

PRESENTED BY:  Italian Cultural Center  
MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL

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**FILM**  
**FESTIVAL**  **13**<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY

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MINNEAPOLIS | SAINT PAUL

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FEBRUARY 24 – MARCH 6, 2022

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

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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:  **FILM**  
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Benvenuti!

Welcome to the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the Italian Film Festival of Minneapolis/St. Paul! It is a great honor to welcome you to IFF 2022, which will be held in hybrid format, both in the theater and online.



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 the ever-changing stories of Italy through the lens of talented Italian directors.

This year's festival will be hosted for the first time by the Landmark Center in St. Paul. Inside its beautiful theater and following all COVID-19 safety precautions, you will be able to enjoy four captivating films, one each night. Other films can be seen online and will be available through March 6, 2022. Our curated lineup of recently released films and documentaries, many of them new to Minnesota or the United States, will offer a glimpse of the fascinating lives and places across the Italian peninsula. You will follow five sisters over the span of 70 years whose world is turned upside down by a sudden catastrophe; a writer who learns to listen to his family, and in the process finds out who he truly is; a small group of prisoners and their guards whose circumstances force them into coexistence and finally reconciliation; a young couple whose love story begins with their breakup and evolves into friendship. These stories and many others will shine a light into today's Italy.

In a nod to Italian cinema history, IFF will screen Pier Paolo Pasolini's *Comizi d'amore*, a 1964 documentary that offers a humorous look at the sexual mores and taboos in early 1960s Italy. The film honors the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of this influential director, poet, and writer. IFF is also proud to pay tribute to Monica Vitti, an icon of Italian cinema for generations, who passed away this year, with the screening of *L'avventura* by Michelangelo Antonioni. In gratitude, I wish to acknowledge everyone who made this event possible. Our festival is supported by the Consulate General of Italy and the Italian Cultural Institute in Chicago. It is made possible by the generous contributions of 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, *ringrazio voi tutti*, for joining us in celebrating Italian cinema and culture.

I hope you find this year's films inspiring and entertaining. Buona visione!

Sandra Gengler  
President, Board of Directors  
The Italian Cultural Center of Minneapolis/St. Paul

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24 – IN PERSON

7:00 PM IL SILENZIO GRANDE (THE GREAT SILENCE)  
Alessandro Gassmann  
Drama/Comedy, 2021, 107 min.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25 – IN PERSON - WORLD PREMIERE

7:00 PM I MISTERI (MYSTERIES)  
Daniele Greco and Mauro Maugeri  
Documentary, 2022, 71 min.

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26 – IN PERSON

7:00 PM QUI RIDO IO (THE KING OF LAUGHTER)  
Mario Martone  
Drama, 2021, 132 min.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27 – IN PERSON

3:00 PM L'AVVENTURA  
Michelangelo Antonioni  
Drama, 1960, 143 min.

6:30 PM LE SORELLE MACALUSO (THE MACALUSO SISTERS)  
Emma Dante  
Drama, 2020, 89 min.

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28 TO SUNDAY, MARCH 6

ALL DAY UNA RELAZIONE (WITH OR WITHOUT YOU)  
Stefano Sardo  
Comedy/Drama, 2021, 110 min.

ALL DAY ARIAFERMA (THE INNER CAGE)  
Leonardo Di Costanzo  
Drama, 2021, 117 min.

ALL DAY I NOSTRI FANTASMI (OUR GHOSTS)  
Alessandro Capitani  
Drama/Comedy, 2021, 90 min.

ALL DAY IO SONO BABBO NATALE (I AM SANTA CLAUS)  
Edoardo Falcone  
Comedy, 2021, 98 min.

ALL DAY COMIZI D'AMORE (LOVE MEETINGS)  
Pier Paolo Pasolini  
Documentary, 1964, 92 min.

ALL DAY IL SILENZIO GRANDE (THE GREAT SILENCE)  
Alessandro Gassmann  
Drama/Comedy, 2021, 107 min.

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

ALL DAY I MISTERI (MYSTERIES)  
Daniele Greco and Mauro Maugeri  
Documentary, 2022, 71 min.

