

PRESENTED BY:  Italian Cultural Center  
MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL

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**FILM**  **15** <sup>TH</sup>  
**FESTIVAL** ANNIVERSARY

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MINNEAPOLIS | SAINT PAUL

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FEBRUARY 29 - MARCH 3, 2024

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

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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH: 

Benvenuti!

The Italian Cultural Center of Minneapolis/St. Paul, in partnership with MSP Film Society and The Main Cinema, is thrilled to bring the 15th Italian Film Festival of Minneapolis/St. Paul (IFF), with 10 of the best contemporary films never before seen in Minnesota and 2 all-time classics.

From February 29 through March 3, this year's festival, curated by Artistic Director Tommaso Cammarano, will open with "La Chimera," a free-spirited, whimsical fantasy-comedy-drama by Alice Rohrwacher — one of the most celebrated women of international auteur cinema— will have "Io Capitano" by Matteo Garrone—Best Director at the 2023 Venice Film Festival and 2024 Oscar nominee for Best International Feature Film—as its centerpiece. It will then close with "Settembre," a delightful comedy by Giulia Louise Steigerwalt, winner of two prestigious awards for Best New Director in 2022.

Nestled between these three movies will be a selection of critically acclaimed and award-winning Italian films from 2022 and 2023, showcasing both emerging and established filmmakers, and offering great diversity of genres, styles and themes. All films will be either U.S. or Minnesota premieres.

The 2 classics screening at our 15th anniversary festival will be Fellini's masterpiece "8 ½," and Ettore Scola's 1974 extraordinary, quintessential Italian generational film "C'eravamo Tanto Amati."

Throughout the festival, we will be joined in person or live from Italy by directors for Q&A's and film discussions.

Whether you are new to Italian cinema, an expert or like to stay updated on the latest trends, whether you wish to laugh or cry or all of the above, there is sure to be something exciting for everyone.

Ciao a tutti e buona visione!

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29

6:00 PM OPENING NIGHT APERITIVO

7:30 PM LA CHIMERA  
Alice Rohrwacher, Comedy Drama, 130 min.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 1

1:30 PM LA STRANEZZA (STRANGENESS) + INTRO  
Roberto Andò, Comedy Drama, 104 min.

4:30 PM BOOK PRESENTATION: 'CINEMA IS THE STRONGEST WEAPON'  
Prof. Lorenzo Fabbri, 60 min.

6:00 PM NATA PER TE (BORN FOR YOU) + Q&A  
Fabio Mollo, Drama, 113 min.

9:00 PM ADAGIO  
Stefano Sollima, Crime Drama, 127 min.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 2

11:00 AM C'ERAVAMO TANTO AMATI + Q&A  
Ettore Scola, Comedy Drama, 124 min.

2:00 PM AMANDA + Q&A  
Carolina Cavalli, Comedy Drama, 93 min.

5:00 PM GRAZIE RAGAZZI (THANK YOU GUYS)  
Riccardo Milani, Comedy, 117 min.

7:45 PM IO CAPITANO  
Matteo Garrone, Drama, 121 min.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 3

11:00 AM 8 ½ + INTRO  
Federico Fellini, Comedy Drama, 138 min.

2:15 PM MIA + Q&A  
Ivano De Matteo, Drama, 108 min.

5:15 PM IL SOL DELL'AVVENIRE (A BRIGHTER TOMORROW) + Q&A  
Nanni Moretti, Comedy, 117 min.

7:45 PM SETTEMBRE  
Giulia Louise Steigerwalt, Comedy, 108 min.

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

# TICKETS

## OPENING NIGHT (APERITIVO + MOVIE)

- \$ 40.00 General Admission
- \$ 30.00 ICC and Film Society members
- \$ 5.00 Students (Box Office Only; Limited Availability)

## SINGLE MOVIES

- \$ 14.00 General Admission
- \$ 12.00 ICC and Film Society members
- \$ 5.00 Students (Box Office Only; Limited Availability)

## PASSES

Passes do not guarantee admission to screenings. To ensure admittance, passholders must reserve a ticket in advance either online or at the venue.

