

PRESENTED BY:  Italian Cultural Center  
MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL

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**FILM** **12**<sup>TH</sup>  
**FESTIVAL** ANNIVERSARY

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MINNEAPOLIS | SAINT PAUL

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FEBRUARY 25 - MARCH 4

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FOR TICKETS + SCHEDULE INFORMATION: [MSPFILM.ORG/ITALIAN-FILM-FESTIVAL](https://mspfيلم.org/italian-film-festival)

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Benvenuti!

Welcome to the 12th edition of the Italian Film Festival of Minneapolis/St. Paul. Whether you are a longtime attendee or you are new to our festival, it is a great honor for me to welcome you to IFF 2021.

Since its inception, the IFF has brought a variety of contemporary Italian films and documentaries to the Twin Cities, offering a window into the wonderful landscapes and ever-changing stories of Italy.

This year's festival will be held exclusively online. In this format, you will enjoy 11 recently released films and documentaries—many of them never before screened in Minnesota or the US. Our expertly curated lineup will show you captivating places across the Italian peninsula as well as intimate aspects of its citizens' lives. You will follow four friends experiencing 40 years of love, aspiration, success, and failure; a father and his young son caught in a merciless system of exploitation; a married couple and the hidden forces that bind them; and a woman miner who descends each day beneath the earth's surface to challenge darkness, fear, and a crew of 150 men. These stories and many others are all part of today's Italy.

In a nod to Italian cinema history, IFF will screen Mario Monicelli's *Risate di Gioia*, a 1960 film that encapsulates the iconic and ever-popular *Commedia all'italiana* film genre.

In gratitude, I wish to acknowledge everyone who made this event possible. Our festival is supported by the Consulate General of Italy and the Institute of Italian Culture in Chicago. It is made possible by the generous contributions from all our sponsors and donors. The festival is presented in partnership with MSP Film Society and brought to life by the tireless efforts of our staff and volunteers. Above all, I thank you for joining us in celebrating Italian cinema and culture.

While we are not able to gather in a theater this year, I hope you find this year's films inspiring and entertaining.

Grazie e buona visione!

Sandra Gengler

President, Board of Directors

The Italian Cultural Center of Minneapolis/St. Paul



## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25 — OPENING FILM

ALL DAY GLI ANNI PIÙ BELLI (THE BEST YEARS)  
Gabriele Muccino  
Drama/Comedy, 2020, 129 min

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, TO THURSDAY, MARCH 4

ALL WEEK COSA SARÀ (EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE ALRIGHT)  
Francesco Bruni  
Comedy/Drama, 101 min.

ALL WEEK DAL PROFONDO (FROM THE DEPTHS)  
Valentina Pedicini  
Documentary, 2013, 72 min.

ALL WEEK FAITH  
Valentina Pedicini  
Documentary, 2019, 90 min.

ALL WEEK IL GRANDE PASSO (THE BIG STEP)  
Antonio Padovan  
Comedy, 2019, 96 min.

ALL WEEK iSola  
Elisa Fuksas  
Documentary, 2020, 80 min.

ALL WEEK ODIO L'ESTATE (I HATE SUMMER)  
Massimo Venier  
Comedy, 2020, 105 min.

ALL WEEK SPACCAPIETRE (UNA PROMESSA)  
Gianluca e Massimiliano De Serio  
Drama, 2020, 104 min.

ALL WEEK AGALMA  
Doriana Monaco  
Documentary, 2020, 54 min.

ALL WEEK LACCI (THE TIES)  
Daniele Luchetti  
Drama, 2020, 100 min.

ALL WEEK RISATE DI GIOIA (THE PASSIONATE THIEF)  
Mario Monicelli  
Comedy, 1960, 80 min.

