



FOR TICKETS + SCHEDULE INFORMATION: MSPFILM.ORG/ITALIAN-FILM-FESTIVAL

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH: FILM SOCIETY



Benvenuti!

The Italian Cultural Center of Minneapolis/St. Paul (ICC), in partnership with MSP Film Society, is thrilled to bring the 14th Italian Film Festival of Minneapolis / St. Paul (IFF) with 9 of the best contemporary films never before seen in Minnesota and 2 classic masterpieces.

THIS YEAR, THE FESTIVAL RETURNS TO THE BIG SCREEN FOR A COLLECTIVE AND INSPIRING JOURNEY.

From March 2 through March 5, this year's festival, curated by Artistic Director Tommaso Cammarano, offers an exciting lineup of comedies, dramas and documentaries that will take you on a deeply rewarding journey through the landscapes and stories of Italy and its people.

Whether you are new to Italian cinema, expert or wish to stay updated on the latest trends, there is something for everyone.

In gratitude, ICC wishes to acknowledge everyone who made this event possible. ICC is a self-funded, independent non-profit organization and the support we receive from our members and the community make it all happen. Our festival is supported by the Consulate General of Italy and the Italian Cultural Institute in Chicago and also made possible by the contributions of all our sponsors and tireless efforts of our staff and volunteers.

Grazie for joining us in celebrating Italian cinema and culture!

The Italian Cultural Center of Minneapolis / St. Paul

TICKETS

OPENING NIGHT (APERITIVO + MOVIE)

\$ 40.00 General Admission \$ 30.00 ICC and Film Society members, students

SINGLE MOVIES

\$ 13.50 General Admission \$ 11.50 ICC and Film Society members, students

ALL-ACCESS FESTIVAL PASSES (INCLUDES OPENING NIGHT)

\$ 110.00 General Admission \$ 95.00 ICC and Film Society members, students

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, MARCH 2

6:00 PM OPENING NIGHT APERITIVO

7:30 PM NOSTALGIA

Mario Martone Drama, 2022, 118 min.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3

6:00 PM ASTOLFO (NEVER TOO LATE FOR LOVE)

Gianni Di Gregorio Comedy, 2022, 97 min.

8:15 PM AUTUMN BEAT + Q&A

Antonio Dikele Distefano scheduled to attend

Drama, 2022, 103 min.

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

11:00 AM PECCATO CHE SIA UNA CANAGLIA (TOO BAD SHE'S BAD)

Alessandro Blasetti Comedy, 1954, 95 min.

2:00 PM CORRO DA TE (RUN TO YOU)

Riccardo Milani

Comedy, 2022, 113 min.

5:00 PM UNA FEMMINA (THE CODE OF SILENCE) + Q&A

Francesco Costabile Drama, 2022, 120 min.

8:30 PM LA SANTA PICCOLA (BLESSED BOYS) + Q&A

Silvia Brunelli

Dramedy, 2021, 97 min.

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

11:00 AM NIGHTS OF CABIRIA (LE NOTTI DI CABIRIA)

Federico Fellini Drama, 1957, 117 min.

1:30 PM IN VIAGGIO

Gianfranco Rosi

Documentary, 2022, 77 min.

3:45 PM IL SIGNORE DELLE FORMICHE (THE LORD OF THE ANTS) + Q&A

Gianni Amelio

Drama, 2022, 130 min.

7:15 PM SUPEREROI (SUPERHEROES)

Paolo Genovese

Dramedy, 2022, 120 min.

All films presented in Italian with English subtitles.

THE ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTER

ABOUT

Founded in 2006, The Italian Cultural Center (ICC) is a self funded 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.

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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:
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2022, 118 MIN. MINNESOTA PREMIERE

After living 40 years abroad, Felice (Pierfrancesco Favino) returns to Naples to meet again with the elderly mother (Aurora Quattrocchi) he had left suddenly when he was very young. Back in his hometown, he is surrounded by the words of a language that he now perceives as foreign. He gets lost among the stones of the houses and churches of Rione Sanità, a city within the city, and as we watch him walking the characteristic and lively streets, we get to witness the mystery and the memories of his youth with his childhood best friend Oreste (Tommaso Ragno,) with whom he shares a dark secret. When it becomes evident that Naples represents a lost life for him, and that he should go back to where he came from as quickly as possible, he is pinned down by the invincible force of nostalgia.

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, been 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* IFF 2021, *Corro da te* IFF 2022) Francesco Di Leva, Tommaso Ragno, Sofia Essaïdi, Aurora Quattrocchi



COMEDY MARCH 3

2022, 97 MIN. MINNESOTA PREMIERE

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, 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 living 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, and assistant director, their most famous work being the 2008 award-winning film *Gomorrah*. He made his directorial debut in 2008, with the critically acclaimed *Mid-August Lunch*, which he also wrote and starred in; 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



2022, 103 MIN.

Autumn Beat 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 (Busto Arsizio, 1992) made his worldwide debut on Netflix Italia in 2021 with the groundbreaking miniseries, *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.

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



COMEDY MARCH 4

1954, 95 MIN.

