

**2023  
sponsorship  
opportunities**



**FILM** **14**<sup>TH</sup>  
**FESTIVAL** ANNIVERSARY

MINNEAPOLIS | SAINT PAUL

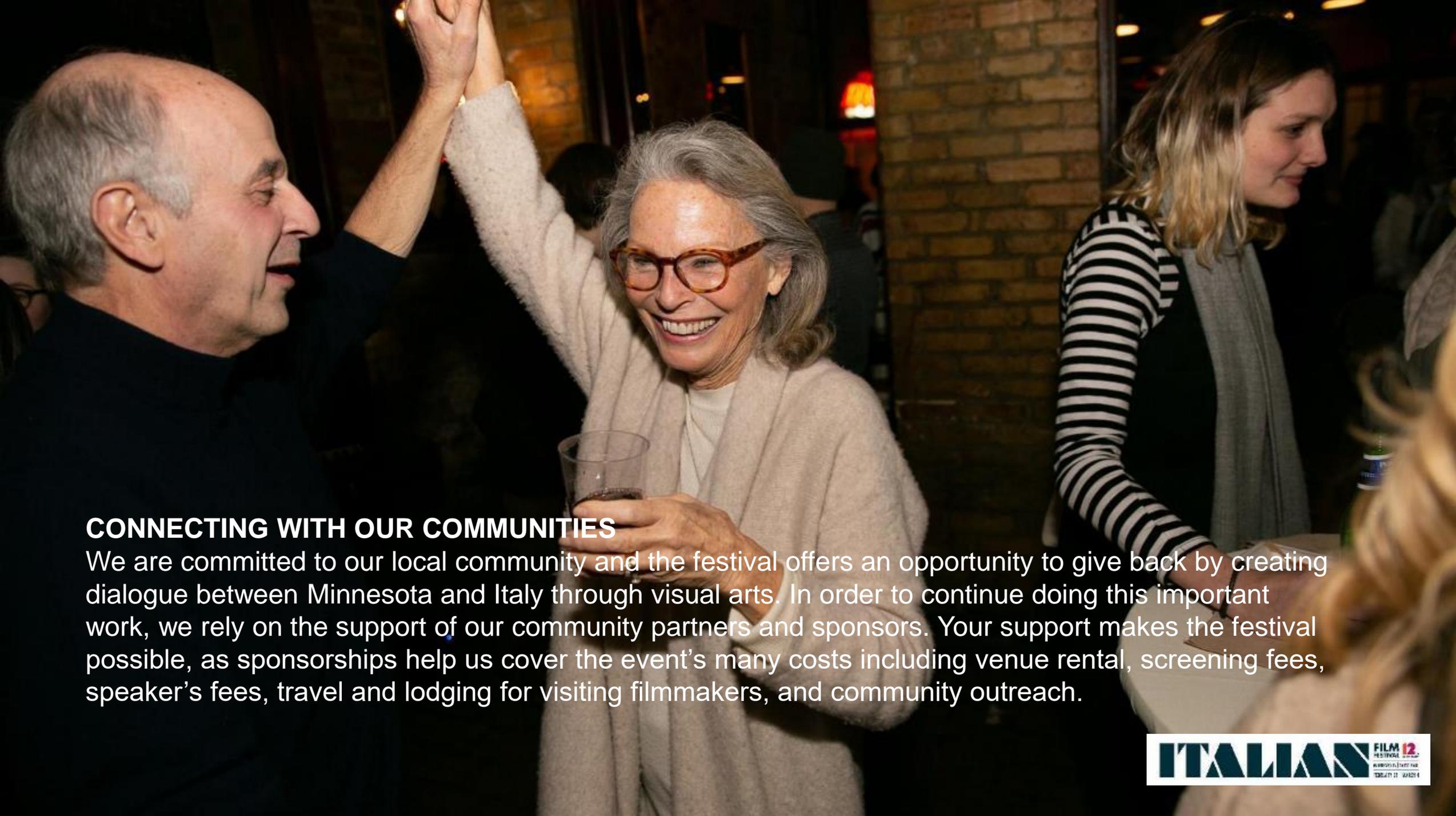
MARCH 2 – MARCH 5, 2023



## **ABOUT THE FESTIVAL**

The Italian Film Festival of Minneapolis / St. Paul (IFF) is the premier event of the Italian Cultural Center of Minneapolis / St. Paul (ICC). Organized in partnership with the Film Society of MSP, the 14th edition of the festival will be offered in person from March 2 to March 5, 2023. The IFF will offer an exciting lineup of the best current comedies, dramas and documentaries that will take viewers on a deeply rewarding journey through the landscapes and stories of Italy and its people.