**All films presented in Italian with English subtitles.**



Italian Cultural Center

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

- 5:00 PM VIAGGIO NEL CINEMA III:  
ARTHOUSE FILM BETWEEN FANTASY AND REALISM  
Dr. Federico Pacchioni  
40 min.
- 6:00 PM LIVE FILM DISCUSSION WITH DR. FEDERICO PACCHIONI,  
RISATE DI GIOIA (THE PASSIONATE THIEF)  
Free, 40 min.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

- 12:00 PM LIVE FILM DISCUSSION WITH DIRECTOR ELISA FUKSAS, *iSola*  
Free, 30 min.
- 1:00 PM LIVE FILM DISCUSSION WITH DIRECTOR FRANCESCO BRUNI,  
COSA SARÀ (EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE ALRIGHT)  
Free, 30 min.
- 3:00 PM LIVE FILM DISCUSSION WITH DIRECTORS OF PHOTOGRAPHY,  
BASTIAN ESSER, FAITH AND JAKOB STARK, DAL PROFONDO  
(FROM THE DEPTHS)  
Free, 30 min.
- 4:00 PM LIVE FILM DISCUSSION WITH DIRECTORS GIANLUCA E  
MASSIMILIANO DE SERIO, SPACCAPIETRE (UNA PROMESSA)  
Free, 30 min.

## TUESDAY, MARCH 2

- 12:00 PM LIVE FILM DISCUSSION WITH DORIANA MONACO, DIRECTOR  
OF AGALMA, ANTONELLA DI NOCERA, PRODUCER OF AGALMA,  
PAOLO GIULIERINI, DIRECTOR OF THE MUSEO ARCHEOLOGICO  
NAZIONALE DI NAPOLI AND RACHEL MCGARRY, ASSOCIATE  
CURATOR AT THE MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ART  
Free, 30 min.



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[theitalianculturalcenter.org](http://theitalianculturalcenter.org)

[facebook.com/italianculturalcenter](https://facebook.com/italianculturalcenter)

All films presented in Italian with English subtitles.

## TICKETS

This year's Film Festival is all online. Access to the films is geo-restricted to viewers in Minnesota and a MN billing address is required to purchase a ticket.

### OPENING MOVIE (EXCLUSIVELY AVAILABLE ON FEBRUARY 25, 2021—ALL DAY)

\$ 18.00 General Admission  
\$ 15.00 ICC and Film Society members, students

### SINGLE MOVIES (AVAILABLE FROM FEBRUARY 26 THROUGH MARCH 4, 2021)

\$ 12.00 General Admission  
\$ 10.00 ICC and Film Society members, students

## THE ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTER

### ABOUT

Founded in 2006, The Italian Cultural Center (ICC) is a non-profit 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 at all levels of proficiency. The ICC also organizes and sponsors cultural and social events throughout the year.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Massimo & Anna Bonavita**



### COMEDY DRAMA

### ALL DAY

2020, 129 MIN. MINNESOTA PREMIERE  
OPENING MOVIE, EXCLUSIVELY AVAILABLE ON FEBRUARY 25

Italy, 1980. Three 16-year-old idealists, Paolo, Giulio and Riccardo, share everything like brothers. Along with them is Gemma, Paolo's girlfriend, who quickly becomes a full part of their lives. But as life catches up with them, the young friends embark on different paths. Paolo (Kim Rossi Stuart) graduates with a degree in literature, Giulio (Pierfrancesco Favino) becomes a successful lawyer, and Riccardo (Claudio Santamaria) bounces from one job to the next—from failed actor to wannabe journalist. Gemma (Micaela Ramazzotti) leaves Rome for Naples where she struggles to make ends meet—only to return a few years later.

As years go by, the four friends continue to reconnect and lose touch while struggling with their hopes, disillusionments, successes, failures, and the passage of time. *Gli anni più belli* (*The Best Years*) is a moving and exhilarating portrait of a generation by internationally acclaimed director Gabriele Muccino, a great story of friendship and love set to the everchanging Italian social and political climate.

