

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

All films are in Italian with English subtitles.

Dear Friends:

Benvenuti, we are pleased to welcome you to the 7th Annual Italian Film Festival of Minneapolis and St. Paul. We are thrilled that you are able to join us as we celebrate the very best in recent Italian film. Over 50 years ago, the international community discovered Italian neorealism, which became one of the most influential movements in cinema's history. Today, Italy remains a vital site of film production. Contemporary Italian cinema focuses on the everyday lives of Italians, highlighting the country's most pressing social issues and engaging our hearts and minds.

All of the films in this year's festival will be Minnesota premieres. Our lineup includes a wonderful array of new works featuring the landscapes, stories, and people of Italy in all their diversity. Through drama, comedy, and documentary, this spectacular cultural journey moves from the wine country of Friuli and cosmopolitan Rome to enigmatic Naples and the stunning coast of Calabria.

Our festival is made possible by the generous donations of our sponsors and the support of the Consulate General of Italy in Chicago. We are also grateful to the Film Society of MSP and for the tireless efforts of our dedicated volunteers. Most importantly, though, we want to thank you for joining us to celebrate Italian cinema and culture.

Grazie e buona visione!

Vittorio Raimondi

President, Italian Cultural Center

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26 - OPENING NIGHT

- 6:30 PM OPENING NIGHT PARTY @ ASTER CAFÉ'S RIVER ROOM
7:00 PM LIVE AUCTION
8:30 PM SMETTO QUANDO VOGLIO
(I CAN QUIT WHENEVER I WANT)
100 min. Comedy

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

- 7:00 PM THE STRANGER 12 min. Short sci-fi
LARTE DELLA FELICITÀ (THE ART OF HAPPINESS)
82 min. Animated feature / drama
9:15 PM INSIDE BUFFALO
59 min. Documentary
10:15 PM QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH FRED KUDJO KUWORNU

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

- 4:30 PM ZORAN, IL MIO NIPOTE SCEMO
(ZORAN, MY NEPHEW THE IDIOT)
106 min. Italian-style Comedy
6:20 PM WINE TASTING
7:00 PM FUORISTRADA (OFF ROAD)
69 min. Documentary
8:45 PM IL SUD È NIENTE
(THE SOUTH IS NOTHING)
90 min. Drama

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

- 3:00 PM UN GIORNO DA ITALIANI
(ITALY IN A DAY)
75 min. Documentary
5:00 PM L'AMORE IN CITTÀ
(LOVE IN THE CITY)
105 min. Comedy/Drama
7:15 PM LA MAFIA UCCIDE SOLO D'ESTATE
(THE MAFIA KILLS ONLY IN SUMMER)
90 min. Comedy

All the films will be followed by a discussion.
Please note that movies and schedule are subject to change.
The ICC holds no responsibility for discrepancies in the information provided.

TICKET COST

Single movie:

- \$ 7.00 (ICC members, Film Society members and students*)
- \$ 10.00 (non-members)

Opening Night Party and Film:

- \$ 55.00 (ICC members, Film Society members and students*)
- \$ 65.00 (non-members)

VIP pass (Includes all films and opening night party):

- \$ 95.00 (ICC members, Film Society members and students*)
- \$110.00 (non-members)

*with valid membership card or student ID

Individual membership holders are allowed to purchase up to 2 tickets at the discounted price. Family membership holders can purchase up to 4 tickets at the discounted price.

Please note:

Seating is limited and we encourage you to buy your tickets online at www.italianculturalcenter.org/italian-film-festival-2015. All tickets purchased online can be picked up at the theater. If available, tickets can be purchased directly at the theater.

ABOUT THE ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTER

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ABOUT THE ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTER

The Italian Cultural Center (ICC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the best of Italian life and culture to all people in Minnesota. Located in the historic Hennepin Center for the Arts in downtown Minneapolis, the ICC offers Italian language classes for adults and children of all levels of proficiency. The Center also sponsors cultural events and film screenings throughout the year.