ALL DAY QUI RIDO IO (THE KING OF LAUGHTER)  
Mario Martone  
Drama, 2021, 132 min.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

3:00 PM VIRTUAL PRESENTATION.  
PASOLINI'S "CINEMA OF POETRY": WHY IS PASOLINI STILL RELEVANT?  
With Prof. Francesca Cadel

## SUNDAY, MARCH 6

12:00 PM LIVE VIRTUAL Q&A WITH DIRECTORS DANIELE GRECO & MAURO MAUGERI, I MISTERI (MYSTERIES)  
Free, 40 min.

3:00 PM LIVE VIRTUAL Q&A WITH PROF. FRANCESCA CADEL,  
COMIZI D'AMORE (LOVE MEETINGS)  
Free, 40 min.

# TICKETS

This year's HYBRID film festival offers the option to watch films on the big screen in the theater at the beautiful and historic St. Paul Landmark Center (February 24–27, 2022) as well as online (February 28 – March 6, 2022).

For everyone's safety, in-person screenings are offered at reduced capacity (180 seats instead of 230). Please remember to bring proof of vaccination or a negative test performed within 72 hours of the screening; at-home tests will not be accepted. Masks will be required at all times.

Access to online films is geo-restricted to viewers in Minnesota, and a MN billing address is required to purchase a ticket.

## **OPENING MOVIE**

**(AVAILABLE IN THEATER ON FEB 24 & ONLINE FEB 28 – MARCH 6)**

\$ 18.00 General Admission

\$ 15.00 ICC and Film Society members, students

## **SINGLE MOVIES**

**(AVAILABLE IN THEATER FEB 24–27 & ONLINE FEB 28 – MARCH 6)**

\$ 12.00 General Admission

\$ 10.00 ICC and Film Society members, students

## **ALL-ACCESS FESTIVAL PASSES**

**(INCLUDES ALL FILMS, IN THEATER & ONLINE)**

\$ 80.00 General Admission

\$ 65.00 ICC and Film Society members, students

# THE ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTER

## ABOUT

Founded in 2006, 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 Traffic Zone Building in the vibrant North Loop neighborhood of 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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Italian Cultural Center

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL



## Learn Italian and *much* more.

### ITALIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN

100% of our instructors are educated in Italy, bringing firsthand experience and cultural background of Italian life and current traditions to the classroom.

*Additional offerings:*

CULTURAL PROGRAMS  
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and much more.

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

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# IL SILENZIO GRANDE (THE GREAT SILENCE)

**DRAMEDY**

2021, 107 MIN.  
MIDWEST PREMIERE

**IN PERSON FEBRUARY 24  
& ONLINE**

Set in the mid-Sixties in an old mansion in Posillipo—a wealthy neighborhood overlooking the Gulf of Naples – the film introduces us to the highly educated and celebrated writer Valerio Primic (Massimiliano Gallo), his wife Rose (Margherita Buy), their adult children Massimiliano and Adele, and their trusted housekeeper, Bettina. A story marked by conflict, misunderstandings, light and shadow, silence and loudness. A family as exceptional as it is dysfunctional, which everyone talks but no one truly listens. Once luxurious, the Primic mansion is in need of costly repairs, and Rose has no choice but to sell it – a painful decision that the children have both only reluctantly agreed to. Valerio feels alone in his protest, and begins to realize he does not truly know his own family, nor himself. His journey of self-discovery will bring him to a surprising truth. As the story reaches its poignant conclusion, the oddities finally make sense and the audience's point of view will be upended. *Il Silenzio Grande* premiered at the 2021 Venice International Film Festival, *Giornate degli Autori*.

**DIRECTOR** Alessandro Gassmann (Rome, 1965) is the son of famed Italian actor Vittorio Gassman. Alessandro began acting at a young age and has appeared in many films and television dramas. In 1982, he directed with his father *Di Padre in Figlio* (*From Father to Son*), a largely autobiographical movie about the Gassman family. In 2008, he acted in the film *Caos calmo* (*Quiet Chaos*) for which he received the David di Donatello Award for best supporting actor, the Ciak d'oro, the Nastro d'Argento, and the Italian Golden Globe. In 2013, he directed and acted in the film *Razzabastarda* (*The Mongrel*), for which he won the Globo d'Oro (the Italian Golden Globe) for best actor. Gassmann first directed *Il Silenzio Grande* as a theater production, whose success inspired him to remake it into a film.