**DIRECTOR** Gabriele Muccino (Rome, 1967) is an acclaimed director, writer, and producer. He is one of the few Italian film directors who has successfully created a niche for himself in Hollywood, directing *The Pursuit of Happyness* (2006) and *Seven Pounds* (2008), two films starring Will Smith. Years before his American experience, international acclaim came with *L'ultimo bacio* (2001)—one of the greatest Italian box office successes of all time. The film earned him Best Director and Best Screenplay at the Donatello Awards and the Audience Award at the 2002 Sundance Festival, introducing Muccino's work to the United States. Muccino's next film was even more successful. Starring Monica Bellucci, *Ricordati di me* (2003) won Best Director, Best Film, and Best Screenplay at the Donatello Awards. IFF is thrilled to bring *Gli anni più belli*, his latest movie, to Minnesota.

**CAST** Pierfrancesco Favino, Micaela Ramazzotti, Kim Rossi Stuart, Claudio Santamaria, Francesco Centorame, Andrea Pittorino, Matteo Del Buono, Alma Noce, Nicoletta Romanoff, Emma Marrone, Gennaro Apicella, Paola Sotgiu, Elisa Visari, Ilan Muccino, Titti Nuzzolese, Massimiliano Cardia

**SPONSORS** Vito Bongiorno, Catherine Allan





## COSA SARÀ

### COMEDY DRAMA

2020, 101 MIN.  
MINNESOTA PREMIERE

Bruno is a middle-aged film director who finds himself at a point of reckoning. His films largely flop, his marriage recently failed, and his two adoring children are unable to rely on him. When Bruno finds out he has myelodysplastic syndrome (a disease similar to leukemia), he trusts a capable and charismatic doctor to shepherd him through harrowing circumstances.

After a few failures to find a suitable bone marrow donor, Bruno starts to seriously fear for his future. When his father, Umberto, discloses a family secret, Bruno finally discovers that the future still holds hope. Bruno and his family embark on a journey to healing—both physically and emotionally—which leads to transformations in their relationships and teaches the previously self-centered Bruno a different meaning of love. *Cosa Sarà* (*Everything's Gonna Be Alright*) is a delicate, touching, funny, uplifting film filled with the best brand of Italian sentiment.

**DIRECTOR** Francesco Bruni (Rome, 1961) is one of Italy's most acclaimed screenwriters and the recipient of some of the country's most important film awards. His screenwriting career started in 1991 with the film *Condominio*. In 1994, *La bella vita* marked the beginning of a long collaboration with award-winning director Paolo Virzì. In 2011, Bruni made his directorial debut with the film *Easy!*, which garnered him the David di Donatello Award for Best New Director as well as the Silver Ribbon in the same category. In 2017, his third feature film, *Tutto quello che vuoi*, won the Silver Ribbon for best screenplay and screened at IFF in 2018. Bruni teaches screenwriting at the Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia/Scuola Nazionale di Cinema in Rome.

**CAST** Kim Rossi Stuart, Lorenza Indovina, Barbara Ronchi, Giuseppe Pambieri, Raffaella Leboroni, Fotini Peluso, Tancredi Galli, Nicolas Nocella, Elettra Mallaby, Stefano Rossi Giordani, Ninni Bruschetta

**SPONSORS** Nancy and Gary Schaefer | Minnesota Oncology

### ALL WEEK



## DAL PROFONDO

### DOCUMENTARY

2013, 72 MIN.  
U.S. PREMIERE

Miles of tunnels. Darkness all around. A long night without end, without season, without time: this is the Nuraxi Figus mine in Sardinia. A grueling labor that is both pride and curse. Men covered in soot and ready to go on strike to avert the imminent closing of their mine. A woman, Patrizia, the only female in this universe of men, guides the spectator into the lives and souls of her 150 male co-workers and begins a conversation with her dead father, a coal miner himself who died years prior of silicosis.

*Dal Profondo* (*From the Depths*)—entirely shot 500 meters below sea level by a crew of 4, in 26 days after 2 long years of pre production—is a voice from the depths, a prayer dedicated to the dead and demanding to be heard by the living: "De profundis, clamavi ad te, O Domine (*From the depths I have cried out to you, oh Lord*)."

Note: the mine eventually closed in 2019.

