

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18 - OPENING NIGHT

- 6:00 PM Opening Night Party with Live Music by Quartetto Rosso
- 7:00 PM Live Auction with Frank Vascellaro
- 8:30 PM IO, ARLECCHINO (I, HARLEQUIN)  
Comedy/Drama 90 min.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

- 7:00 PM LATIN LOVER  
Comedy/Drama 104 min.
- 9:00 PM MA LAMOR MIO NON MUORE (LOVE EVERLASTING)  
Silent Drama 90 min. w/ live accompaniment by Sun Sito

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

- 3:00 PM SE DIO VUOLE (GOD WILLING)  
Comedy 87 min.
- 5:00 PM IF ONLY I WERE THAT WARRIOR  
Documentary 74 min.
- 6:20 PM Q&A with Ahmed Wassef
- 7:00 PM L'ARBITRO (THE REFEREE)  
Comedy 96 min.
- 9:00 PM PEREZ.  
Drama 94 min.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

- 3:00 PM MIA MADRE (MY MOTHER)  
Drama 106 min.
- 5:00 PM BLAXPLOITALIAN  
Documentary 90 min.
- 6:30 PM Q&A with Director Fred Kudjo Kuwornu
- 7:00 PM NOI E LA GIULIA  
(THE LEGENDARY GIULIA AND OTHER MIRACLES)  
Comedy 115 min.

All films are in Italian with English subtitles.

Dear Friends,

Benvenuti, we are pleased to welcome you to the 8th Annual Italian Film Festival of Minneapolis and St. Paul. This year's Festival is even more exciting, as it corresponds with the 10th anniversary of the Italian Cultural Center. For a decade, the ICC has been bringing the best of Italian culture to the Twin Cities. From language and cooking classes, to lectures on literature and music, to museum tours, to the wonderful movies at each year's Film Festival, the ICC has been, and continues to be, a vital component of the Twin Cities art and culture scene.

We're very proud of this year's line-up. All of the films in this year's Festival are Minnesota premieres, including a silent film that is over a century old. We have a number of comedies, documentaries, and dramas that capture the complexity of Italy, from its distant past to its present-day joys and challenges.

Our festival is made possible by the generous donations of our many sponsors and the support of the Consulate General of Italy in Chicago. We are also grateful to the Film Society of Minneapolis/St. Paul 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

# TICKETS

## Single Movie:

- \$ 8.00 (ICC members, Film Society members and students\*)
- \$ 10.00 (general public)

## Opening Night Party and Film:

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

## VIP Passes

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

\*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 may purchase up to 4 tickets at the discounted price.

# ABOUT THE ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTER

## Board of Directors

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# ABOUT THE ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTER

Now in its tenth year, 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 of all levels of proficiency. The ICC 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](http://www.theitalianculturalcenter.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/italianculturalcenter](https://www.facebook.com/italianculturalcenter) | Twitter: @IICCMSP

# 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

- \$10 off on any level of basic membership to the Walker Art Center
- Discounts at local businesses (See the complete list online)

## Membership levels:

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

## To become a member:

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18

OPENING NIGHT

## OPENING NIGHT PARTY AT THE NICOLLET ISLAND INN

Guests are invited to enjoy complimentary appetizers and drinks while bidding on unique items at our annual live auction, hosted by WCCO-TV news anchor Frank Vascellaro. Music is provided by Robert Everest and Quartetto Rosso. All proceeds from this event benefit the Italian Cultural Center.

Following the Opening Night Party at 8:30 will be the premiere of *Io, Arlecchino (I, Harlequin)*. Celebrate the launch of the 8th Italian Film Festival and enjoy a weekend of contemporary and classic Italian cinema!



Quartetto Rosso

Photo credit: Margie O'Loughlin



Frank Vascellaro

6:00 PM

### OUR OPENING NIGHT PARTY

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

### LOCATION:

The Niccollet Island Inn

95 Merrim St, Minneapolis, MN 55401

One block from the St. Anthony Main Theatre

Complimentary Valet Parking (Park for the entire event, including movie!)

7:00 PM

### LIVE AUCTION

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

8:30 PM

Film: *IO, ARLECCHINO (I, HARLEQUIN)*

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18

8:30 PM

COMEDY/DRAMA

## IO, ARLECCHINO (I, HARLEQUIN)

2014, 90 min.