**CAST** Massimiliano Gallo, Margherita Buy, Marina Confalone, Antonia Fotaras, Emanuele Linfatti, Roberto De Francesco

**SPONSOR** Antonio and Giada Nucera





# I MISTERI (MYSTERIES)

## DOCUMENTARY

2022, 71 MIN.  
WORLD PREMIERE

IN PERSON FEBRUARY 25  
& ONLINE

Four popular Sicilian feasts tell about ancient traditions and rites—ones often either not well known or considered “dangerous.” In the cycle of seasons, the communities of either fishermen or farmers spend several months to prepare for these events, and find in them full expression of their collective identity. The territory’s ancestry is identified with a specific natural element, richly representative of that place. The film is a culmination of the Sicily Folk Doc, a project of a documentary series devoted to Sicilian feasts. Its protagonist is the community that spends months diligently preparing for these events, finding in them their true identity. Associazione Culturale Scarti (the organizer of the International Short Film Festival Magma, or Mostra di cinema breve) promotes the project. IFF is honored to host its WORLD PREMIERE.

**DIRECTOR** Daniele Greco is a freelance video-maker and photo-journalist. He has experimented with various audiovisual genres and is passionate about documentaries. Greco also makes corporate videos, leads television and film vocational training, and has worked as an accredited freelance journalist. As a photographer, he explores the link between urban aesthetics and their populations. He actively collaborates with several photographic entities, such as AGF, Grazia Neri, and Margophoto. His photos have been published in important Italian magazines such as *l'Espresso*, *Tempi*, and *La Stampa*. He oversees the external communications of the International Short Film Festival (aka *Magma*).

Mauro Maueri (Catania, 1981) graduated in 2003 from the Department of Television and Film Script-writing, Roma 3 University, Italy, later earning an Educational Science degree from there in Literature and Youth Publishing. He has also worked as a cameraman and film editor for RAI, Mediaset, and local television public procurements. Maueri writes, directs, and edits all of his short films. He promotes Magma via the Scarti Cultural Association. Since 2006, he has led audiovisual seminars for students in schools and training organizations. Recently, he has collaborated with Rai, Mediaset, Sky, and the Fondazione con il Sud. He is responsible for the cultural activities of the Territorial Committee of Arci Catania and is a member of the National Board of UCCA (Unione Circoli Cinematografici dell'Arci). Mauro Maueri's short film *Acquasanta* won the 2020 Building Bridges Awards at The Italian Film Festival of Minneapolis/St. Paul.

**SPONSOR** Amanda Taylor

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24 – SUNDAY, MARCH 6



# QUI RIDO IO (THE KING OF LAUGHTER)

**DRAMA**

2021, 132 MIN.  
U.S. PREMIERE

**IN PERSON FEBRUARY 26  
& ONLINE**

In Naples during the Belle Époque of the early 1900s, theaters and cinemas are on the rise. The great comedian Eduardo Scarpetta (Toni Servillo) rules the box office. Success made him a very rich man: From his humble origins, he established himself with his comedies and the mask and character of Felice Sciosciammocca, who replaced Pulcinella in the hearts of the Neapolitan audiences. His life is the theater, which involves his friends, wives and lovers, as well as their legitimate and illegitimate children, including Titina, Eduardo, and Peppino De Filippo. At the height of his success, Scarpetta makes a dangerous gamble: He decides to parody “The Daughter of Iorio,” a tragedy by the greatest Italian poet of the time, Gabriele D’Annunzio. However, the premiere is interrupted by screams, whistles, and insults from the poets and playwrights of the new generation, and Scarpetta ends up being sued by D’Annunzio. And so the first historic copyright lawsuit in Italy begins. The trial drags on for years, exhausting Scarpetta and his whole family, and threatening the delicate balance that has heretofore held them together. Everything in Scarpetta’s life is on the verge of falling apart, but the great actor somehow manages to outfox a fate bent on destroying him, and wins in the end. *Qui rido io* premiered at the Venice International Film Festival, and IFF will be hosting its U.S. premiere.

**DIRECTOR** Mario Martone directs theater, cinema, and opera. He created the Falso Movimento theatrical company in the 1980s and then cofounded the Teatri Uniti company with Toni Servillo, through which he made his first independent films. He later became the director of Rome and Turin’s theaters. He has made two films set in the 19th century to great success, staged operas in the world’s greatest theaters, and cross-bred artistic languages and experiment relentlessly. In 1999, Martone created the Teatro India in Rome. In 2018, the Museo Madre in Naples dedicated a large exhibition to him. During the pandemic, he adapted the operas “Barber of Seville” and “La Traviata” for TV. He recently returned to the live stage with Goliarda Sapienza’s “Filo di Mezzogiorno.”