As a sponsor, don't miss out on the opportunities to connect during 4 days with more than 1300 spectators, more than 2,000 active contacts of the ICC and our partners. In the following pages, you will find numerous options for fostering a connection with this unique audience made from a subtle mix of movie fans and lovers of the Italian culture.



## **CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITIES**

We are committed to our local community and the festival offers an opportunity to give back by creating dialogue between Minnesota and Italy through visual arts. In order to continue doing this important work, we rely on the support of our community partners and sponsors. Your support makes the festival possible, as sponsorships help us cover the event's many costs including venue rental, screening fees, speaker's fees, travel and lodging for visiting filmmakers, and community outreach.

<b>SPONSORSHIP LEVELS</b>	Produttore di Elite \$10,000	Produttore Esecutivo \$5,000	Produttore \$2,500	Assistente di Produzione \$1,000	Regista \$500	Aiuto Regista \$250	Sponsor an individual film \$150**
Commercial included before each screening	●						
Opportunity to introduce opening night film	●						
Mention in festival advertisement and press	●	●					
Still ad in festival pre-reel before each screening	●	●	●				
Recognition in film Q&As	●	●	●	●			
Recognition on social media	●	●	●	●	●		
Logo in festival trailer	●	●	●	●	●		
Logo appears on IFF website	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Logo appears in printed program	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Your name/organization appears on individual film pages	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Number of film tickets (incl. Opening Night Movie)*	70	50	20	10	6	4	2

\*\* \$180 for the Opening Night Movie on Thursday, March 2, 2023.



DRAMA [NOSTALGIA]

**OPENING MOVIE, Thursday, March 2, 2023, 7:30 PM - MINNESOTA PREMIERE**

2022, 118 min.

DIRECTOR: Mario Martone

After living 40 years abroad, Felice (Pierfrancesco Favino) returns to Naples and rediscovers places and codes of the city, facing a past that eats him away.

A visually beautiful immersion in the heart of the city, a tale of regret and a nostalgic love letter to the director's hometown.

Premiered at Cannes Film Festival; winner of four Nastro d'Argento awards: best director, best actor, best supporting actor, and best screenplay.

### DIRECTOR

Mario Martone (Naples, 1959) is an acclaimed screenwriter, theater, and film director. Since 1985 he has directed more than 30 films, screened at the most important film festivals in the world and has 40 wins and 47 nominations for several Italian and international film awards. After the huge success of the American premiere of *Qui Rido Io* at IFF 2022, we are thrilled to open our 2023 festival with *Nostalgia*, Martone's beautifully shot and superbly acted latest movie and offer this Minnesota premiere.

### CAST

Pierfrancesco Favino (Gli anni piu' belli – The Best Years 2021, Corro da te - Run to you 2022) Francesco Di Leva, Tommaso Ragno, Sofia Essaïdi, Aurora Quattrocchi.



COMEDY [NEVER TOO LATE FOR LOVE]

**Friday, March 3, 2023, 6:00 PM - MINNESOTA PREMIERE**

2022, 97 min.

DIRECTOR: Gianni Di Gregorio

Astolfo, a retired professor evicted from his apartment, decides to move into an old noble but decrepit palace, the last remnant of his family patrimony in a remote village of Abruzzo, where he has not been for decades. Soon enough, as a newcomer, he befriends a vagabond, a retired chef and a young handyman. The odd group of four live at his place when he comes across Stefania, a charming woman of his age.

Astolfo falls in love and struggles with feelings he thought belonged to the past.

Encouraged by his loyal group, he makes a brave move and learns delightedly that it is never too late for love.

#### DIRECTOR

Gianni Di Gregorio (Rome, 1949) began his career in the 1990s collaborating with Matteo Garrone as a screenwriter, actor assistant director, their most famous work being the 2008 award winning film *Gomorra*. He made his directorial debut in 2008, with the critically acclaimed *Mid-August Lunch*, which he also wrote and starred; he followed that up with three other films in the same vein *The Salt of Life* (2011), *Good for Nothing* (2014) and *Citizen of the World* (2019).