**DIRECTOR** Valentina Pedicini (Brindisi, 1978—Roma, 2020) graduated in 2010 from the ZeLIG International School of Documentary. Her documentary, *Dal Profondo*, won Best Script at Premio Solinas 2013. *Dal Profondo* also won Best Italian Documentary at Festa del Cinema di Roma, was nominated for Nastro D'Argento and David di Donatello Awards and won Best Cinematography and Best Directing at Al Jazeera IFF in 2014. Valentina's first fiction feature, *Dove Cadono Le Ombre* (*Where The Shadows Fall*), premiered at the 2017 Venice Film Festival, *Giornate degli Autori*. Her 2019 documentary *Faith* premiered at the Berlin Film Festival and won top prizes at Docs Barcelona and Docville in Belgium. Tragically, Valentina died prematurely in 2020, at age 42. Her death is considered by critics and film professionals alike a huge loss for Italian cinema. IFF is proud to homage Valentina's work this year, and give Minnesotans a chance to discover her art.

### ALL WEEK



## FAITH

### DOCUMENTARY

ALL WEEK

2019, 93 MIN.  
MINNESOTA PREMIERE

A monastery nestled in the remote hills of the Italian region of Marche is home to the closed community Warriors of Light. Twenty-two shaved “warrior monks” and “guardian mothers” (including two children born within the community) have dedicated themselves to the mastery of Kung Fu under the guidance of an inflexible and exacting Master. Utterly devoted to their faith—an unlikely mélange of Catholic and Buddhist theologies—they relentlessly practice daily routines concentrated on pushing both mind and body to the extreme while readying themselves for the fight to come.

As a result of director Valentina Pedicini’s uncanny ability to gain this community’s trust (the film crew lived for four months with the community, shooting for 16 to 17 hours per day), the viewer is transported into a black-and-white world of cult-like, blind devotion.

**DIRECTOR** Valentina Pedicini (Brindisi, 1978—Roma, 2020) graduated in 2010 from the ZeLIG International School of Documentary. Her documentary, *Dal Profondo*, won Best Script at Premio Solinas 2013. *Dal Profondo* also won Best Italian Documentary at Festa del Cinema di Roma, was nominated for Nastro D'Argento and David di Donatello Awards and won Best Cinematography and Best Directing at Al Jazeera IFF in 2014. Valentina’s first fiction feature, *Dove Cadono Le Ombre (Where The Shadows Fall)*, premiered at the 2017 Venice Film Festival, *Giornate degli Autori*. Her 2019 documentary *Faith* premiered at the Berlin Film Festival and won top prizes at Docs Barcelona and Docville in Belgium. Tragically, Valentina died prematurely in 2020, at age 42. Her death is considered by critics and film professionals alike a huge loss for Italian cinema. IFF is proud to homage Valentina’s work this year, and give Minnesotans a chance to discover her art.

**SPONSORS** Lisa Venticinque Photography



## IL GRANDE PASSO

### COMEDY

ALL WEEK

2019, 96 MIN.  
MINNESOTA PREMIERE

One summer night in 1969, Dario Cavalieri was mesmerized by images he saw of the first moon landing. Since that life-defining moment, he has dedicated his life to the improbable dream of going to the moon. Meanwhile, his half-brother Mario manages a sleepy hardware store in Rome. His unremarkable life is suddenly upended when he learns that Dario is in prison. With Dario’s mother long deceased and his father inconveniently indisposed, there is no one left to care for the brother Mario has seen but once in his life. Mario is soon pulled north to the beautiful region of Veneto.

An homage to the wonders of American science-fiction films, Northern Italian landscapes, and the unique poetry of Italian cinema, *Il Grande Passo (The Big Step)* is led by two wonderful actors, Giuseppe Battiston and Stefano Fresi, and celebrates dreamers in an unforgettable way. Battiston and Fresi both received the Best Actor award at the 2020 Torino Film Festival where the film premiered.

**DIRECTOR** Antonio Padovan is an Italian film director, producer, screenwriter, and video artist. He was born in 1987 and grew up in the northern town of Conegliano within the Veneto region. He now lives in New York City and is the co-founder of the Greenwich Village Film Festival. After brief stints in architecture and interior design in the U.S., he signed up for a course in film directing at the New York Film Academy. His first feature was *The Last Prosecco* (2017) starring Giuseppe Battiston, Best Actor at the Nastro d'Argento. The film was also awarded the Italian Golden Globe (2018) for Best First Feature and Best Screenplay. *Il Grande Passo* (2019) is Padovan’s second feature.