**CAST** Toni Servillo, Maria Nazionale, Cristiana Dell’Anna, Antonia Truppo, Eduardo Scarpetta, Roberto De Francesco, Lino Musella, Paolo Pierobon, Giovanni Mauriello, Chiara Baffi, Roberto Caccioppoli, Lucrezia Guidone, Elena Ghiaurov, Gigio Morra, Gianfelice Imparato, Iaia Forte



# LE SORELLE MACALUSO (THE MACALUSO SISTERS)

## DRAMA

2020, 89 MIN.  
MINNESOTA PREMIERE

ONLY IN PERSON  
FEBRUARY 27

In 1985, the Macaluso sisters (Maria, Pinuccia, Lia, Katia, and Antonella) are young orphans who live in and work from a lively rooftop apartment in Palermo, Sicily. They eke out a living by loaning out doves for various ceremonies. After each gig, the doves fly home. One hot summer day, the girls skip work and go to the beach. After an enchanting day of reverie and “close encounters” with secret lovers, a shocking catastrophe occurs. That single event will change the relationships between the sisters forever. *The Macaluso Sisters* is a film about the metamorphosis of both bodies and objects, over a 70-year span. It’s about time, memories, and longevity. It’s about people who remain even after death. It’s about the incredible achievement of reaching old age.

The film won the 2021 Globo d’Oro — the Italian Golden Globes — for Best Film and Best Actresses (Donatella Finocchiaro, Simona Malato).

**DIRECTOR** Emma Dante (Palermo, 1967), also a renowned director of avant-garde theater and opera, explores the subject of family and marginalization through the lens of tension, madness and humor. She pursued her career after graduating from the National Academy of Dramatic Art Silvio D’Amico. In 1999, she created the Palermo theater company Sud Costa Occidentale, where she won the 2001 Scenario Prize for mPalermu and the 2002 Ubu Prize as an emerging Italian artist. In 1999, she opened the theatrical season at Milan’s La Scala by directing Bizet’s “Carmen.” In 2013, Dante’s first feature, *Via Castellana Bandiera (A Street in Palermo)*, earned a Best Actress Award at the 70th Venice Film Festival. Since 2014, *Le Sorelle Macaluso* has won the Le Maschere Award for Best Play of the Year, the Critics Award and the Ubu Award, for Best Direction and Best Play. In 2014, she became the director of both the Biondo Theatre and the School of Arts and Entertainment of Palermo.

**CAST** Alissa Maria Orlando, Susanna Piraino, Anita Pomario, Eleonora De Luca, Viola Pusatieri, Donatella Finocchiaro, Serena Barone, Simona Malato, Laura Giordani, Maria Rosaria Alati, Rosalba Bologna, Ileana Rigano

**SPONSOR** Krisine and Tor Aasheim, Denise and Giacomo D’Aurora, Nancy and Gary Schaefer



# L'AVVENTURA

## DRAMA

1960, 143 MIN.  
MIDWEST PREMIERE – 4K RESTORATION

ONLY IN PERSON  
FEBRUARY 27

Monica Vitti, an icon of Italian cinema for generations, passed away on February 2, 2022, at the age of 90. IFF is proud to pay tribute to this incredibly talented actress with the screening of *L'Avventura* by Michelangelo Antonioni, the film that made Vitti a star. An iconic piece of challenging 1960s cinema and a gripping narrative on its own terms, *L'Avventura* concerns the enigmatic disappearance of a young woman during a yachting trip off the coast of Sicily, and the search taken up by her disaffected lover (Gabriele Ferzetti) and best friend (Monica Vitti, in her breakout role). Antonioni's controversial international sensation is a gorgeously shot tale of modern ennui and spiritual isolation. *L'Avventura* won the Special Jury Prize in Cannes in 1960 "for the beauty of its images, and for seeking to create a new film language."