ICC Services

Language classes | Resource center for Italian media | Cooking classes
Wine and food tastings | Book club | Educational travel | Cultural events

For more information, please visit: www.theitalianculturalcenter.org
f [facebook.com/italianculturalcenter](https://www.facebook.com/italianculturalcenter) @ICCMSP

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTER TODAY!

By becoming a member of the ICC you are supporting the cultivation of Italian culture and language in the Twin Cities as well as enjoying a wide range of unique benefits. Your non-refundable membership fee is valid for 12 full months and is tax-deductible.

Member benefits:

- Discounted tickets at our annual Italian Film Festival
- 5% discount on ICC language classes (does not apply to private or semi-private lessons)
- Discount on ICC wine-tasting and cooking classes
- Free borrowing privileges at the ICC's Rudi Vecoli Resource Center
- Discounted or free admission to events organized by ICC promotional partners
- Member-only events, including the annual Ferragosto (member appreciation party in August)

Membership levels:

- Student/Teacher \$ 30.00/year
- Individual \$40.00/year
- Family \$70.00/year
- Contributing \$100.00/year
- Corporate \$500.00/year
- Lifetime \$1,000.00

To become a member:

Go online at:
theitalianculturalcenter.org/jointoday

Call us at:
(612) 298-2223

Come visit us at:
The Italian Cultural Center
of Minneapolis/St. Paul
528 Hennepin Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55403

- Discounts at local businesses
(See the complete list online)

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 26

OPENING NIGHT

OPENING NIGHT PARTY AT ASTER CAFÉ

The evening will begin with a party overlooking the Mississippi and the Stone Arch Bridge in Aster Café's River Room.

Guests are invited to enjoy appetizers and wine while bidding on unique items at an auction hosted by WCCO-TV news anchor Frank Vascellaro, while listening to live music played by Robert Everest and his band Quartetto Rosso. At 8:30 p.m. the Italian films begin with a screening of *Smetto Quando Voglio* (I Can Quit Whenever I Want), a charming comedy feature directed by Sydney Sibilla. Celebrate the start to a weekend of contemporary and classic Italian cinema!



Quartetto Rosso

6:30 PM

Our Opening Night Party

Includes delicious appetizers, Italian wines and live music played by Robert Everest and his band Quartetto Rosso

Location:

Aster Café's River Room
125 SE Main Street
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Right next door to the St. Anthony Main Theatre

7:00 PM

Live Auction

A wonderful collection of items will be auctioned by our guest Frank Vascellaro, WCCO-TV news co-anchor.

8:30 PM

Film

SMETTO QUANDO VOGLIO
(I CAN QUIT WHENEVER I WANT)

Frank Vascellaro

All proceeds benefit the Italian Cultural Center

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 26

8:30 PM

COMEDY

SMETTO QUANDO VOGLIO (I CAN QUIT WHENEVER I WANT)

2013, 100 min.

DIRECTOR: Sydney Sibilla

MODERATOR: Lorenzo Fabri, ICC Board Member and Professor in the Department of French and Italian at the University of Minnesota



Released in 2013, this film has already become a cult hit in Italy. Fast-paced and lighthearted, Sydney Sibilla's first feature is a comical window into the precarious world of youth unemployment. Pietro, a young, gifted, and jobless scientist decides to put his talents to use. After forming an A-Team of underemployed PhDs (an economist, an anthropologist, a chemist, an archaeologist, and two philologists), Pietro and his new crew begin producing and trafficking synthetic drugs. Success comes almost immediately, and with it power, money, and women. But soon enough, the reality of drug trafficking sets in and hilarious drama ensues.

CAST:

Edoardo Leo, Valeria Solarino, Valerio Aprea, Paolo Calabresi, Libero De Rienzo, Piato Sarmonti, Neri Marcorè

AWARDS:

2014, Best Comedy, Italian Golden Globes
2014, Discovery of the Year Award, Reykjavik International Film Festival

THIS SHORT MOVIE WILL BE SCREENED RIGHT BEFORE
THE ART OF HAPPINESS.
BUY YOUR TICKET FOR THE ART OF HAPPINESS AND
WATCH TWO MOVIES FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

SCIENCE FICTION SHORT

THE STRANGER

2013, 12 min.