**CAST:** Gianni Di Gregorio, Stefania Sandrelli, Gigio Morra



DRAMA [AUTUMN BEAT] *Rating: Teens and up welcome!*

**Friday, March 3, 2023, 8:15 PM - MINNESOTA PREMIERE**

2022, 103 min.

DIRECTOR: Antonio Dikele Distefano scheduled to attend!

Autumn Beat produced by Amazon Studios and co-produced by Indiana Productions is an exciting and unprecedented story about Black culture in Italy, and the role of music as a means of redemption and search for identity.

Two brothers, Tito and Paco have the same dream: to break into the rap music world. Paco is a born performer and Tito knows how to write like no other but ambition, life, and love for the same woman will test their bond

#### **DIRECTOR**

In a bid to increase black representation in new Italian cinema, well-known Italian author turned screenwriter Antonio Dikele Distefano (Bursto Arsizio, 1992) made his worldwide debut on Netflix Italia in 2021 with the groundbreaking mini-series, [Zero](#), featuring a primarily black cast. Before connecting with Amazon Italy and Netflix Italia, Antonio had already become an inspiration to many Black Italians through publishing, television, and social media projects. He went on to write five novels for Mondadori between 2014 and 2019. Along the way, he founded Esse Magazine in 2016 as an outlet for young Black artists to gain recognition and did video interviews with emerging performers. In addition, he owns the communications agency Cantera. Antonio, with his own production company is developing films that bring Black performers onto the world stage so they're no longer invisible. He says doing quality projects that positively portray underserved communities will give people an opportunity to exist. If the mainstream chooses to ignore them, that's their choice, but they'll no longer be invisible.

We are thrilled to have him with us for his first feature movie screening *Autumn Beat*.

#### **CAST:**

Hamed Seydou, Abby 6ix, Geneme, Juliet Joseph, Dylan Magon, Mohamed Diallo, Marco Renna, Mamy Seny Gueye, Francesco Danquah, Gué



COMEDY [TOO BAD SHE'S BAD] *Rating: Teens and up welcome!*

**Saturday, March 4, 2023, 11:00 AM**

1954, 95 min.

DIRECTOR: Alessandro Blasetti

Sophia Loren plays Lina, the well-trained daughter in a family of professional thieves. Her father (Vittorio De Sica) is the master con man who can talk his way out of pretty much anything. They try to steal from an honest taxi driver (Marcello Mastroianni), with unexpected results when he discovers what they are up to.

Sophia Loren and Marcello Mastroianni are referred to as the "Golden Couple" of Italian Cinema, having worked together in 14 movies bringing the "Made in Italy" around the world with elegance and charm. IFF is thrilled to screen this 1954 Italian classic, Sophia and Marcello's first movie together *Peccato che sia una canaglia*.

#### DIRECTOR

Alessandro Blasetti (Rome, 1900 - 1987) was an Italian film director and screenwriter who influenced Italian neorealism with the film *Quattro passi fra le nuvole*, and was one of the leading figures in Italian cinema during the Fascist era. He is sometimes known as the "father of Italian cinema" because of his role in reviving the struggling industry in the late 1920's.

**CAST:** Sophia Loren, Marcello Mastroianni, Vittorio De Sica.



COMEDY [RUN TO YOU] *Rating: Teens and up welcome!*

**Saturday, March 4, 2023, 2:00 PM - MINNESOTA PREMIERE**

2022, 113 min.

