

ALL FILMS
MAKING THEIR
TWIN CITIES
DEBUT!

2ND ANNUAL

ITALIAN^{USA} film festival OF MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL

PRESENTED BY THE
ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTER

MARCH 26-28, 2010

MINNEAPOLIS COLLEGE OF ART & DESIGN
2501 STEVENS AVENUE | MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55404

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY MARCH 26, 2010 **OPENING NIGHT**

7:00 - 7:30 PM DOORS OPEN : LIVE MUSIC BY CARLO CICALA & BOB BARNES

7:30 - 8:00 PM SOCIAL HOUR

8:00 - 8:15 PM INTRODUCTIONS

*Massimo Bonavita, ICC President
Professor Massimo Faggioli, St. Thomas University*

8:15 - 10:15 PM FILM : SI PUÒ FARE

(It Can Be Done) Directed by Giulio Manfredonia, 2008, 111 minutes

10:15 - 11:00 PM SOCIAL HOUR / DISCUSSION

SATURDAY MARCH 27, 2010

5:00 PM FILM : GLI AMICI DEL BAR MARGHERITA

(The Friends at the Margherita Café) Directed by Pupi Avati, 2009, 90 minutes

6:30 - 7:00 PM : LIVE ITALIAN MUSIC BY HORN QUARTET

(Minnesota Youth Orchestra)

7:00 PM FILM : PRANZO DI FERRAGOSTO

(Mid-August Luncheon) Directed by Gianni Di Gregorio, 2008, 75 minutes

8:45 PM FILM : LA RAGAZZA DEL LAGO

(The Girl by the Lake) Directed by Andrea Molaioli, 2007, 95 minutes

10:20 - 11:00 PM SOCIAL HOUR / DISCUSSION

SUNDAY MARCH 28, 2010

2:30 PM FILM : LA TERRA

(Our Land) Directed by Pergio Rubini, 2006, 112 minutes

5:00 PM FILM : CASOMAI

(If By Chance) Directed by Alessandro D'Alatri, 2002, 90 minutes

7:30 PM FILM : VALZER

(Waltz) Directed by Salvatore Maira, 2007, 90 minutes

Dear friends,

Welcome to the Twin Cities' second festival of contemporary Italian cinema. The success of last year encouraged us to continue offering the public an extraordinary opportunity to see for a first time some of the best recent Italian movies, while increasing awareness of Italy's cinematographic accomplishments, placing them in their proper international context. Italian cinema is not only one of the major industries in Italy, it is above all a vivid expression of its culture and the Italian Cultural Center of Minneapolis/St. Paul is proud to bring you again closer to it.

The Italian Film Festival is the result of our collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute of Chicago and the Italian Film Festival USA. It is supported by the Consulate General of Italy in Chicago and made possible through the extraordinary hospitality of the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. However, our success depends ultimately on you, the admirers of Italian language and culture in the Twin Cities.

I hope you enjoy the three-day journey through the landscapes of Italy as seen by the cameras of contemporary Italian directors. You could become part of the true story of a cooperative for patients with mental illness, created when in early 1980 the first mental hospital were closed; the comic realistic tale of Italian life in 1950s; the life of a middle-age son of a fallen aristocratic family in Rome during the national summer holiday of Ferragosto; the refined detective story in a small village in the North of Italy or the difficult relationships between brothers living in a little town of the South inspired by Dostoevsky's The Brothers Karamazov. The selected, award-winning movies offer a rare window on the panorama of contemporary Italian life and cinema.

Buon Viaggio e buona visione!

Massimo Bonavita
President, Italian Cultural Center

The IFF USA MSP is dedicated to Dr. Ana Maria Masellis.

ABOUT THE ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTER

The Italian Cultural Center (ICC), founded in Minneapolis in 2006, is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization open to anyone interested in the unique phenomena of Italian culture.

VISION To establish a multifaceted center in Minnesota for all things Italian; to serve as a beacon for classic and contemporary Italian culture through language, art, music, design, cinema, architecture, and technology.

MISSION To promote the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of Italian culture through educational services and cultural events.

SERVICES

- Language classes
- Resource center for adults and children
- For Italian media
- Cooking Classes
- Wine Tastings
- Book Club
- Cultural Events

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More information on the ICC can be found at
WWW.THEITALIANCULTURALCENTER.ORG



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THE FILMS

FRIDAY MARCH 26, 2010 OPENING NIGHT

SI PUÒ FARE (It Can Be Done)

Directed by Giulio Manfredonia, 2008, 111 minutes

Co-180 is a cooperative of patients freed from mental hospitals by the 1983 law known as *Barsaglia*. Its members are kept *under control* through high drug doses and perform very menial jobs. A new director uncovers a hidden talent in each of them and is determined to change their unfortunate fate. Going against the skepticism of the psychiatrist who has them in his strict care, the cooperative starts offering hardwood flooring services: initial results are discouraging, until Luca and Gigio unveil a talent quite out of the ordinary...



DRAMA

The film takes place in the early 1980s when the first mental hospitals were closed, and is inspired by a true story. It was awarded the Nastro d'Argento (Silver Ribbon) 2009 for best subject and the Davide di Donatello 2009.