DIRECTOR: Lucio Lepri



A young soldier of the future is running from the troops of an alien army that is carrying out a genocide. Maybe he's the last survivor. Alone and foreign in his own world, he searches for a way to still give meaning to his life.

CAST:
Andrea Piezzo

AWARDS:
2013, Best Screenplay, Canberra short film festival
2013, Award of Merit, Accolade Competition

SPONSORS: Karla Miller

L'ARTE DELLA FELICITÀ (THE ART OF HAPPINESS)

2013, 82 min.

DIRECTOR: Alessandro Rak

MODERATOR: Peter Schilling Jr., Local freelance film critic and the author of
Mark Twain's Mississippi River and Carl Barks' Duck



The Art of Happiness is the story of two brothers connected across physical and spiritual distance. In Naples, Sergio, a taxi driver and former jazz player receives shocking news that changes everything. He plunges into the depths of his own consciousness, reflecting on the past and future. Passengers pile in and out, as Sergio drives through the storm raging in his mind and outside his cab. As the rain subsides, it reveals a stunning sky that proves it is still possible to live — and love — after the end of time. Spectacular animation with a mesmerizing soundtrack by Antonio Fresa and Luigi Scialdone.

Be prepared to be mesmerized by this beautifully animated feature, described as "smart and imaginative" by the Hollywood Reporter.

CAST:
Leandro Amato, Nando Paone, Riccardo Polizzi Carbonelli, Renato Carpentieri,
Jun Ichikawa, Lucio Allocca, Patrizia Di Martino

AWARDS:
2014, Best Animated Film, 27th Annual European Film Awards
2014, Beautiful and Invisible Award, Golden Ciak Awards
2013, Young Cinema Award and FEDIC Special Mention, Venice Film Festival
2013, Best Debut Feature Film, Raindance Film Festival

ANIMATED FEATURE / DRAMA

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 27

9:15 PM

DOCUMENTARY

INSIDE BUFFALO

2010, 59 min.

DIRECTOR: Fred Kujala Kuwornu

SPECIAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION WITH THE DIRECTOR!

MODERATOR: Malinda Elaine Lindquist, Professor of History and African

American Studies at the University of Minnesota



For Italians who lived through World War II, the story of the Buffalo Soldiers from the 92nd Infantry Division is one of true American heroism. Inside Buffalo uses archival footage, historical re-enactments, and individual interviews to portray the first African American combat unit to fight in World War II. These soldiers sacrificed their lives to ensure civil rights for future generations, yet struggled with allegiance to their own country, which denied them freedom and opportunity. In his documentary, Fred Kuwornu celebrates the generosity of these remarkable soldiers, representing two wars at once: one against European totalitarianism, the other against U.S. racial discrimination.

CAST:

Howard Fletcher, Joe Hairston, James McBride, Joe Stephenson, Spann Watson

AWARDS:

2011, Best Documentary, Black Berlin International Cinema Festival

This event is made possible by the generous support of several University of Minnesota departments including the African Studies Initiative, the Institute for Advanced Study, the Immigration History Research Center, the Moving Image Studies Minor, the Department of History, and the Department of French and Italian.

SPONSOR: CenturyLink

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28

4:30 PM

ITALIAN-STYLE COMED

ZORAN, IL MIO NIPOTE SCEMO (ZORAN, MY NEPHEW THE IDIOT)

2013, 106 min.

DIRECTOR: Matteo Oleotto

MODERATOR: Masha Petrenko, Filmmaker and linguist. She is a conference

interpreter and a self-employed artist working on various video projects

(PercolateFilms.com). She is also the author of the IFF introductory reel.



This dark comedy depicts Pablo, a single 40-something with a dead-end job and drinking habit who is lured to his late aunt's estate by the promise of an inheritance. Instead, he receives a porcelain dog and his nerdy nephew, Zoran. At first annoyed by his new parental role, Pablo's feelings change as he discovers Zoran's talent for throwing darts. Hoping to cash in on his nephew's skill Pablo puts Zoran to work hustling locals. A charming story set amidst the picturesque vineyards of the Friuli region near the border with Slovenia. Zoran's witty humor is accompanied by regional song and large quantities of local wine.