DIRECTOR: Riccardo Milani

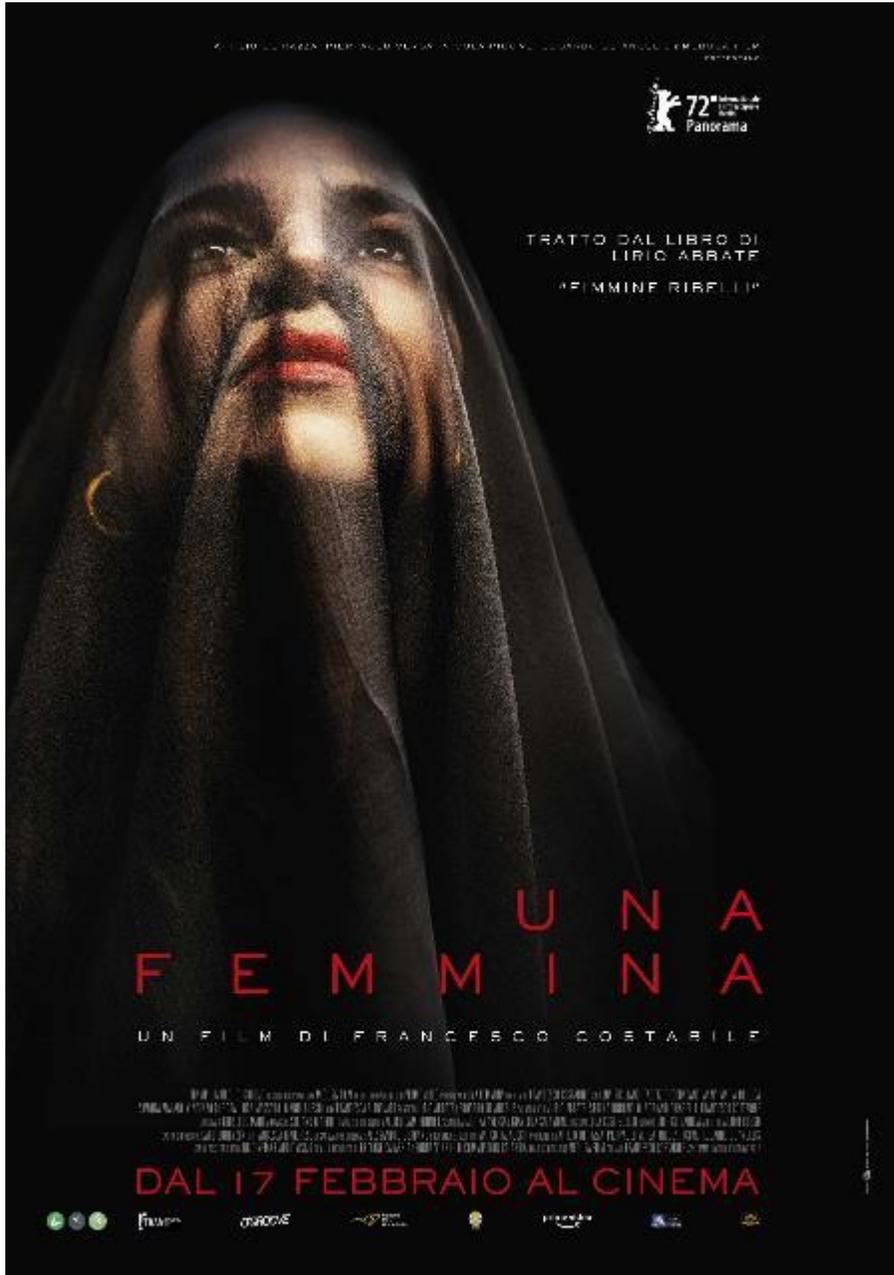
Fifty year old bachelor Gianni (Pierfrancesco Favino), is the head of a famous shoe brand that features the best athletes around. He would do anything to charm a woman, so much so, in fact, that he ends up faking a disability to seduce a young girl he has just met. Everything changes when he meets Chiara (Miriam Leone) , a joyful and dynamic musician with a passion for tennis, who is confined to a wheelchair on account of an accident. Following a vile bet, his feelings for her become real, and she inevitably starts changing his perspective on many things: life, love, and disability.

### DIRECTOR

Riccardo Milani (Rome, 1958) is an Italian screenwriter, film and television director. He began his career in 1985, as assistant director of Mario Monicelli, and was later assistant of Nanni Moretti, Florestano Vancini and Daniele Luchetti. In 1994 he made his feature film debut with the comedy-drama *Auguri professore*, and in 2001 he made his television debut, directing the miniseries *Il sequestro Soffiantini*. In 2020 IFF featured his highly successful comedy *Come un gatto in Tangenziale* (starring his wife Paola Cortellesi) which provided our audience with a lot of laughs, and we are delighted to bring him back with his latest comedy for this Minnesota premiere, *Corro da te*.