**DIRECTORS:** Matteo Bini, Giorgio Pasotti

**MODERATOR:** Gabriele Angieri, local stage and film actor, and first generation Neapolitan from New York City.



From the rich traditions of Commedia dell'arte comes *Io, Arlecchino*, a heartwarming film about a modern man, Paolo, who learns to embrace his past. When Paolo discovers that his father, Giovanni, an acclaimed Commedia dell'arte performer from Bergamo, has cancer, he returns to his home town, abandoning his new talk show in order to take care of the older man. Helping Giovanni and his troupe stage one final show in a beautiful theater, Paolo begins to question his own commitment to television, as the call of the footlights becomes ever more intense. When his father becomes too ill to perform, Paolo leaps at the chance to take to the stage, reigniting his own passions for the Harlequin. But will his commitments outweigh his desires?

Featuring a stellar cast performing Commedia dell'arte's most famous characters, Harlequin and Pantalone, *Io, Arlecchino* is at once a celebration of a theatrical tradition that dates back to the 16th century, and a contemporary story with laughter, tears, and romance.

### CAST:

Giorgio Pasotti, Roberto Herlitzka, Valeria Bilello, Lavinia Longhi.



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

3:00 PM

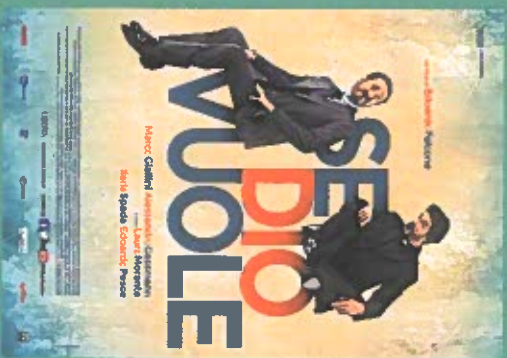
COMEDY

## SE DID VUOLE (GOD WILLING)

2015, 87 min.

**DIRECTOR:** Edoardo Maria Falcone

**MODERATOR:** Lorella Angelini, civil engineer specializing in technical marketing for construction industry materials, who originally hails from the Marche region of Italy. She has been a docent at the Walker Art Center since 2003.



What happens when Tommasso, an atheist surgeon with a God-complex, discovers that a charismatic priest is making his son think twice about medical school? He'll try everything in his power to stop him, that's what, including going undercover in the church in the hopes of discovering some hidden secret that will discredit the priest. Despite enjoying all manner of success throughout his professional career, Tommasso finds that all his best efforts have decidedly unexpected results...

This award-winning comedy is at once uplifting and moving, and has proven to be a tremendous crowd pleaser throughout Italy.

**CAST:** Marco Giallini, Alessandro Gassman, Laura Morante, Edoardo Galleo, Maria Spada.

### AWARDS:

2015, Winner, Best New Director, Edoardo Maria Falcone, David di Donatello Awards  
2015, Winner, Best New Director, Edoardo Maria Falcone, Italian National Syndicate of Film Journalists  
2015, Nominee, Best Actor, Marco Giallini, David di Donatello Awards

**SPONSOR:** Nancy Schaefer, Honorary Board Member

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

5:00 PM

DOCUMENTARY

## IF ONLY I WERE THAT WARRIOR

2015, 74 min.

**DIRECTOR:** Valerio Ciriaci

**MODERATOR:** Michael Senay, who served for eight years as a board member and public relations officer for the Ethiopian Community in MN, and for four years served as president of the mutual benefit association at the Ethiopian Orthodox Church in Minneapolis. A twenty-three-year resident of the Twin Cities, Mr. Senay's parents were witnesses to the Italian occupation of Ethiopia.



Outside of Rome, in the small town of Affile, a monument was erected in 2012. Where normally this would have been met with indifference outside of town, this monument was dedicated to Rodolfo Graziani, the fascist general who led the brutal Italian occupation of Ethiopia, and was later declared a war criminal. Filmed in Italy, Ethiopia, and the United States, and following three people whose lives are tied up in these events, *If Only I Were That Warrior* is a searing, yet hopeful, look at the politics that led to the building of the monument. But it is also a thorough examination of the Ethiopian occupation, exposing Graziani's many crimes against humanity, and revealing the strength of the many people who survived.

Followed by a Q&A with Ahmed Wassie, host of KFAI's Voices of Ethiopia program.

**SPONSOR:** Department of French & Italian/University of Minnesota  
The African Studies Initiative at the University of Minnesota



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

7:00 PM

COMEDY

## L'ARBITRO

2013, 96 min.

DIRECTOR: Paolo Zucca

**MODERATOR:** Daniele Lanza has more than twenty years of experience as a designer, interactive art director and creative director for various creative agencies in Minneapolis, Los Angeles, and his native Italy.