**CAST** Giuseppe Battiston, Stefano Fresi, Roberto Citran, Camilla Filippi, Vitaliano Trevisan, Teco Celio, Teresa De Santis, Ludovica Modugno, Flavio Bucci





## DOCUMENTARY

2020, 80 MIN.  
U.S. PREMIERE

A haunting stream-of-consciousness, autobiographical story set in present-day Rome during the pandemic, this film chronicles the struggle of Elisa Fuksas—protagonist, screenwriter, and director. In the midst of the lockdown, against the backdrop of the Italian capital in a state of suspended animation, the protagonist simultaneously faces a recent diagnosis of cancer and forcible separation from friends and family. At the same time, she virtually reconnects with her dearest friend who has also fallen ill. What follows is a succession of unforeseeable events in a surreal and quarantined world. Notably, the film is shot entirely on Elisa's cell phone. An investigation into the power of storytelling, *iSola* defeats the fear of living and dying through the mystery of friendship and faith. The film premiered at the 2020 Venice International Film Festival, *Giornate degli Autori*, and IFF is honored to host its U.S. premiere.

**DIRECTOR** Elisa Fuksas (Rome, 1981) is a director and writer. Her most notable documentaries include *L'Italia del nostro scontento*, *FFR: for future reference*, *Black Mirror, A journey with Mat Collishaw*, and *ALBE*, a sci-fi documentary. In 2012, she directed her first feature film *Nina*, which won the Special Mention award at the 2013 Bari International Film Festival. In 2019, she directed *The App* for Netflix. As a novelist, she published *La figlia di; Michele, Anna e la termodinamica*; and *Ama e fai quello che vuoi*.

**CAST** Elisa Fuksas, Alessia Correani, Michele Gallucci, Lavinia Fuksas

**SPONSORS** Minnesota Oncology

## ALL WEEK

## COMEDY

2020, 105 MIN.  
MINNESOTA PREMIERE

Some sacred rules for the perfect vacation: never leave without your rubber dinghy, never leave your beloved family dog behind, and—most importantly—never mistakenly book a summerhouse with complete strangers. Things could get ugly. Hilarity might ensue!

Aldo, Giovanni, and Giacomo are each leaving home for the summer holiday. They don't know each other, and their lives and families could not be more different. One is fussy and meticulous with a business falling into ruin, another is a successful doctor struggling with a memorably unhinged teenager, and the third a deadbeat hypochondriac unhealthily enmeshed with his dog, Brian. The resulting clash is inevitable, out-of-this-world funny, and extremely picturesque.

Italy's beloved, powerhouse comedic trio of Aldo, Giovanni, Giacomo reunites yet again to bewitch us with a tale of friendship and feelings—in a manner only this team can deliver. Enjoy their particular brew steeped to perfection over three decades of cinematic commingling.

**DIRECTOR** Massimo Venier (Varese, 1967) is a renowned film director and screenwriter. In 1996, he and the comedic triple act of Aldo, Giovanni, and Giacomo met for the first time. Their works include *Tre uomini e una gamba* (1997), *Chiedimi se sono felice* (2000), and *Tu la conosci Claudia?* (2004). Venier's subsequent solo career includes *Mi fido di te* (2007), *Generazione mille euro* (2009, IFF 2011), *Il giorno in più* (2011), and *Aspirante vedovo* (2013). *Odio l'estate (I Hate Summer)* has proven itself a worthy and popular addition to his ever-evolving body of work.