**CAST:** Pierfrancesco Favino (Nostalgia IFF 2022, Gli anni piu' belli IFF 2021), Miriam Leone (Il testimone invisibile IFF 2020) Pietro Sermonti, Vanessa Scalera, Pilar Fogliati, Andrea Pennacchi, Carlo De Ruggieri, Giulio Base, Piera Degli Esposti, Michele Placido.





DRAMA [THE CODE OF SILENCE]

**Saturday, March 4, 2023, 5:00 PM - MINNESOTA PREMIERE**

2022, 120 min.

**DIRECTOR:** Francesco Costabile

An evocative drama inspired by true stories. Rosa (Lina Siciliano) is a young strong girl who lives with her relatives in a remote village in Calabria. Her mother's mysterious death when she was still a child cast a gloomy shadow on her present. When the truth emerges, Rosa realizes that she is trapped in the same predestined fate, and decides to betray her family seeking revenge against her own blood. An impressive debut for Lina Siciliano offers a very realistic and convincing performance in Calabrese dialect. *Una femmina*, *The Code of Silence*, is dedicated to all the victims of the 'Ndrangheta, but particularly to women, who not only need to fight the criminal system but also the patriarchal side of it, often putting themselves against their own families.

Based on the book *Fimmine ribelli* by journalist Lirio Abbate about true stories of women who stood up to the 'Ndrangheta, Francesco Costabile made an extraordinary feature film debut with a powerful story of resistance.

### **DIRECTOR**

Francesco Costabile (Cosenza, Calabria 1980) is an Italian screenwriter and director. *Una femmina* is his first feature film. It premiered at the 2022 Berlin Film Festival and won many awards, including David di Donatello (Italian Oscars) for Best First Feature and two European Golden Globes for Best First Feature and Best Actress (Lina Siciliano).

**CAST:** Lina Siciliano, Fabrizio Ferracane, Anna Maria De Luca, Simona Malato, Luca Massaro, Vincenzo Di Rosa, Mario Russo.



DRAMEDY [BLESSED BOYS]

**Saturday, March 4, 2023, 8:30 PM - MINNESOTA PREMIERE**

2021, 97 min.