**DIRECTOR** Michelangelo Antonioni (1912–2007) was an Italian film director, screen writer, editor, and painter. He is best known for his "trilogy on modernity and its discontents"—*L'Avventura* (1960), *La Notte* (1961), and *L'Eclisse* (1962)—as well as the English-language films *Blowup* (1966) and *The Passenger* (1975). His films have been described as "enigmatic and intricate mood pieces" that feature elusive plots, striking visual composition, and a preoccupation with modern landscapes. His work would substantially influence subsequent art cinema.

Antonioni received numerous awards and nominations throughout his career, including the Cannes Film Festival Jury Prize (1960, 1962), Palme d'Or (1966), and 35th Anniversary Prize (1982); the Venice Film Festival Silver Lion (1955), Golden Lion (1964), FIPRESCI Prize (1964, 1995), and Pietro Bianchi Award (1998); the Italian National Syndicate of Film Journalists Silver Ribbon eight times; and an honorary Academy Award in 1995. He is one of three directors to have won the Palme d'Or, the Golden Lion, and the Golden Bear, and the only director to have won these three and the Golden Leopard.

**CAST** Gabriele Ferzetti, Monica Vitti, Lea Massari, Dominique Blanchar, Renzo Ricci, James Addams, Dorothy De Poliolo, Lelio Luttazzi, Giovanni Petrucci, Esmeralda Ruspoli



## CELEBRATING MONICA VITTI (1931–2022)

Monica Vitti was an Italian actress known for her starring roles in films directed by Michelangelo Antonioni during the early to mid-1960s. After working with Antonioni, Vitti changed focus and began making comedies, working with director Mario Monicelli on many films. She appeared with Marcello Mastroianni, Alain Delon, Richard Harris, Terence Stamp, and Dirk Bogarde. She was known as the “Queen of Italian cinema.”

Vitti won five David di Donatello Awards for Best Actress, seven Italian Golden Globes for Best Actress, the Career Golden Globe, and the Venice Film Festival Career Golden Lion Award.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24 – SUNDAY, MARCH 6



# UNA RELAZIONE (WITH OR WITHOUT YOU)

COMEDY/DRAMA

ONLINE ONLY

2021, 110 MIN.  
MIDWEST PREMIERE

Alice and Tommaso live in Rome and have been together for 15 years. They're unmarried, with no children. He's a musician, she's an actress. Their friends invite them to dinner, expecting them to announce their engagement. Instead, the couple states they are breaking up but will remain amicable. Sadly, they don't realize the pain that comes when changing from lovers to friends. Co-written by director Stefano Sardo and his former partner Valentina Gaia, *Una Relazione (With or Without You)* is a unique look at their love story.

**DIRECTOR** Stefano Sardo (Bra, 1972) lives in Rome, writing for cinema and TV. With Alessandro Fabbri and Ludovica Rampoldi, he's the creator of the Sky series *1992*, *1993*, and *1994*. That trio also penned the three seasons of the Italian adaptation of the international TV series *In Treatment* and, for film, *La Doppia Ora* (by Giuseppe Capotondi, shown at the 2009 Venice Film Festival), *Il Ragazzo Invisibile* (by Gabriele Salvatores, 2015) and the sequel *Ragazzo Invisibile – Seconda Generazione* (also by Salvatores, 2018). Sardo is currently a head writer and works for Indigo (*Nemesis*), Cross Production (*Wolfsburg*), and I Leoni di Sicilia (*Leone*). He's also directed short films, as well as the 2013 documentary *Slow Food Story* for Indigo Film and Tico, presented at Berlinale and Telluride. He has published three novels: "L'America delle Kessler" (Arcana, 2002), the two "Il Ragazzo Invisibile" books (Salani, 2014 and 2018), plus the upcoming "Una Relazione," co-written with Valentina Gaia and slated for summer release (Harper Collins). He co-created the series *Lab* for TV. Sardo has also been a tutor and professor. He's been the president of 100autori, the association for Italian film and TV authors, for four years. Finally, he wrote and sang songs for Mambassa, a band with six albums to their credit and whose songs are on the movie *Una Relazione's* soundtrack.