**CAST** Aldo Baglio, Giovanni Storti, Giacomo Poretti, Lucia Mascino, Carlotta Natoli, Maria Di Biase, Roberto Citran, Massimo Ranieri, Michele Placido, Carlo De Ruggieri, Francesco Brandi, Sabrina Martina, Davide Calgaro, Edoardo Vaino, Ilary, Melissa Marzo

**SPONSORS** Kristine Aasheim, Joe and Genie Dixon, David J. Estreen and Karen A. Neset



## SPACCAPIETRE

### DRAMA

ALL WEEK

2020, 104 MIN.  
U.S. PREMIERE

Under the blazing sun of Southern Italy, farmhand Angela works the fields where she is exploited with impunity. Her sudden and unexplained death—perhaps the result of exceedingly harsh working conditions—forces her husband Giuseppe, a former stonemason laid off after a work-related injury, and their young son Antò to leave their home in search of work. They find themselves in a tent city of untethered workers—many of them immigrants—reminiscent of a labor camp. The titular “promise” is the pledge that Giuseppe makes to Antò: someday he will have his mother back.

A modern-day paragon of (neo)realism, *Spaccapietre (Una Promessa)* denounces societal and human failures by laying them bare before the audience, inescapable to all but the child in this story—a beacon of hope in an otherwise desperate and unredeemed world that Italy too often chooses to forget. The film premiered at the 2020 Venice International Film Festival *Giornate degli Autori*, and IFF is honored to host its U.S. premiere.

**DIRECTOR** Gianluca and Massimiliano De Serio are twins born in Torino in 1978. They have been working together since 1999 and are considered among the most up-and-coming new talents of Italian cinema. In August 2011, *Seven Works of Mercy*, their first feature film, won the Youth Jury Prize and the Don Quixote Prize at the international Locarno Film Festival competition. The film then went on to participate in 80 festivals and win 27 awards. In 2015, they directed the documentary *River Memories*, which premiered at the 2015 Venice International Film Festival and was screened at more than 25 festivals.

**CAST** Salvatore Esposito, Samuele Carrino, Lica Lanera, Vito Signorile, Antonella Carone, Giuseppe Loconsole, Mamadou Toure

**SPONSORS** Jennine S., Americo and Janice Del Calzo



## AGALMA

### DOCUMENTARY

ALL WEEK

2020, 54 MIN.  
U.S. PREMIERE

In the deceptive stillness of the great Bourbon-era National Archaeological Museum in Naples, a frenetic buzz of activity breathes new life into statues, frescoes, mosaics, and exhibits of various eras. The film lovingly depicts the daily lives of the staff who devote themselves to countless minute tasks that invigorate ancient works—all requiring inordinate skill and dedication. *Agalma* (from the Greek word for “statue” or “image”) captures the timeless beauty of the museum as evidenced not only by its breathtaking display of antiquities but by the intimate and intangible web of relationships that unfold within it. This magical film reveals the secrets and wonders of Greco-Roman antiquities, the continually renewed kinship of the contemporary visitor, and the passionate care from those who quietly animate the motionless remnants of an ancient past. *Agalma* was produced by Antonella Di Nocera, Director of Cultural Affairs for the City Council of Naples from 2011 to 2013, and Lorenzo Cioffi.

**DIRECTOR** Doriana Monaco (Benevento, 1989) studied archaeology and art history at the University of Naples Federico II. In 2014, she assistant directed the Edoardo De Angelis film *Perez* (IFF, 2016). She directed her first two short films, *Anatomia di un pensiero triste* and *Laziest Girl in Town*, in 2015. In 2016, she joined the *FILMaP—Atelier del cinema del reale* in Ponticelli led by Leonardo Di Costanzo. During that time, she wrote and directed the documentary *Cronopios*, which was selected for the Corso Salani Award at the 2017 Trieste Film Festival.





## LACCI

## DRAMA

## ALL WEEK

2020, 100 MIN.  
MINNESOTA PREMIERE

Naples—early 1980s. Aldo and Vanda undergo a contentious separation upon the disclosure of psycho-sexual infidelity. The fallout weighs heavily on their two young children. Conflicted in their allegiances, the children are caught in a whirlwind of resentment and left confused by a series of questionable parenting choices. Ultimately, however, the titular ties that keep people together are inescapable even without the persistence of love.