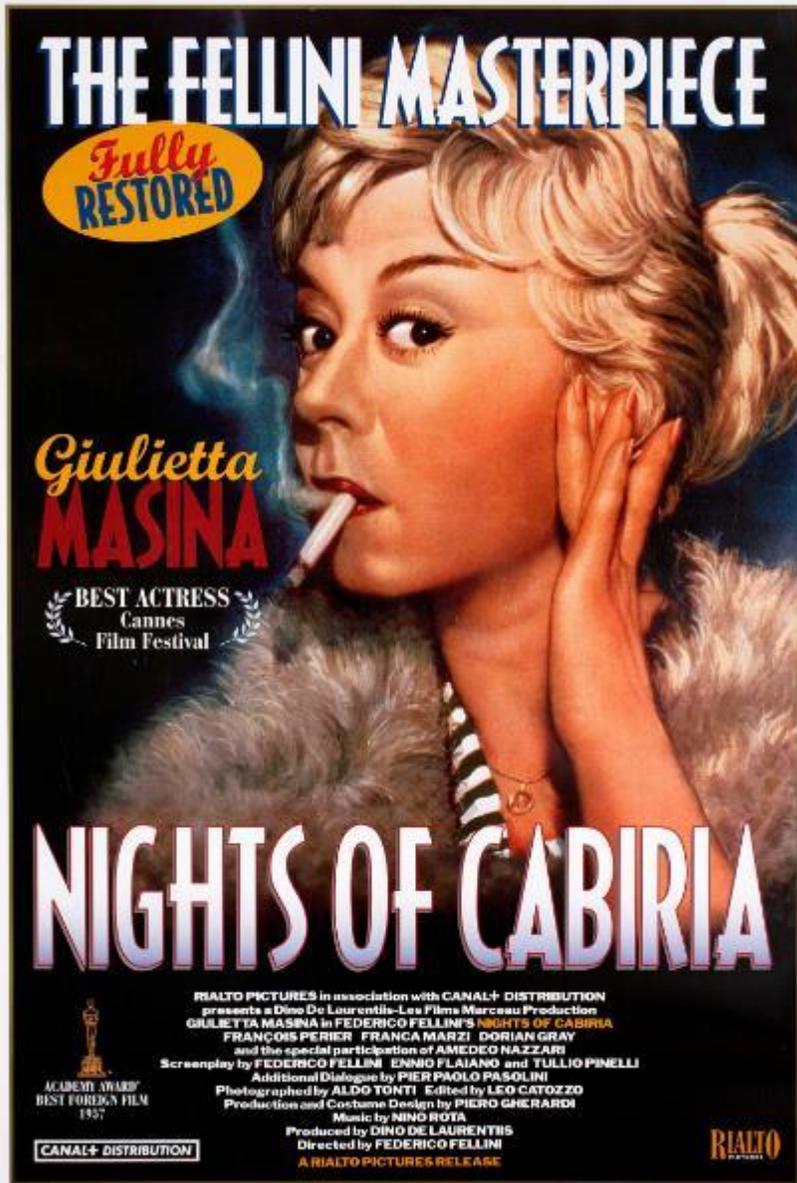
DIRECTOR: Silvia Brunelli

An original, unexpected, genre defying, erotic and emotionally intense debut about Lino and Mario, two inseparable Neapolitan friends that become involved with one another in ways they would rather avoid, and Annaluce, a child who claims she can see the Virgin Mary and becomes a local sensation. Best Italian Feature at the Rome International Film Festival.

#### DIRECTOR

Silvia Brunelli (Rome, 1988). Her first feature film *La Santa Piccola* won the Biennale Cinema College 2019/2020 and was presented at the Venice Film Festival'78 in 2021. Biennale College announced her to the European Council for Euroimages fund which elected her as the newcomer European director of 2020 to promote gender equality in the movie industry. Thanks to this, Silvia was mentioned in the first edition of "The Gold Album Female Directors" published in 2021 to celebrate women directors supported by Euroimages in the last 20 years. After graduating in law, she wins a scholarship at the New York Film Academy and starts working for some of the major Italian film productions first as an intern and then becoming an assistant director. Her first feature film *La Santa Piccola* is now touring in film festivals around the world.

**CAST:** Francesco Pellegrino, Vincenzo Antonucci, Sophia Guastafarro, Pina Di Gennaro, Gianfelice Imparato, Alessandra Mantice, Sara Ricci, Carlo Gertrude.



DRAMA [NIGHTS OF CABIRIA]

Sunday, March 5, 2023, 11:00 AM

1957, 117 min.

DIRECTOR: Federico Fellini

Plain and simply one of Fellini's masterpieces and one of Italy's greatest films of all times. Giulietta Masina won Best Actress at the Cannes Film Festival for her unforgettable portrayal of a Roman prostitute named Cabiria, who endures life's tragedies with a heartbreaking innocence and resilience. IFF is honored to celebrate Fellini on the 30th anniversary of his death with the film that won him an Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film in 1957.

#### DIRECTOR

Federico Fellini (Rimini, 1920 – Rome 1993) is recognized as one of the greatest directors and most influential filmmakers of all time. Influenced early in his career by the Neorealist movement, he developed his own distinctive methods that superimposed dreamlike or hallucinatory imagery upon ordinary situations. In 1944 Fellini met director Roberto Rossellini and became one of a team of writers for *Roma, città aperta* (1945; *Open City* or *Rome, Open City*), a pioneer film of Neorealism, and his contribution to the screenplay earned him his first Oscar nomination.

Fellini was nominated for 16 Academy Awards over the course of his career, winning a total of four in the category of Best Foreign Language Film (the most for any director in the history of the award). He received an honorary award for Lifetime Achievement at the 65th Academy Awards in Los Angeles, and also won the Palme d'Or for *La Dolce Vita* in 1960, two times the Moscow International Film Festival in 1963 and 1987, and the Career Golden Lion at the 42nd Venice International Film Festival in 1985.

**CAST:** Giulietta Masina, François Périer, Amedeo Nazzari



DOCUMENTARY [IN VIAGGIO] *Rating: Teens and up welcome!*

**Sunday, March 5, 2023, 1:30 PM - MINNESOTA PREMIERE**

2022, 77 min.

