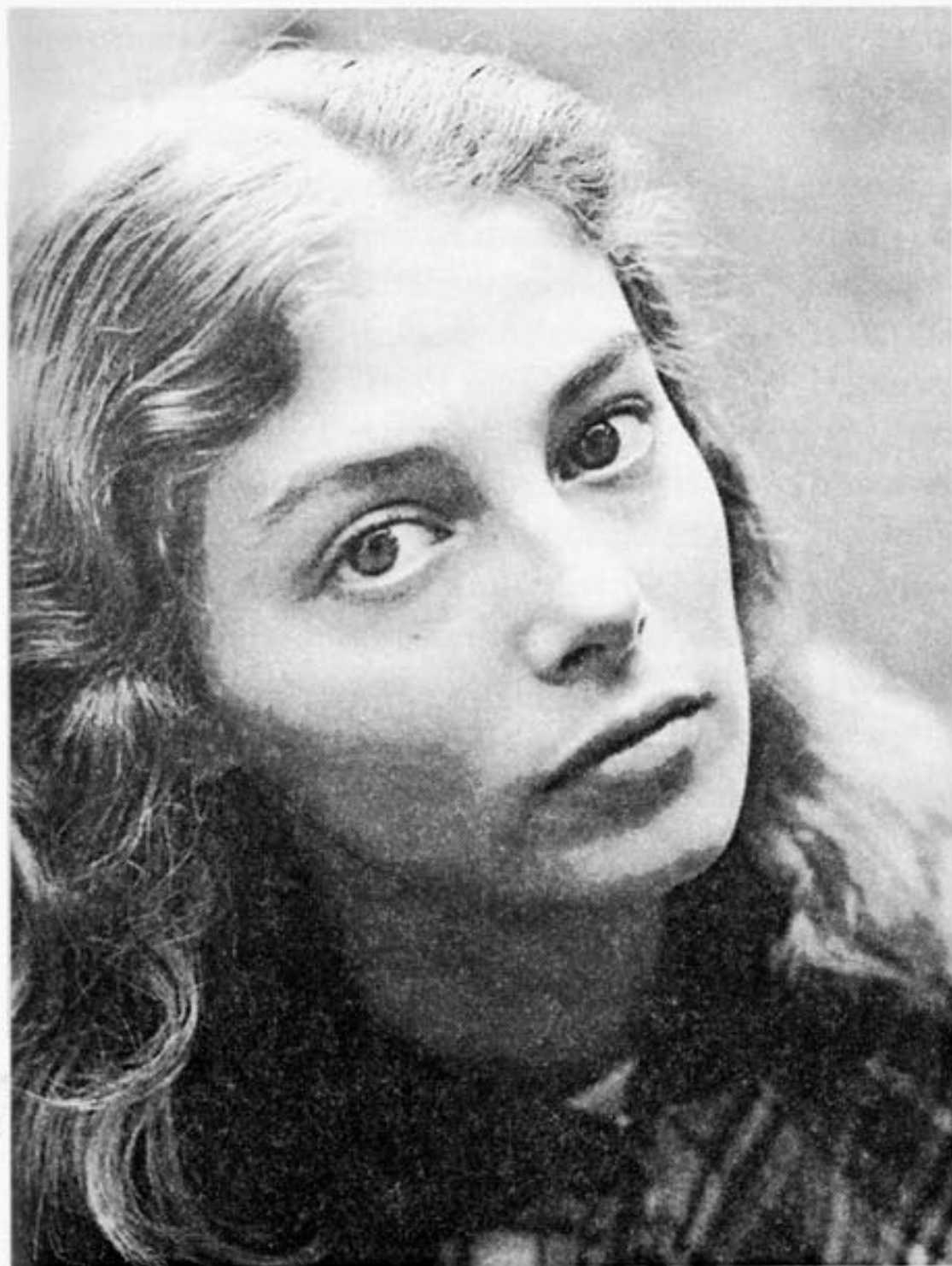
Stern knew the moment he saw Anna that he'd found his Teresa. Now two years older than when she played Mirella, but still looking much younger than eighteen, she had a beautiful face and emanated a purity he had dreamt of finding. Now that the reality stood before him, all the frustrations of the trip to Bologna and the endless photographing of unsuitable girls were forgotten.

Stern hurried back to the Hotel and sent a cable to Arthur Loew: "Pierangeli best Teresa stop will follow second story possibility, Stewart." The date was January 13, 1950.

Stern arranged a dinner to meet her family, but as her father was ill, only Anna and her mother came. Burning to know as much as he could about his discovery, Stern put his questions gently, almost hesitantly, through the interpreter. "How," he asked her mother, "had this child, so exquisite but so shy, come to make a film at all?"

The dramatic story that Enrica Pierangeli told Stern is one of the many differing versions—including one that Anna would later tell—of how she came to play Mirella.

"Mrs. Pierangeli told me that during the war Anna had to walk to the school, not too far from their apartment. One day some German soldiers had assailed her on the street, and they had chased her and put on a show of wanting to rape her.



As Fred Zinnemann first saw her in Italy, a very young and innocent Anna Maria, age 18. (Photograph from the Fred Zinnemann Collection, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Turner Entertainment.)