*Lacci* (*The Ties*) is a film about the secret forces that bind us. Love is not the sole force able to unite people; there also exists what remains when love is absent. *Lacci* speaks not only to the havoc wrought when love makes us suddenly change course but also to the unforeseeable damage inflicted when it leaves. With the backdrop of two of the most beautiful cities in Italy, a tight screenplay, flawless editing, an outrageously talented cast, and exceptional directing make *Lacci* unafraid to reveal the dark side of an Italian family.

**DIRECTOR** Daniele Luchetti (Rome, 1960) is one of Italy's most esteemed directors and screenwriters. He studied literature and art history and attended the highly regarded Gaumont Film School. His feature debut was the heralded *Domani accadrà* (1988), which won the David di Donatello Award for Best First Film. Many acclaimed works followed. In 2007, he directed *Mio fratello è figlio unico*, which was selected for the *Cannes sidebar Un Certain Regard*. In 2010, his *La nostra vita* won the coveted David di Donatello Award for Best Director. Most recently, the prolific director has given audiences *Io sono Tempesta* (2018) and *Momenti di trascurabile felicità* (2019). *Lacci* opened out of competition at the 2020 Venice International Film Festival.

**CAST** Alba Rohrwacher, Luigi Lo Cascio, Laura Morante, Silvio Orlando, Giovanna Mezzogiorno, Adriano Giannini, Linda Caridi

**SPONSORS** Drs. Ron and Cynthia Curran



## RISATE DI GIOIA

## COMEDY

## ALL WEEK

1960, 106 MIN.  
MINNESOTA PREMIERE – 4K RESTORATION

New Year's Eve in Roma. Everyone hurries to leave work and finalize plans for the evening. Serendipitously, three unlikely companions end up spending the night together, jumping from one party to another and scouring the streets of the Eternal City with very different goals in mind. Tortorella (Anna Magnani), an extra at Cinecittà who dreams of being a star, hopes to partake in some high-class festivity; Lello (Ben Gazzara), a professional thief, is looking for opportunities to steal amidst crowded parties; and Infortunio (Totò), a harmless and old-fashioned con man, is caught between being Lello's accomplice and entertaining Tortorella. As their personal ambitions and dramas collide, their deeper humanity gradually comes to the surface.

Ten years after his death, IFF celebrates Italy's maestro of Commedia all'italiana: Mario Monicelli. Anna Magnani, a muse for directors Pasolini, Rossellini, and Visconti just to name a few, is one of the greatest acting geniuses of Italian cinema and the first Italian to win the Academy Award for Best Actress. Antonio de Curtis, best known by his stage name Totò, is commonly referred to as one of the most popular Italian performers of all time.

**DIRECTOR** Mario Monicelli (Rome, 1915–Rome, 2010) was a master during the golden years of Italian cinema. Throughout his long and prolific career, he collaborated with some of the most talented actors and writers Italy had to offer. Especially memorable were his *commedie all'italiana*, including *I soliti ignoti* (1958), *La grande guerra* (1959), *Larmata Brancaleone* (1966), and *Amici miei* (1975)—which were celebrated as instant classics both nationally and abroad. Among Monicelli's numerous Oscar nominations and awards was a lifetime achievement award at the 1991 Venice International Film Festival.

**CAST** Anna Magnani, Totò, Ben Gazzara, Fred Clark, Edy Vessel, Gina Rovere, Toni Ucci, Mac Ronay, Carlo Pisacane

**SPONSORS** Memo Izzi and Dianne Marti, Joan and Rick Naymark, Joe Pingatore and Karen Sauro, Kathy Moe and Jonathan Watson

# VIAGGIO NEL CINEMA. A VIRTUAL TALK SERIES ON ITALIAN FILM HISTORY

In anticipation of the upcoming annual Italian Film Festival of Minneapolis / St. Paul, scholar Federico Pacchioni Ph.D. will deliver a series of virtual introductory talks on Italian cinema's defining trends and genres.