DIRECTOR: Gianfranco Rosi

Since Jorge Mario Bergoglio became Pope Francis in 2013, he has visited 53 countries, speaking in turn on poverty, nature, migrations, dignity and the condemnation of all wars while facing difficult moments and controversies. Through a montage of archives, award winning director Gianfranco Rosi retraces the itinerary of the Pontifical travels, granting the audience a rare access to the public life of the Pope.

#### DIRECTOR

Gianfranco Rosi (Asmara, 1963) is an Italian-American documentary filmmaker. His 2013 film *Sacro GRA* won the Golden Lion at the 70th Venice Film Festival, while his 2016 film *Fire at Sea* won the Golden Bear at the 66th Berlin Film Festival. Rosi is the only documentary filmmaker to win two highest awards at the three major European film festivals (Venice, Berlin, and Cannes) and is one a few directors to do so in the 21st century. He was also nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature for *Fire at Sea*. We are enthusiastic to give our audience a remarkable access into Pope Francis's life through Rosi's latest extraordinary documentary *In viaggio*.



DRAMA [THE LORD OF THE ANTS]

**Sunday, March 5, 2023, 3:45 PM - MINNESOTA PREMIERE**

2022, 130 min.

DIRECTOR: Gianni Amelio

Acclaimed director Gianni Amelio brings to the screen a forgotten and dark episode of Italian history: the 1968 controversial trial of Italian poet, playwright, and director Aldo Braibanti (Luigi Lo Cascio), who was prosecuted and sentenced to prison for his relationship with a younger male student, causing a nationwide scandal. *Il Signore delle Formiche* premiered at the Venice Film Festival, and is one of Italy's most powerful and thought provoking films of 2022.

#### DIRECTOR

Gianni Amelio (Magisano, 1945) is an Italian director. His father moved to Argentina soon after his birth, and he spent his youth and adolescence with his mother and his grandmother. The absence of a paternal figure will be a constant in Amelio's future works. After studying philosophy, he moved to Rome, where he began working as an assistant director. He made his film directing debut in 1982, after a long career in television. He is the winner of numerous international awards, including three EFA awards for best European film.

**CAST:** Luigi Lo Cascio (Lacci IFF 2021), Elio Germano, Sara Serraiotto, Leonardo Maltese



COMEDY [SUPERHEROES] *Rating: Teens and up welcome!*

**Sunday, March 5, 2023, 7:15 PM - MINNESOTA PREMIERE**

2022, 120 min.

DIRECTOR: Paolo Genovese

Do you need superpowers to love someone for an entire lifetime? *Supereroi* is a heartwarming and moving love story that tracks twenty years in the relationship between a cartoonist (Anna) and a physics teacher (Marco). Constantly in between comedy and drama, the film offers a delightful and fresh screenplay, great chemistry among its leads, and the backdrop of the beautiful island of Ponza.

### DIRECTOR

Paolo Genovese (Rome, 1966) is an Italian director and screenwriter. In 2016, his film *Perfect Strangers* was a critical and commercial success, it won several awards and has been remade in more than 20 countries. It is not the first time for Genovese on our screens, since IFF in its 9th edition presented his comedy *Sei mai stata sulla luna*, and this Minnesota premiere is set to leave our audience with some deep questions about life, love and everything in between.

**CAST:** Alessandro Borghi, Jasmine Trinca, Greta Scarano, Vinicio Marchioni, Elena Sofia Ricci

A woman in a grey patterned shirt stands at the front of a room, gesturing with her hands as if presenting. In the foreground, two men are seated at a wooden table. The man on the left, with a beard and wearing a dark striped shirt, is looking down at a notebook and writing with a blue pen. The man on the right, wearing glasses and a light-colored shirt, is also looking down at a notebook. On the table, there are several papers, a green bottle, and a small white container. The background shows a window with a view of a city and a large screen displaying a presentation.

## ABOUT THE ICC

Founded in 2006, the Italian Cultural Center of Minneapolis / St. Paul (ICC) is a self-funded nonprofit organization dedicated to sharing and celebrating Italy's language and culture. The ICC offers Italian-language and cooking classes and makes a space for all-things-Italian, like contemporary and classic Italian art, film, literature, and music.

Learn more on [theitalianculturalcenter.org](http://theitalianculturalcenter.org)



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