### All-Access Festival Pass (Opening Night Included)

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

### 6-Pack Passes (Does Not Included Opening Night)

- \$ 65.00 General Admission
- \$ 55.00 ICC and Film Society members, students

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

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## LA CHIMERA

### COMEDY DRAMA

7:30 PM

2023, 130 MIN.  
MINNESOTA PREMIERE  
APERITIVO ITALIANO & OPENING NIGHT FILM

Alice Rohrwacher, one of the most acclaimed women voices of international auteur cinema, addresses with "La Chimera" one of the broadest questions to affect Italy and other countries that are cradles of ancient civilizations: the illicit trading of archaeological treasures. In Rohrwacher's distinctive style, "La Chimera" is a free spirited, whimsical fantasy-comedy of lost love: poetic, bustling and teeming with life, with characters fighting, singing, thieving and breaking the fourth wall to address the audience directly.

La Chimera was selected to compete for the Palme d'Or at the 76th Cannes Film Festival in 2023 and was presented at the New York Film Festival in 2023.

**DIRECTOR** Alice Rohrwacher is an Italian director and writer. She wrote and played music for the theater before being drawn to cinema. In 2011, she directed her first full-length film, "Corpo Celeste," which premiered at Cannes in the Quinzaine des Réalisateurs, and screened at the Sundance, New York, London, Rio and Tokyo festivals. Her second film, "Le Meraviglie" won the Grand Prix at Cannes in 2014, while her third, "Lazzaro Felice" received the Best Screenplay award in Cannes, as well as great international acclaim. In 2016, she directed "La Traviata" by Giuseppe Verdi at the Teatro Valli in Reggio Emilia. In 2020, she directed the third and fourth episodes in the acclaimed Rai-HBO TV series "My Brilliant Friend—The Story of a New Name," adapted from the novels by Elena Ferrante. In 2023, she was nominated for an Oscar in the Best Live Action Shorts category for "Le Pupille," co-produced by Alfonso Cuarón for Disney.

**CAST** Josh O'Connor, Carol Duarte, Isabella Rossellini, Alba Rohrwacher, Vincenzo Nemolato, Giuliano Mantovani



## LA STRANEZZA (STRANGENESS)

### COMEDY DRAMA

1:30 PM

2022, 104 MIN. MINNESOTA PREMIERE  
INTRODUCTION BY PIERANNA GARAVASO, PROFESSOR EMERITA  
OF PHILOSOPHY, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA MORRIS

How did one of the greatest playwrights of the 20th century conceive his all-time masterpiece? Roberto Andò's film creatively imagines the answer to this question, blending gracefully drama and comedy, high and popular art. "La Stranezza" is a delightfully irreverent tribute to the curious inspirations underlying creative achievement, a gentle fantasy and, as Andò himself puts it, "a film about theater which examines the audience, too."

Toni Servillo stars as Luigi Pirandello, who, on a trip to his native Sicily in 1920, encounters a pair of gravediggers/aspiring actors and playwrights, Onofrio and Sebastiano (Italy's ultra-popular comedy duo Salvatore Ficarra and Valentino Picone), whose hilariously, charmingly amateurish nightly stage productions stir Pirandello out of a creative blockage (complete with visions of characters waiting to come to life), and help him to arrive at the idea for what will ultimately become his masterpiece.

Winner of the Donatello Award for Best Producer, Best Screenplay, Best Production Design, Best Costume Design, and the Nastro D'Argento winner for Best Director in 2023.

**DIRECTOR** Roberto Andò was born in Palermo in 1959. After pursuing philosophical studies, he collaborated as an assistant director with Francesco Rosi and Federico Fellini at a young age, later working with Michael Cimino and Francis Ford Coppola. From 1980 onward, he alternated between directing theatrical and cinematic productions. Among his notable works are "La Foresta-Radice-Labirinto," a dramaturgical adaptation from an unpublished text by Italo Calvino, "Minetti" by Thomas Bernhard in 2016, and in "Attesa di Giudizio" in 2017. After several documentary films, Andò made his feature debut film in 2000, with "Il Manoscritto del Principe," produced by Giuseppe Tornatore. His other cinematic ventures include "Sotto Falso Nome," presented at the Cannes Film Festival in 2004, and "Viaggio Segreto" in 2006. His debut novel, "Il Trono Vuoto," won the Campiello prize for best first work; from the novel, he derived the film "Viva la Libertà," with whom he won the David di Donatello for Best Script and the Nastro d'Argento for Best Screenplay in 2013. "Il Bambino Nascosto," his seventh feature film, was released in 2021. Throughout the same year, he produced a two-part series on the life of photographer Letizia Battaglia, titled "Solo per Passione."