## **VIAGGIO NEL CINEMA I: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ITALIAN SILVER SCREEN**

What distinguishes Italian cinema from other national cinemas? What are its unique artistic and cultural characteristics? What are the key movements in its evolution? Join Dr. Federico Pacchioni for the first installment of *Viaggio nel Cinema*, a series of virtual talks designed to offer a broader historical context around the films and conversations of this year's Italian Film Festival of Minneapolis / St. Paul. This first introductory talk will provide an overview of defining moments in the history of Italian cinema from its origin to today, intersecting a variety of industrial, political, and artistic trends.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 6:00–6:40 PM**

**REGISTRATION:** <https://www.theitalianculturalcenter.org/event-4150720>

## **VIAGGIO NEL CINEMA II: POPULAR ITALIAN FILM GENRES, THE CASE OF TRAGICOMEDY**

The second installment of Dr. Pacchioni's virtual talks series continues to interrogate the nature of Italy's national cinema, this time by focusing on the genres that have captured Italian audiences more than others while drawing much interest abroad: the spaghetti western, the giallo, the horror film, and the commedia all'italiana. Particular attention will be given to commedia all'italiana, which consists of a unique form of tragicomedy with deep cultural and theatrical roots, a genre that continues to be extremely vital and popular today. While profiling actors, directors, and films that have shaped this genre, the presentation will clarify how Italian comedy has evolved during the decades and the reasons behind its continued success in Italy.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 6:00-6:40 PM**

**REGISTRATION:** <https://www.theitalianculturalcenter.org/event-4150720>

## **VIAGGIO NEL CINEMA III: ARTHOUSE FILM BETWEEN FANTASY AND REALISM**

Concluding Dr. Pacchioni's virtual series *Viaggio nel Cinema*, this third talk will focus on the most internationally renowned area of Italian filmic production: auteur art cinema. In addition to outlining the profiles of influential classical directors such as Federico Fellini, Luchino Visconti, Pier Paolo Pasolini, and Michelangelo Antonioni, the presentation will provide an explanation of Italian art cinema's double nature—at once poetic and realistic. Finally, Dr. Pacchioni will address how this innovative cinematic legacy continues to find powerful expression in the work of new generations of Italian filmmakers.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 5:00-5:40 PM**

**REGISTRATION:** <https://www.theitalianculturalcenter.org/event-4150720>



Dr. Federico Pacchioni is a scholar, writer, and educator. He has taught courses on Italian society, literature, and cinema at several higher-education institutions, including Indiana University Bloomington, University of Connecticut, Middlebury College, and Chapman University. Dr. Pacchioni currently lives in Orange, California and lectures widely on Italian cultural history and film. He is the author of more than fifty publications, among which are groundbreaking volumes such as *Inspiring Fellini: Literary Collaborations behind the Scenes* (University of Toronto Press, 2014); *The Image of the Puppet: Essays on Theater, Film and Literature* (Metauro Edizioni, 2020); and coauthor of the newest edition of Peter Bondanella's *A History of Italian Cinema* (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2017), a mainstay for courses on Italian cinema in the English-speaking world.

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# TOMMASO CAMMARANO ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Tommaso studied screenwriting at Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia in Rome and earned a Master's in Film at Columbia University. His 2003 short film, *The Time We Lost*, premiered at The Venice International Film Festival. In 2010, the feature screenplay he co-wrote with Roberto Scarpetti, *Braccia Tese (Arms Outstretched)*, received a Special Mention at Italy's Premio Solinas. In 2013, he served as one of the head writers on Season 8 of *Un Medico in Famiglia (A Doctor in the Family)*, one of Italy's most renowned and longest-running TV series. He co-produced the award-winning short film *The Bravest, The Boldest*, which premiered at Sundance in 2014. He also co-produced the documentary *House in the Fields*, which premiered at the 2017 Berlin Film Festival and screened at The Walker Art Center. In Spring 2014, Tommaso came to Minneapolis, fell in love with it, and has since made it his home. He has started a new career in health care...with film on the side.

Tommaso would like to personally thank The Italian Cultural Center of Minneapolis / St. Paul and Sandra Gengler, its President, IFF's Film Selection Advisory Committee, and Gaia Furrer, Artistic Director of Giornate degli Autori, Venice International Film Festival.



# UN RINGRAZIAMENTO SPECIALE A...

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