**CAST** Guido Caprino, Elena Radonicich, Federica Victoria Caiozzo aka Thony, Libero De Rienzo, Alessandro Giallocosta, Isabella Aldovini, Francesca Chillemi, Enrica Bonaccorti, Jalil Lespert, Luigi Diberti, Sara Mondello, Tommaso Ragno

**SPONSOR** Memo Izzi



# ARIAFERMA (THE INNER CAGE)

## DRAMA

## ONLINE ONLY

2021, 117 MIN.  
MIDWEST PREMIERE

A decaying prison in modern-day Italy is on the verge of shutting down. When bureaucracy gets in the way, a dozen inmates, together with a handful of guards, are left behind. Isolated from the rest of the world, rules become fluid. New dynamics form. Gaetano (Toni Servillo: *The Great Beauty*, *The Hand of God*), head of the prison guards, and mafia boss Lagioia (Silvio Orlando: *The Caiman*, *The Ties*) must seek common ground to keep the peace between the inmates and the guards. In this tense prison drama, director Leonardo Di Costanzo continues to explore the human soul beyond the conventional, and expertly captures the danger and absurdity of prison life. Once again, Di Costanzo relays a story that poignantly addresses both the specific and the universal.

**DIRECTOR** Having graduated from the University of Naples in 1992, Leonardo Di Costanzo moved to Paris, where he gained valuable directorial experience in documentaries, receiving awards in many international festivals. His first feature film, *L'Intervallo* (*The Interval*), was screened at the Venice Film Festival and won, among many others, a David di Donatello award for Best New Director. *L'Intrusa* (*The Intruder*), his second film, was shortlisted at Cannes in the Quinzaine des Réalisateurs category. With the segment “L'avant-poste,” he participated in the collective production “*Bridges of Sarajevo*,” selected at Cannes for the Séances Spéciales category.

**CAST** Toni Servillo, Silvio Orlando, Fabrizio Ferracane, Salvatore Striano, Roberto De Francesco, Pietro Giuliano, Nicola Sechi, Leonardo Capuano, Antonio Buil, Giovanni Vastarella, Francesca Ventriglia

**SPONSOR** Pavoloni International LLC



# I NOSTRI FANTASMI (OUR GHOSTS)

**DRAMA/COMEDY**

**ONLINE ONLY**

2021, 90 MIN.

U.S. PREMIERE

Myriam and little Emma have rented a ghostly apartment. In truth, it is Valerio, a widowed and jobless father, along with his 6-year-old son Carlo, hiding in the attic and determined to scare tenants away in the hope of returning to live in the apartment. Their creative, playful stratagem has proven successful, but Myriam is not easily scared and things might take a surprising twist. This delicate and touching dramedy about life challenges and second chances will brighten up your day. *I Nostri Fantasma* premiered at the 2021 Venice International Film Festival and *Giornate degli Autori*, and IFF is honored to host its U.S. premiere.

**DIRECTOR** Alessandro Capitani (Orbetello, 1980) is a director and writer who graduated in 2004 from the University of Bologna in DAMS (Discipline Arte Musica e Spettacolo) and in 2009 from the Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia/Scuola Nazionale di Cinema in Rome. In 2016, he won the David di Donatello Award for best short with his film *Bellissima*. *I Nostri Fantasma* is his second feature film.

**CAST** Michele Riondino, Hadas Yaron, Paolo Pierobon, Orlando Forte, Alessandro Haber

**SPONSOR** Ron and Cynthia Curran, John and Sheila Moroney





# IO SONO BABBO NATALE (I AM SANTA CLAUS)

COMEDY

ONLINE ONLY

2021, 98 MIN.  
MIDWEST PREMIERE

Ettore has spent the last five years imprisoned for robbery. Once liberated, he has nowhere to go. His girlfriend has left him and forbids his meeting their young daughter, born right before he was arrested. Alone and desperate, Ettore (Marco Giallini) roams the streets of Rome and meets elderly Nicola (Gigi Proietti, 1940–2020). He robs him. But after breaking into his house, Ettore realizes Nicola has nothing of value. Shockingly, Nicola tells him something rather surprising: He is Santa Claus. Can it be real?

IFF is proud to bring Gigi Proietti's (1940–2020) last performance to Minnesota. Beloved in Italy as an actor, comedian, musician, singer, and television presenter, Proietti often played on his Roman roots through unforgettable sketches, formidable caricatures, and irresistible parodies. Snuggle up with the entire family and let the Christmas magic last just a little longer!