Cruciani is a talented referee at the top of his profession. Atletico Pabarie is a downtrodden football club in the Sardinian third league, who not only lose their games but also are humiliated on a regular basis. But when Cruciani's ambitions lead him to make some terrible decisions, and a star player returns to Atletico Pabarile and brings victory after victory, these two utterly disparate paths will cross in one hilarious soccer game.

Filmed in beautiful black and white, and with surprising twists and subplots that include rekindled love, invisible footballs, the ancestral codes of sheep breeding, and corruption, *L'arbitro* will prove to be like nothing you've ever seen before.

### CAST:

Stefano Accorsi, Jacopo Cullin, Geppi Cucchiari, Alessio Di Clemente, Marco Messeri.

### AWARDS:

2013, Pre-Opener, 10th Critic's Week Venice Days, 70th Venice International Film Festival.

Followed by an excerpt from "The Time Machine", by Roberto Francesco Cicero and Minneapolis-based dance and theater company Black Label Movement.

SPONSOR: Pat Broyles, REALTOR, Counselor Realty; John Moroney

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

9:00 PM

DRAMA/CRIME

## PEREZ.

2014, 94 min.

DIRECTOR: Edoardo De Angelis

**MODERATOR:** Anna Olivero, ICC Board Member and Language Assessment Specialist at the University of Minnesota.



Once a high-profile criminal lawyer, Demetrio Perez is now a beaten man, a dour public defender whose world is coming undone. His daughter is in love with a Mafioso's son, whose desire to go straight seems too good to be true. And when a client offers him a chance at money and power, will Perez take the prize, or will he stay true to his fraying moral code?

Luca Zingaretti, famous for the Inspector Montalbano television series, plays the title character, the hardballed and spiritually exhausted Perez. Director De Angelis brings us a steely-gray world of double-cross and compromise, as compelling a story as you will likely see this year.

### CAST:

Luca Zingaretti, Marco D'Amore, Simona Tabasco, Massimiliano Gallo, Giampaolo Fabrizio, Ivan Castiglione.

### AWARDS:

2015, Winner, Best Actor, Luca Zingaretti, Italian Golden Globes

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

3:00 PM

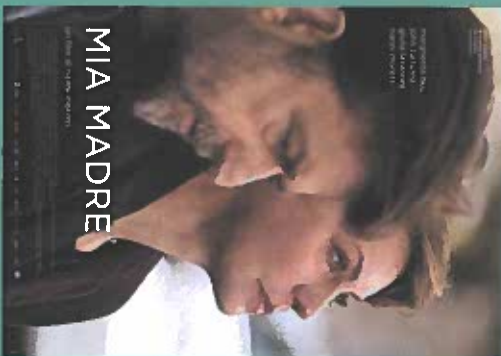
DRAMA

### MIA MADRE (MY MOTHER)

2015, 106 min.

DIRECTOR: Nanni Moretti

**MODERATOR:** Graeme Stout, Senior Lecturer and Film Studies Coordinator at the University of Minnesota, and author of a book project concerning the cultural legacy of terrorism in Italy and Germany from the late 1960s to the present day.



A triumphant drama from Palme d'Or winner Nanni Moretti, *Mia madre* is the story of Margherita, an acclaimed director trying to finalize an important new film while coping with the slow decline of her ailing mother. Based on Moretti's own experiences, *Mia madre* is at once a reflective tale of family love, an amusing look at movie making, and a primer on how to handle a very egotistical leading man.

*Mia madre* features daring performances by Margherita Buy, director Moretti, and American actor John Turturro. "[A] sublimely modulated blend of laughter and tears, a film that cuts to the very heart of profound personal loss without ever losing sight of the fact that life, in all its chaotic comedy, carries on regardless.... Moretti's most satisfying film to date." —*The Guardian* (London)

**CAST:** Margherita Buy, Nanni Moretti, Giulia Lazzarini, John Turturro.

**AWARDS:**

- 2015, Winner, Best Actress, Margherita Buy, 70th Silver Ribbon Awards
  - 2015, Winner, Special Nastro d'Argento, 70th Silver Ribbon Awards
  - 2015, Nominee, Palme d'Or, 68th Cannes Film Festival
  - 2015, Winner, Prize of the Ecumenical Jury, 68th Cannes Film Festival
  - 2015, Winner, Best Actress, Margherita Buy, David di Donatello Awards
  - 2015, Winner, Best Supporting Actress, Giulia Lazzarini, David di Donatello Awards
  - 2015, Winner, Best Actress, Margherita Buy, Ciak d'oro
  - 2015, Winner, Best Supporting Actress, Giulia Lazzarini, Ciak d'oro
  - 2015, Winner, Best Director, Nanni Moretti, 30th Ciak d'oro
- And over twenty nominations at festivals around the world