**CAST** Toni Servillo, Salvatore Ficarra, Valentino Picone



## BOOK PRESENTATION: CINEMA IS THE STRONGEST WEAPON

### PROFESSOR LORENZO FABBRI

4:30 PM

60 MIN

Lorenzo Fabbri is a professor, film curator, and producer based in Minneapolis. He teaches film&media at the University of Minnesota and is the producer of Fred Kuwornu's We Were Here: The Untold History of Black Africans in Renaissance Europe - set to debut at the Venice Biennale of Art in April. Lorenzo has curated the Italian Film Festival of Minneapolis / St. Paul for numerous years, and now spearheads the Twin Cities Black Europe Film Festival as its founding director.

**CINEMA IS THE STRONGEST WEAPON:** Race-Making and Resistance in Fascist Italy (University of Minnesota Press, 2023)

Why did ordinary Italians collaborate with colonialism, white supremacy, antisemitism, chemical warfare, and totalitarianism? How did such toxicity become so widespread, and upon what imaginaries was Italy's banality of evil undergirded? Cinema Is the Strongest Weapon delves into these pressing questions, examining Italy's national film industry during the reign of Benito Mussolini. Fabbri's book explores how cinema was wielded as a potent political tool by both the fascist regime and its adversaries. Drawing incisive parallels to contemporary debates surrounding race, whiteness, authoritarianism, and politics, this work offers an urgent examination of the profound impact of visual media on culture and society.



## NATA PER TE (BORN FOR YOU)

### DRAMA

6:00 PM

2023, 113 MIN.

U.S. PREMIERE

Q&A WITH VISITING DIRECTOR FABIO MOLLO

"Nata per Te" is the true story of Luca Trapanese and Alba, a man and a newborn baby who desperately need each other, even though the world around them is not yet ready to see them together.

The court of Naples is looking for a family willing to adopt Alba, a girl with Down syndrome who has been left behind on the day of her birth. Luca is single, with a compelling desire to be a father. How many "traditional" families will have to say no, and how much will Luca have to fight before he can be considered a suitable option?

A touching and emotionally rewarding journey in which courage and love prove to be, once again, essential.

**DIRECTOR** Fabio Mollo is a director and writer who studied Visual Theory and Film History at the University of East London, and filmmaking at Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia in Rome. For his first feature film, "Il Sud è Niente," Mollo was nominated as Best New Director at the Nastri d'Argento and the Globi d'Oro. His second feature, "Il Padre d'Italia" received 8 nominations and 13 wins, including Best Performance for Isabella Ragonese at the Globi d'Oro, and for Luca Marinelli at Bif&st. After screening his first and second features, IFF is proud to present the U.S. premiere of his latest film, "Nata per Te."

**CAST** Pierluigi Gigante, Teresa Saponangelo, Barbora Bobulova, Alessandro Piavani, Antonia Truppo, Iaia Forte



## ADAGIO

### CRIME DRAMA

9:00 PM

2023, 127 MIN.

U.S. PREMIERE

"Adagio" is that very rare example of an Italian crime thriller. Visually stunning and suspenseful, it offers an unusual dystopian insight into Rome, and features the most incredible and award winning cast of Italian cinema (Pierfrancesco Favino, Toni Servillo, Valerio Mastandrea, Adriano Giannini).

Rome is governed by chaos, corruption and cynicism, choked by torrid heat, devastated by fires and the darkness of blackouts. Manuel, a 16-year-old boy, is trying to survive as well as he can, while taking care of his elderly father, an ex con. When Manuel too gets involved in the city's corrupted system, his only chance will be to turn for protection to two former criminals, old acquaintances of his father.

The film premiered at the 80th Venice International Film Festival in 2023, and IFF is proud to host its U.S. premiere.