**DIRECTOR** Edoardo Falcone (*Romes*, 1968) is a writer and director known for *Se Dio Vuole* (*God Willing*, IFF 2016) for which he received the David di Donatello and the Nastro d'Argento Awards for Best Emerging Filmmaker in 2015. After years of apprenticeship as an actor and theatrical author, Falcone made his cinema debut in 2010, writing, along with Massimiliano Bruno and Andrea Bassi, the screenplay of the film *Tutto L'Amore del Mondo*, directed by Riccardo Grandi. In the same year, he wrote with Gianluca Bompreszi and Paolo Costella *A Natale mi Sposo*, directed by Costella himself, and, in the following year, *Matrimonio a Parigi*, written with Bompreszi and directed by Claudio Risi. During the same period, he worked with Carlo and Enrico Vanzina, prominent writers of Italian comedy. The year 2015 marked Falcone's directorial debut with the award-winning *Se Dio vuole* (*God Willing*, IFF 2016) followed by *Questione di Karma* in 2017. In recent years, Edoardo Falcone has participated in many screenwriting projects while continuing as a director. His latest directorial project, *Il Principe di Roma*, is a film based on "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens.

**CAST** Marco Giallini, Gigi Proietti, Barbara Ronchi, Antonio Gerardi, Simone Colombari, Daniele Pecci



# COMIZI D'AMORE (LOVE MEETINGS)

## DOCUMENTARY

## ONLINE ONLY

1964, 92 MIN.

MIDWEST PREMIERE – 4K RESTORATION

On the occasion of the 100th birth anniversary of film director, poet, writer, and intellectual Pier Paolo Pasolini (1922–1975), IFF is proud to screen *Comizi d'Amore* (*Love Meetings*), his first feature-length documentary, filmed in 1963 with Pasolini as the interviewer. As an attentive observer of the changes in the Italian society of his time, Pasolini traveled throughout Italy to interview people on the street, in factories, on the beaches, about a wide range of topics: marriage and the legalization of divorce, the importance of sex in everyday life, homosexuality, prostitution, machismo, and gender roles. *Comizi d'Amore* offers a unique insight into the Italy of the 1960s.

**DIRECTOR** Pier Paolo Pasolini (1922–1975) was an Italian film director, poet, writer, and intellectual, who also distinguished himself as an actor, journalist, novelist, playwright, and political figure. A controversial personality in Italy due to his straightforward style, Pasolini's legacy remains partly contentious. He voiced strong criticism of petty bourgeois values and the emerging "totalitarianism of consumerism" in Italy, juxtaposing socio-political polemics with a critical examination of taboo sexual matters. A prominent protagonist of the Roman cultural scene of the post-war period, he was an established major figure in European literature and cinematic arts. Pasolini's unsolved murder at Ostia in November 1975 during an altercation with a young male prostitute prompted an outcry in Italy, and its circumstances continue to be a matter of heated debate.

**FEBRUARY 20TH AND MARCH 6TH:** Virtual Talk Series on film director, poet, writer, and intellectual Pier Paolo Pasolini on the occasion of his the 100th birth anniversary. Presented in English by Prof. Francesca Cadel.

**CAST** Lello Bersani (narrative voice), Ignazio Buttitta, Adele Cambria, Camilla Cederna, Graziella Chiarcossi, Peppino Di Capri, Oriana Fallaci, Alberto Moravia, Pier Paolo Pasolini, Giuseppe Ungaretti (themselves)

**SPONSOR** Laura J. Mauro and David R. Brown

# 2022 ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL

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Tiziana Cervesato

## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Tommaso Cammarano

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MSP Film Society

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Lisa Venticinque

# UN RINGRAZIAMENTO SPECIALE A ...

**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF GIORNATE DEGLI AUTORI  
VENICE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

Gaia Furrer

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Paige Alford

Fuechee Thao

## **THE FILM SOCIETY TEAM**

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Tanner Deml

Kelly Nathe

Jesse Bishop

Andrew Lussenhop

Craig Rice

Tony Brown

Becca Mayo

Susan Smoluchowski

# TOMMASO CAMMARRANO

## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Tommaso Camarrano 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 longest-running TV series. Camarrano 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, Camarrano came to Minneapolis, fell in love with it, and has since made it his home. He has started a new career in healthcare ... with film on the side. Camarrano would like to extend a special thank you to Gaia Furrer, Edoardo Petti, and Tiziana Cervesato.

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