General audience discussion of film after screening.

APPUNTI

SATURDAY MARCH 27, 2010

GLI AMICI DEL BAR MARGHERITA (*The Friends at the Margherita Café*)

Directed by Pupi Avati, 2009, 90 minutes

A comic but realistic tale of Italian life in the 1950s, narrated through the lives and dreams of the habitués of Bar Margherita, Bologna. This is the latest work of internationally acclaimed director Pupi Avati, which borrows from his own childhood memories to recreate a magic and nostalgic atmosphere.

COMEDY



General audience discussion of film after screening.

MODERATOR *Katie Kaufmann is a local theatre actor and director. She has lived in Italy and is passionate about all things Italian.*

NOTES

SATURDAY MARCH 27, 2010

PRANZO DI FERRAGOSTO (*Mid-August Luncheon*)

Directed by Gianni Di Gregorio, 2008, 75 minutes

Gianni is the middle-age son of a fallen aristocrat with whom he shares an old house in central Rome. He leads a simple life devoted to caring for his elderly mother, while spending his free time at the nearby tavern. All of this is going to change for at least 24 hours when he is forced to invite some unusual guests for Ferragosto, a national holiday celebrated on August 15.

Awarded the Nastro d'Argento (Silver Ribbon), the Davide di Donatello, and best emerging director at the Venice Film Festival, all in 2009.

COMEDY



General audience discussion of film after screening.

MODERATOR *Sarah Christopher is a Ph.D candidate in the Department of Romance Languages and Literature at the University of Chicago. Her interests include medieval and Renaissance Italian literature, poetry and women writers.*

APPUNTI

SATURDAY MARCH 27, 2010

LA RAGAZZA DEL LAGO (The Girl by the Lake)

Directed by Andrea Molaioli, 2007, 95 minutes

A detective is sent to a small village in northern Italy to investigate the disappearance of a six-year-old girl. During his quest for answers he stumbles upon an entirely different problem: a dead body is found on the shore of a nearby lake. As the story unfolds we learn many surprising secrets about the interwoven lives of several of the villagers.

This film was awarded three Silver Ribbons in 2008 for best actor, best emerging director, and best producer; ten awards at the Davide di Donatello; and the Pasinetti Award at the Venice Film Festival for best actor.

General audience discussion of film after screening.

MODERATOR Former politician and economist, Massimo Bonavita is a connoisseur of Italian cinema.

DRAMA



SUNDAY MARCH 28, 2010

LA TERRA (Our Land)

Directed by Sergio Rubini, 2006, 112 minutes

After years of absence from his native Italian village in Southern Italy, a philosophy professor returns home to sell the family land. As he tries to mediate between his two brothers and step-brother, who does not want to sell, he finds himself involved in a mysterious homicide and immersed in a murky world he thought he had forever left behind.

The film was nominated for eight awards, including Best Film, Best Actor (Fabrizio Bentivoglio), Best Supporting Actor (Sergio Rubini), Best Director (Sergio Rubini), Best Cinematography, and Best Screenplay. It was also recognized with Critics Award: David Donatello and Best Production Design: Nastri d'Argento della SNGCI.

General audience discussion of film after screening.

MODERATOR Maria Petrenko is a Russian-born, Minneapolis-based writer, director, producer and actress.

DRAMA



NOTES

APPUNTI

SUNDAY MARCH 28, 2010

CASOMAI (*If By Chance*)

Directed by Alessandro D'Alatri, 2002, 90 minutes

Tommaso and Stefania are happily married with one child. However, their relationship starts to gradually deteriorate, family and friends are unable to provide the right support when it is most needed, and the couple ends up separating. But maybe they can still change what seems to be an unavoidable fate...

The film won an award for Best Sound: Nastri d'Argento della SNGCI and was nominated for eight others: Best Actor (Fabio Volo), Best Actress (Stefania Rocca), Best Music, Best Screenplay, Best Sound: David Donatello; Best Actress (Stefania Rocca), Best Editing, Best Score and Best Song: Nastri d'Argento della SNGCI.

General audience discussion of film after screening.

MODERATOR *Katie Kaufmann is a local theatre actor and director. She has lived in Italy and is passionate about all things Italian.*

DRAMA



SUNDAY MARCH 28, 2010

VALZER (*Waltz*)

Directed by Salvatore Maira, 2007, 90 minutes

The intertwined lives of two people change radically in a matter of two hours when they finally meet in the kitchen of a hotel. Simultaneously, in the top floors of the hotel, members of the Italian soccer association meet to seek ways to stem a scandal that threatens to ruin their corrupted careers. The notes of a waltz mix with their stories, in a movie filmed in a single 90-minute-long sequence.

Valeria Solarino received the Pasinetti award for best actress at the 2007 Venice Film Festival.

General audience discussion of film after screening.

MODERATOR *James Toetschinger, a student at the University of Minnesota and an avid film watcher, he strives to perfect his craft, always searching for new opportunities found in the cinematic art.*

DRAMA



NOTES

APPUNTI

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