**DIRECTOR** Stefano Sollima is an Italian screenwriter and director, born and raised in Rome. He has to his credit an extraordinary streak of movies and series focusing on the complex dynamics between law & order and the criminal underworld. He was the showrunner, executive producer and director of the famous "Gomorra—The Series," based on the novel by Roberto Saviano. He wrote and directed the series "Romanzo Criminale" and directed the movie "Suburra," both about the criminal world in Rome.

**CAST** Pierfrancesco Favino, Toni Servillo, Valerio Mastandrea, Adriano Giannini



# C'ERAVAMO TANTO AMATI (WE ALL LOVED EACH OTHER SO MUCH)

## COMEDY DRAMA

11:00 AM

1974, 124 MIN.

Q&A WITH PROFESSOR LORENZO FABBRI, DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH AND ITALIAN, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

At the same time one of the highest achievements and final examples of the Commedia all'Italiana, "C'eravamo Tanto Amati" depicts Italy's socio-cultural history from the '50s to the '70s with sharp political teeth. Ettore Scola's masterpiece is not only the quintessential, soul-stirring Italian generational film, but also a film about the influence of cinema and television on everyone's life. (Watch out for extraordinary cameos by Fellini Mastroianni, and TV quiz star Mike Bongiorno as themselves). Moreover, the film is dedicated to Vittorio De Sica. IFF 2024 is thrilled to offer its audience an opportunity to discover this gem, and fall in love with it on its 50th anniversary.

Winner of three Nastri d'Argento in 1975 for Best Screenplay, Best Supporting Actor "Aldo Fabrizi" and Best Supporting Actress "Giovanna Ralli," and winner of the French César Award for Best Foreign Film in 1977.

Presented in collaboration with the Cineteca Nazionale–Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia.

**DIRECTOR** Ettore Scola (Trevico, 1931 – Rome, 2016) is one of the greatest writer-directors of Italian cinema. He received a Golden Globe for Best Foreign Film in 1978 for his film "Una Giornata "Particolare," starring Sofia Loren and Marcello Mastroianni, and over the course of his career, was nominated for five Academy Awards for Best Foreign Language Film. At age 15, he became a ghostwriter. He entered the film industry as a screenwriter in 1953, and collaborated with director Dino Risi and fellow writer Ruggero Maccari on the screenplay for Risi's signature feature, "Il Sorpasso" (1962). He directed his first film, "Se Permettete Parliamo di Donne," in 1964. In 1974, Scola enjoyed international success with "C'eravamo Tanto Amati," winner of numerous awards. In 1976, he won Best Director at the 1976 Cannes Film Festival for "Brutti, Sporchi e Cattivi." Scola made further successful films, "Il Mondo Nuovo" (1982), "Che Ora E'?" (1989) and "Il Viaggio di Capitan Fracassa" (1990). He directed close to 40 films in some 40 years.

**CAST** Nino Manfredi, Vittorio Gassman, Stefania Sandrelli

**PARTNER**  Cineteca Nazionale



# AMANDA

## COMEDY DRAMA

2:00 PM

2022, 93 MIN.

MINNESOTA PREMIERE

Q&A WITH DIRECTOR CAROLINA CAVALLI, CONNECTING LIVE FROM ITALY

Born into an upper-class family with a doting mother who foots the bill for her indolent lifestyle, 24-year-old combative Amanda (emerging talent Benedetta Porcaroli) longs for connection, but has never had a friend of her own. One day, she discovers a long lost-childhood bond, an isolated young girl just like her, and tries absolutely everything to convince her that they are still best friends. "Amanda," a stylish, unconventional comedy and confident first feature from writer-director Carolina Cavalli, received 3 nominations for the Italian David di Donatello for Best Directorial Debut, Best Leading Actress and Best Supporting Actress. It was also nominated for 2 Nastri d'Argento, in the Best Directorial Debut and Best Leading Actress. The film premiered at the 79th Venice International Film Festival and globally at the 47th Toronto International Film Festival, in 2022. "Amanda" made no. 15 in The Guardian's 50 Best films of 2023 list.