CAST:

Giuseppe Battiston, Teco Celio, Rok Prasiniker

AWARDS:

2014, Best Debut Film, Italian Golden Globes

2013, Winner International Critics' Week Audience Award, Schermi di Qualità Prize, FEDIC Award, Venice Film Festival

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28

7:00 PM

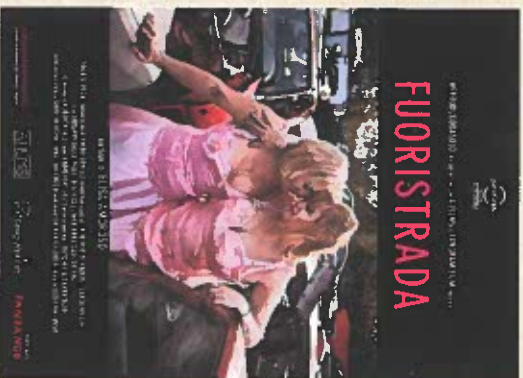
DOCUMENTARY

FUORISTRADA (OFF ROAD)

2013, 70 min.

DIRECTOR: Elisa Amoruso

MODERATOR: Tommaso Cammarano, MFA in Film at Columbia University,
screenwriter and producer



Screening to thunderous applause at the 2013 Rome Film Festival, this documentary recounts the love story of Beatrice and Marianna. Formerly Pino, Beatrice is a transgender female mechanic and ex-rally champion who owns a busy car repair shop in a Roman suburb. The film depicts Beatrice and Romanian wife Marianna's constant negotiation with social conventions. They share their home with Marianna's son Daniele, who now refers to Beatrice as "Dad," and Beatrice's mother, who has learned to accept her changing country and family. Director Elisa Amoruso's debut feature avoids the rhetoric of sexual discrimination in this sensitive and poetic tale of acceptance.

CAST:

Giuseppe Della Pelle, Mariaraa Dadiloveanu, Daniele Acicobanidei

AWARDS:

2014, *International Film Festival of Guadalajara: Magvey Award*

2013, *Rome Film Festival: Winner, Special Recognition Prize*

SPONSORS: Pat Broyles, Realtor, Counselor Realty

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28

8:45 PM

DRAMA

IL SUD È NIENTE (THE SOUTH IS NOTHING)

2013, 90 min.

DIRECTOR: Fabio Mollo

MODERATOR: Cesare Casarino, Chair and Professor in Cultural Studies and
Comparative Literature at the University of Minnesota



In this stunning cinematic debut, young talent Fabio Mollo's film is a beautiful coming-of-age story. Set in a small town on the coast of Calabria, 17-year-old Grazia is finishing school and working in her father Cristiano's fish shop, which is threatened by the local economy. However, as she searches for answers about her brother's mysterious disappearance, Grazia fights to shatter the code of silence governing life in her village, her family, and herself. Collecting applause from Toronto to Berlin, South is Nothing has situated Mollo as one of the most innovative voices in new art cinema.

CAST:

Miriam Karlkvist, Vinicio Marchioni, Valentina Lodovini, Andrea Bellisario

AWARDS:

2014, *Berlin Film Festival: Nominated Crystal Bear Generation 14Plus*

- *Best Feature Film*

2014, *Italian Golden Globes: Nominated Best Actress, Best First Feature,*

Best Original Score

2013, *Rome Film Festival: Winner Best Emerging Producer*

SUNDAY MARCH 1

3:00 PM

DOCUMENTARY

UN GIORNO DA ITALIANI (ITALY IN A DAY)

2014, 75 min.