SPONSOR: Christine Imbra

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

5:00 PM

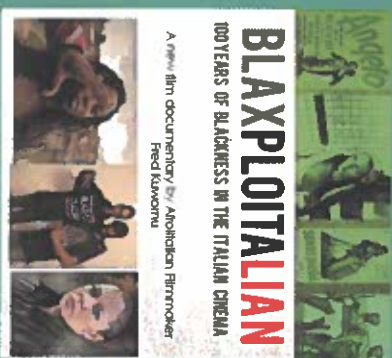
DOCUMENTARY

### BLAXPLOITALIAN: 100 YEARS OF BLACKNESS IN ITALIAN CINEMA

2015, 90 min.

DIRECTOR: Fred Kudjo Kuwornu

**MODERATOR:** Danila Cannamela is a native of Italy and currently an Assistant Professor of Italian and Coordinator of the Italian Program at University of St. Thomas (MN). She is currently working on a book manuscript, entitled *The Quiet Avant-Garde: Crepuscularism and the Twilight of Modern Humanism*.



*Blaxploitalian: 100 Years of Blackness in Italian Cinema* is a riveting documentary that goes behind the scenes to reveal the stories of one of the most unheralded performers in Italian cinema history: black actors. Cleverly disclosing the personal struggles classic Afro-Italian and African diasporic actors have had to face in an already challenging career, *Blaxploitalian* also examines the plight of contemporary actors working diligently to find respectable and significant roles. More than an unveiling of a cinematic secret, this thought-provoking documentary is also a call-to-action for increased diversity and esteem in international cinema.

A journey spanning over a century, *Blaxploitalian* begins with the un-credited Black actor who appeared in the 1913 film *Zuma the Gypsy*, by Baldassarre Negroni, and moves through the Golden Age of Italian cinema, concluding in the present day.

**Q&A** with director Fred Kudjo Kuwornu following the screening. Kuwornu is an activist-producer-writer-director, born and raised in Italy and based today in Brooklyn. He is the producer and director of the award-winning documentary *Inside Buffalo*, and the documentary *18 IUS SOLI*, about multiculturalism in Italy and the citizenship questions of the children of immigrants. In addition, he is the founder of the Association Diversity Italia, and the forthcoming documentary *Afropolitika*.

**SPONSORS:** Department of French & Italian/University of Minnesota  
The African Studies Initiative at the University of Minnesota  
University of St. Thomas



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

7:00 PM

COMEDY

## NOI E LA GIULLIA (THE LEGENDARY GIULLIA AND OTHER MIRACLES)

2015, 115 min.

**DIRECTOR:** Edoardo Leo

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



Photography: Barbara Bach and Corinne Braun

Diego, Fausto, and Claudio are three men who can't seem to catch a break. Hoping to reverse their fortunes, our heroes meet accidentally at a country home in Campania that each hopes to turn into a Bed and Breakfast. Pooling their resources, and reluctantly taking on another "investor" (a former Communist revolutionary to whom Fausto owes money), they work and struggle to keep their business afloat, when they run afoul of the local Mafia. Kidnapping, wine tasting, true love, and the magical Alfa Romeo of the title all combine with a winning cast and a shamelessly optimistic story that will leave you smiling.

**CAST:**

Claudio Amendola, Edoardo Leo, Luca Argentero, Carlo Buccirosso, Gualtiero Burzi, Anna Foglietta.

**AWARDS:**

2015, Winner, Best Supporting Actor, Carlo Buccirosso, David di Donatello Awards  
2015, Winner, Best Comedy, Italian Golden Globes  
2015, Winner, People's Choice Award, ICFE Italian Contemporary Film Festival Canada

**SPONSOR:** James and Denise D'Aurora

8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
**ITALIAN**  
**FILM FESTIVAL**  
of MINNEAPOLIS and ST. PAUL

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Lorenzo Fabbri

Danila Cannamela

Domenico D'Alessandro

Fabiola Iannarilli

Anna Olivero-Agney

Elisabetta Re

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Sandra Gengler

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Michael Senay

Susan Smoluchowski

Graeme Stout

Dominic Sposeto

Joe Tamburino

Ahmed Yassie

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Andrea Guglielmino

**Auction**

Giada Patricia Nucera

Tony Nucera

**Photography**

Lisa Venticinquè

Barbara Bach

**Website**

Tiziana Cervesato



Thank you to all those who generously  
donated items for our auction:

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