**DIRECTOR** Carolina Cavalli was born in Milan, Italy. Her debut feature film, Amanda, premiered at the 79th Venice International Film Festival and globally at the 47th Toronto International Film Festival, in 2022. She is the winner of the 2018 Premio Solinas Grant for TV writing. Cavalli co-wrote the film Fremont along with the Iranian film director and producer, Babak Jalali. Fremont premiered in 2023 at the Sundance Film Festival, and screened at the SXSW Film Festival. In November 2022, her first novel, "Metropolitana" was published.

**CAST** Benedetta Porcaroli, Galatea Bellugi, Michele Bravi, Monica Nappo, Margherita Missoni, Giovanna Mezzogiorno



## GRAZIE RAGAZZI (THANK YOU GUYS)

### COMEDY

5:00 PM

2023, 117 MIN.  
MINNESOTA PREMIERE

In the face of a lack of job opportunities, Antonio, a passionate but often unemployed actor, accepts a job as a teacher of a theater workshop in a penitentiary institution. Initially hesitant, he discovers talent within the unlikely company of inmates. Day by day, the group yields to Antonio's determination, discovering the liberating power of art and its ability to provide purpose and hope beyond waiting.

From Riccardo Milani, one of our audience's favorite directors "Come un Gatto in Tangenziale, Corro da te," comes a crowd-pleasing and heartwarming comedy about the therapeutic power of art.

Winner for Best Actor in a Comedy (Antonio Albanese) at the Nastri d'Argento in 2023.

**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 to 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 & 2023, IFF screened his highly successful comedies "Come un Gatto in Tangenziale" and "Corro da Te," which provided our audience with a lot of laughs, and we are delighted to bring him back with his latest feature for this Minnesota premiere, "Grazie Ragazzi."

**CAST** Antonio Albanese, Sonia Bergamasco, Vinicio Marchioni, Giacomo Ferrara, Giorgio Montanini, Andrea Lattanzi, Nicola Rignanese, Fabrizio Bentivoglio



## IO CAPITANO

### DRAMA

7:45 PM

2023, 121 MIN.  
MINNESOTA PREMIERE

A 2024 Oscar nominee for Best International Feature Film, "Io Capitano" is an epic odyssey from West Africa to Italy, told through the eyes and experiences of Seydou and Moussa, two Senegalese teenage cousins who dream of reaching Europe for a brighter future. Boasting Matteo Garrone's magical realism and his sensitive vision, "Io Capitano" stars two unforgettable newcomers who will break your heart, and it is undoubtedly Italy's most urgent film of the year. IFF is extremely proud to offer its audience this exclusive premiere.

Winner of the Silver Lion for Best Director and the Marcello Mastroianni Award for Best Young Actor at the 80th Venice International Film Festival in 2023 — for newcomer Seydou Sarr, making his feature-film debut — "Io Capitano" is officially nominated for the Oscar for Best International Feature Film at this year's 96th Academy Awards, and was recently nominated for two European Film Awards, including Best Film and Best Director.

**DIRECTOR** Matteo Garrone is a writer, director and producer. "L'imbalsamatore," his fourth feature (2002), received the David di Donatello award for Best Screenplay and Best Supporting Actor, and the Nastro d'Argento for Best Editing. In 2005, he was in competition at the Berlin Film Festival with "Primo Amore." In 2008, Garrone wrote and directed "Gomorra," which won the Grand Prix at the Cannes Film Festival; he won five European Film Awards, including Best Film and Best Director, seven David di Donatello Awards and 2 Nastri d'Argento prizes; "Gomorra" was selected by Italy as the entry for Best International Film (then known as Best Foreign Language Film) at the Academy Awards, and entered the Golden Globes as well as receiving BAFTA and César nominations. With "Reality" (2012), Garrone again won the Grand Prix at the Cannes Film Festival, followed by three David di Donatello Awards and 3 Nastri d'Argento prizes. In 2018, "Dogman" was awarded the Best Actor prize at Cannes, subsequently winning 9 David di Donatello Awards and 8 Nastri d'Argento prizes before being selected by Italy as the entry for Best International Film (then known as Best Foreign Language Film) at the Academy Awards. In 2019, he brought "Pinocchio" to theaters, winning 5 David di Donatello and 4 Nastri d'Argento Awards, as well as earning two Oscar nominations for Best Makeup and Best Costume Design.