DIRECTOR: Gabriele Salvatores, from an idea by Ridley Scott

MODERATOR: Lorella Angelini, marketing and communication consultant and decent at the Walker Art Center with a passion for visual art, opera and film



The challenge: ask 40,000 Italians to pick up a camera and document their lives on 26 October 2013. The result: a fast-paced and emotional portrait of the disparate lives Italians live. Each participant's task was to share with the editors their hopes, dreams, and worries from that day in October; being Italian was the one condition. From 2,200 hours of footage, Academy Award Winner Gabriele Salvatores and his team created this 75-minute film. Italy in a Day shows the beauty, drama, poetry, and comedy of everyday life in Italy. As Italy's first social film, it ought not to be missed!

SUNDAY MARCH 1

5:00 PM

COMEDY/DRAMA

L'AMORE IN CITTÀ (LOVE IN THE CITY)

1953, 105 min.

DIRECTOR: Michelangelo Antonioni, Federico Fellini, Carlo Lizzani, Alberto Lattuada, Francesco Maselli, Dino Risì, Cesare Zavattini

MODERATOR: Graeme Stout, Senoir Lecturer and Film Studies Coordinator in the Department of Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature at University of Minnesota



Love in the City is a hidden gem in Italy's cinema history. A commercial failure on its release, this compilation of short films directed by Michelangelo Antonioni, Federico Fellini, Cesare Zavattini and three other prominent Italian directors, is of great significance. A precursor to Jean Rouch's cinéma vérité and American tv reportage from the 1960s, Love in the City documents gender relationships in contemporary Rome. Love in the City is an incredible historical document, which bears witness to the changing social mores of a country transitioning from post-war reconstruction to an economic boom.

COURTESY OF:

Minerva/Raro Video USA

CAST:

Ugo Tognazzi, Antonio Cifariello, Rita Josa, Livia Venturini

SPONSORS: James and Denise D'Aurora

SUNDAY MARCH 1

7:15 PM

COMEDY

LA MAFIA UCCIDE SOLO D'ESTATE (THE MAFIA KILLS ONLY IN SUMMER)

2013, 90 min.

DIRECTOR: Pif (Pierfrancesco Diliberto)

MODERATOR: Massimo Bonavita, honorary president and co-founder of the Italian Cultural Center. A former senator, he has witnessed this period of history in Sicily and will relate it to present-day Italy



In this critically acclaimed coming-of-age satire, TV star Pierfrancesco Diliberto, known as Pif, recalls his childhood in Sicily. Stunning cinematography and expert lighting transports viewers to the Palermo of the 1970s and early '80s: a place of beauty and violence, denial and civic courage. The protagonist Arturo fights for the heart of his beloved Flora against the backdrop of a bloody war for Mafia supremacy. An impressive directorial debut, this film combines cinematic competence, good laughs, and heartfelt tears. Current Senate President Pietro Grasso referred to this film as the best film work on Mafia ever made.

CAST:

Cristiana Capotondi, Pif, Alex Bisconti, Ginevra Antona, Claudio Gioè, Barbara Tabita, Rosario Lisma

AWARDS:

2014, Grand Fiction Prize, Anancy Italian Film Festival
2014, Best New Director, David di Donatello Awards
2014, Best European Comedy, European Film Awards
2014, Best Screenplay, Italian Golden Globes
2013, Audience Award, Turin Film Festival

SPONSORS: Christine Imbra and Mike Balistreri

7TH ANNUAL ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL OF MINNEAPOLIS AND ST. PAUL

Directors

Anna Bonavita
Michelle Baroodly

Ad Sales

Jesse Fanciulli
Joe Tamburino

Programming

Massimo Bonavita
Lorenzo Fabbri

Auction

Giada Nucera

Photography

Lisa Venticinque

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Federica Bottega
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Peggy Hansen

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Jesse Bishop
Lynn Dunlap
Andrew Lussenhop

Marketing

Emanuele Cozzi
Sandra Gengler

Jennifer Ruffing

Susan Smoluchowski
Joe Tamburino
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**Thank you to all those who generously
donated items for our auction:**

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Lorella Angelini

Elena Wilsey

Anna Bonavita

Giada Nucera

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7TH ANNUAL ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL

OF MINNEAPOLIS AND ST. PAUL



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