Presented in partnership with Twin Cities Film Archives Project and Il Cinema Ritrovato "On Tour."

An unknown comedic gem starring two of Italy's all-time greatest: Sophia and Marcello in their first movie together! When young and beautiful Lina (Sophia Loren), a thief like the rest of her family, tries to con a taxi driver (Marcello Mastroianni) together with two accomplices in the streets of Rome, she can't possibly know that this will completely change her life. Laughs and sexiness abound in this irresistible charmer.

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 1920s.

The Twin Cities Archival Film Project (TCFAP) is dedicated to bringing rare, unseen archival films from around the globe to movie screens in the Twin Cities. Our events facilitate public education, collective community, and open conversation about how the archives of film history can help us to imagine different worlds and alternative futures. In May 2023, TCFAP will present Il Cinema Ritrovato "On Tour" at the Main Cinema in Minneapolis. Stay tuned for details.

CAST Sophia Loren, Marcello Mastroianni, Vittorio De Sica



COMEDY MARCH 4

2022, 113 MIN. MINNESOTA PREMIERE

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 Chiara (Miriam Leone), a joyful and dynamic musician with a passion for tennis who is confined to a wheelchair on account of an accident

Gianni's 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 and 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 2018) Pietro Sermonti, Vanessa Scalera, Pilar Fogliati, Andrea Pennacchi, Carlo De Ruggieri, Giulio Base, Piera Degli Esposti, Michele Placido.



2022, 120 MIN. MINNESOTA PREMIERE

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 casts 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 MARCH 4

2021, 97 MIN. MINNESOTA PREMIERE

An original, unexpected, genre-defying, erotic and emotionally intense debut about Lino (Francesco Pellegrino) and Mario (Vincenzo Antonucci), two inseparable Neapolitan friends who become involved with one another in ways they would rather avoid, and Annaluce (Sophia Guastaferro), 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 of Female Directors*," published in 2021 to celebrate women directors supported by Euroimages in the last 20 years. After graduating in law, she won a scholarship at the New York Film Academy, and started 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 Guastaferro, Pina Di Gennaro, Gianfelice Imparato, Alessandra Mantice, Sara Ricci, Carlo Gertrude



1957, 117 MIN. MIDWEST PREMIERE

Plain and simply one of Federico Fellini's masterpieces and one of Italy's greatest films of all times. 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.

Giulietta Masina won the Best Actress Award at the Cannes Film Festival for her unforgettable portrayal of a far-too-trusting Prostitute in Rome. The name Cabiria is borrowed from the 1914 Italian film *Cabiria*, while the character of Cabiria herself is taken from a brief scene in Fellini's earlier film, *The white sheik*. Giulietta Masina was Fellini's wife, and it was her performance in that earlier film that inspired him to make *Nights of Cabiria*. However, no one in Italy was willing to finance a film that featured prostitutes as heroines, and it was Dino De Laurentiis who eventually agree to produce it. Fellini based some of the characters on a real prostitute whom he had met while filming *Il bidone*, and for authenticity, he had Pier Paolo Pasolini, known for his familiarity with Rome's criminal underworld, help with the dialogue.

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 dream-like 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. 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

SPONSOR Lisa Venticinque Photography



DOCUMENTARY

MARCH 5

2022, 77 MIN. MINNESOTA PREMIERE

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 life through Rosi's latest extraordinary documentary, *In Viaggio*.



2022, 130 MIN.

A powerful drama based on true events from 1968, the controversial trial of Italian poet, playwright, and director Aldo Braibanti (Luigi Lo Cascio), who was prosecuted and sentenced to prison on charges of plagiarism for his relationship with a younger male student that caused a nationwide scandal. The charges, resting on a rarely cited Fascist-era law, are brought by the family of his partner Ettore (newcomer Leonardo Maltese), who, trying to extract the young man from Braibanti's influence, commits him to a psychiatric hospital. Amidst a chorus of voices of accusers, supporters, and a largely hypocritical public, a committed journalist (Elio Germano) takes on the task of piecing together the truth, facing suspicion and censorship in the process. Beautifully directed and supremely performed, Gianni Amelio's film is a strong reminder of the conflicts that simmer just below the surface of 'civilized' society, as much now as ever.

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 Serraiocco, Leonardo Maltese



DRAMEDY MARCH 5

2022, 120 MIN. MINNESOTA PREMIERE

You need superpowers to love someone for an entire lifetime and Anna and Marco know this well. Anna (Jasmine Trinca) is a cartoonist with an impulsive and non-conformist personality, and Marco (Alessandro Borghi) is a physics teacher convinced that every phenomenon has its own explanation. Following the young couple falling in love and struggling to keep their relationship alive through tenderness and fights, secrets and cheating, the movie goes back and forth over the span of 20 years, and through the undeniable chemistry between the two actors, the audience will be witnessing the complexity of relationships, the inevitable changes in life, and the effect that time has on themselves and their love.

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

2023 ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL

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TOMMASO CAMMARANO ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Tommaso Cammarano 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. Cammarano 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, Cammarano 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. Cammarano would like to extend a special thank-you to Gaia Furrer, Edoardo Petti, and Tiziana Cervesato.

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