**CAST** Seydou Sarr, Moustapha Fall, Ahmed Hichem Yacoubi, Doodou Sagna, Khady Sy, Venus Gueye, Cheick Oumar Diaw, Joe Lassana



8½



MIA

**COMEDY DRAMA****11:00 AM**

1963, 138 MIN.

*INTRODUCTION BY ARTISTIC DIRECTOR TOMMASO CAMMARANO*

One of the greatest films of all time, and possibly the greatest film about film ever made, Federico Fellini's "8½" marks the moment when the director abandoned realism to embrace self-reflexivity, pioneering a stream-of-consciousness/avant-garde/surrealist style that darts exuberantly among flashbacks, dream sequences and carnival-esque reality, turning one man's artistic crisis into the most visionary, exciting and mind-blowing grand epic of cinema.

The film won numerous awards in 1963 and 1964, among which the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film and Best Costume Design; New York Film Critics Circle Award for Best Foreign Language Film, and five Nastri d'Argento: Best Director, Screenplay, Original Story, Producer, Supporting Actress (Sandra Milo).

**MARCELLO MASTROIANNI** 2024 marks Marcello Mastroianni's 100th birth anniversary. His role of Guido, Fellini's alter ego in "8½," is one of the most legendary in the history of Cinema. Fellini aside, Mastroianni worked with every major Italian director, including Luchino Visconti "Le Notti Bianche," Michelangelo Antonioni "La Notte," Mario Monicelli "The Organizer," Pietro Germi "Divorzio All'Italiana," Ettore Scola "Una Giornata Particolare." To this day, Mastroianni embodies the soul of Italian cinema, with his incredible versatility, his suave good looks, his worldly sophistication and elegance. Happy Birthday, Marcello!

**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, which 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; "Rome, Open City", a pioneer film of Neorealism, and his contribution to the screenplay earned him his first Oscar nomination. Fellini was nominated for 17 Academy Awards over the course of his career, winning a total of four in the category of Best Foreign Language Film. He won the Palme d'Or in Cannes for "La Dolce Vita" in 1960, and he received an honorary Lifetime Achievement Award at the 65th Academy Awards in Los Angeles, and also, the Career Golden Lion at the 42nd Venice International Film Festival in 1985.

**CAST** Marcello Mastroianni, Claudia Cardinale, Anouk Aimée, Sandra Milo

**DRAMA****2:15 PM**

2023, 108 MIN.

*U.S. PREMIERE**Q&A WITH DIRECTOR IVANO DE MATTEO, CONNECTING LIVE FROM ITALY*

Mia, a vibrant teenager, enjoys a joyful life surrounded by loving parents and friends. The name Mia, translating to "mine" in Italian, takes on a poignant twist when her world shatters upon encountering a manipulative young man. In an attempt to break free from the toxic relationship, Mia embarks on a challenging journey, with the unwavering support of her parents. Little does she know, the path to liberation is a lot harder than anticipated.

"Mia" is a tight, gut-wrenching, intense and timely reflection on bullying, toxic relationships and abuse, which will suck you in and leave you at a loss for words.

The film received two nominations at the Nastri D'Argento for Best Actor "Edoardo Leo," and Best Screenplay "Ivano De Matteo" and "Valentina Ferlan" in 2023.

**DIRECTOR** Ivano De Matteo is an Italian director, screenwriter, and actor. His journey as an actor took shape within the dynamic confines of the drama laboratory "Il Mulino di Fiora." De Matteo later formed a stage company together with his partner and longtime collaborator Valentina Ferlan. He made his film debut in Pasquale Pozzessere's "Verso Sud." As an actor, he had his breakout in 2008, with the role of Er Puma in the TV series "Romanzo Criminale – La Serie." The same year, he won the Nastro D'Argento for Best Actor in a short film for his performance in Giorgio Caputo's "Action." After directing a documentary film, "Prigioniero di Una Fede," which received a special mention at the Turin Film Festival. De Matteo made his feature film directorial debut in 2002 with the comedy-drama "Final Stage."

**CAST** Edoardo Leo, Greta Gasbarri, Milena Mancini, Riccardo Mandolini



# IL SOL DELL'AVVENIRE (A BRIGHTER TOMORROW)

# SETTEMBRE

## COMEDY

5:15 PM

2023, 95 MIN.

MINNESOTA PREMIERE

Q&A WITH ARTISTIC DIRECTOR TOMMASO CAMMARANO

In this classic Moretti dramedy, Giovanni, a renowned Italian filmmaker, is about to start shooting a political film. But between his marriage in crisis, his coproducer on the verge of bankruptcy, and the rapidly changing film industry, everything seems to be working against him. Always on the edge, Giovanni will have to rethink his way of doing things if he wants to lead his little world toward a brighter tomorrow.

From acclaimed director, screenwriter, actor, and producer Nanni Moretti, "Il Sol dell'Avvenire" was selected to compete for the Palme d'Or at the 2023 Cannes Film Festival. It received seven nominations for Nastri D'Argento, and won one for Best Supporting Actress.

**DIRECTOR** Giovanni "Nanni" Moretti is an Italian film director, producer, screenwriter and actor. His films have won accolades, including a Palme d'Or at the 2001 Cannes Film Festival for "La Stanza del Figlio," a Silver Bear at the 1986 Berlin Film Festival for "La Messa è Finita," and a Silver Lion at the 1981 Venice International Film Festival for "Sogni d'oro," in addition to the David di Donatello Award for Best Film on three occasions (for "Caro Diario" in 1994, "La Stanza del Figlio" in 2001 and "Il Caimano" in 2006). Every film he has directed since "Caro Diario" has been shown at the Cannes Film Festival, and in 2012 he was the president of the Official Competition jury.

**CAST** Nanni Moretti, Silvio Orlando, Margherita Buy, Barbora Bobuřová, Mathieu Amalric, Valentina Romani

## COMEDY

7:45 PM

2022, 108 MIN.

MINNESOTA PREMIERE

A thread runs through the lives of the three characters in "Settembre" — a quest for human connection, happiness and the allure of new beginnings, transcending age and life paths. Giulia Louise Steigerwalt, both screenwriter and director, makes a brilliant directorial debut with this finely crafted comedy/drama, in which authenticity resonates in every character. "Settembre" won two David Di Donatello Awards for Best New Director and Best Lead Actress (Barbara Ronchi), along with four nominations for Nastri D'Argento, winning one for Best New Director in 2022.

**DIRECTOR** Giulia Louise Steigerwalt began her career as an actress in Gabriele Muccino's film "Come Te Nessuno Mai" before starring in other films and television series. After graduating in philosophy, she studied screenwriting at UCLA. Film scripts she has worked on include "Il Campione," "Moglie e Marito," "Croce e Delizia," and "Marilyn ha Gli Occhi Neri." In 2019, at the Nastri d'Argento, she won the SIAE "Special Award for Screenplay" for the films "Il Campione," and "Croce e delizia." "September" is her directorial debut, for which she won one Nastro D'Argento and one David Di Donatello in 2022.

**CAST** Fabrizio Bentivoglio, Barbara Ronchi, Thony, Andrea Sartoretti, Tesa Litvan, Margherita Rebeggiani

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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 from Columbia University. His 2003 short film, "The Time We Lost," premiered at The Venice Film Festival. In 2010, the feature screenplay he co-wrote with Roberto Scarpetti, "BracciaTese" "Arms Outstretched," received a Special Mention at Italy's Premio Solinas. In 2012, 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. He co-produced the award-winning short film "The Bravest, The Boldest," which premiered at Sundance in 2014. He also coproduced the documentary "House in the Fields," which premiered at the 2017 Berlin Film Festival, and subsequently screened at The Walker Art Center. During his career, Tommaso has worked in film distribution for Rialto Pictures and as project manager for the subtitling company Sub-ti London. From 2024, he will collaborate as advisor with Giornate Degli Autori, an independent sidebar of the Venice Film Festival. IFF 2024 marks the 4th year of Tommaso serving as artistic director of the festival.

# UN RINGRAZIAMENTO SPECIALE A ...

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