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# ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL UK

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**ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL UK  
16 NOVEMBER - 2 DECEMBER 2007**

Venues: Edinburgh Filmhouse, Glasgow Film Theatre, Dundee ContemporaryArts, Cardiff Chapter Arts; Manchester Cornerhouse; London Riverside Studios, London Renoir

After decades of disaffection, Italian audiences are returning to watch Italian films in numbers unseen since the glory days of Fellini and Antonioni. The local box office has increased by as much as 23 per cent, driven by domestic titles accounting for a significant 43per cent of the market at one point in the year.

Against such a buoyant background the 14th edition of the Italian Film Festival UK (16 November to 2 December 2007) presents its annual selection of the best in il cinema italiano including some of those hits such as Manual of Love 2, My Best Enemy with Carlo Verdone, Paolo Virzi's Napoleon and Me and Night Before the Exams which kick-started the stampede to the box office.

Encouragingly it's not just comedies that have been attracting attention. More substantial works by respected auteurs, such as the Turkish-born Ferzan Ozpetek with his ensemble drama Saturn in Opposition and Gianni Amelio's Missing Star, also have fared well with audiences.

On the whole, a more pragmatic approach to production - one that's more attuned to audience tastes and less to directorial idiosyncrasies, with a higher premium on production values and indigenous star power such as Monica Bellucci and hot newcomer Riccardo Scamarcio - has begun to reap dividends.

"Italian producers finally have found the courage and capability to speak to the public," says Paolo Protti, president of Italy's exhibitors' association in one interview.

As elsewhere in Europe, Italian directors these days seem taken with revisiting their recent historical past, be it new angles on the Fascist era or the political turmoil that followed. Now the hope is that Italian films will begin to play more regularly outside their home turf, an objective that has long been encouraged by the Italian Film Festival UK.

This 2007 edition of the only event in the UK exclusively devoted to Italian cinema throws the spotlight on some of the biggest names working in Italy today among them such veterans as the Taviani Brothers, Mario Monicelli, cinematographer Vittorio Storaro, Gianni Amelio as well as Paolo Virzi, Eugenio Cappuccio, Davide Ferrario and Agostino Ferrente. Burgeoning talents include Marina Spada, Davide Marengo, and Fausto Brizzi. The healthy and vibrant documentary sector as well as a slew of short films also receives recognition and equal pride of place.

The stunning retrospective on Leading Ladies of Italian Cinema which started in September, runs on through the festival in some venues. A host of guests are waiting in the wings ready to journey with their films - watch the website for confirmed details.

The Italian Film Festival pays tribute and says grazie infinite to all its partners especially the Italian Cultural Institutes in Edinburgh and London, as well as sponsors, film companies, audiences and colleagues.

**BUON DIVERTIMENTO A TUTTI!**

Richard Mowe & Allan Hunter, Directors, Italian Film Festival UK

**THE PROGRAMME**

*PANORAMA*

Caravaggio (18)

Desert Roses / Le Rose del deserto (15)

The Lark Farm / La Masseria delle allodole(15)

Manual of Love 2 / Manuale d'amore 2 (15)

My Best Enemy / Il Mio Miglior Nemico (15)

The Missing Star / La Stella che non c'e (12A)

Napoleon and Me / Io E Napoleone (12A)

One Out of Two / Uno su Due (15)

Saturn in Opposition / Saturno Contro (15)

*NUOVO CINEMA*

As The Shadow / Come l'ombra (15)

The Night Before the Exams / Notte prima degli esami oggi (12A)

Night Bus/Notturmo Bus (12A)

Salvatore-This Is Life / Salvatore-Questa e la vita (PG)

The True Legend of Tony Vilar / La vera leggenda di Tony Vilar (12)

*GARIBALDI ANNIVERSARY*

1860 (12)

*LA VITA - FOR REAL* (Documentaries)

Excellent Cadavers / In un altro paese (18)

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The Orchestra Of Piazza Vittorio / L'Orchestra Di Piazza Vittorio (12)

Primo Levi's Journey / La Strada di Levi (15)

Simply Beautiful / Bellissime (12)

*ITALY'S LEADING LADIES*

The Retrospective continues

*SHORTS / CORTOMETRAGGI*

A selection of handpicked shorts

## GUESTS

**The IFF UK is delighted to welcome these guests to this year's edition. Check websites for updates.**

### **The Taviani Brothers**



The Italian brothers Vittorio (born 1929) and Paolo (born 1931) already started making political documentaries while they were at university in Pisa. Even if they were strongly influenced by neo-realism and especially Roberto Rossellini, their view of history was subjective and their pictorial language metaphorical. Their major works *Padre Padrone* (1977) and *The Night of the Shooting Stars* (1982) won awards in both Berlin and Cannes. More recently, the brothers have adapted both Tolstoy and Dumas for television. In *The Lark Farm* they set out to tackle one of the darkest, most discussed and yet shamefully ignored chapters in European history: the genocide in Armenia in 1915-17. Their film is based on a novel by Antonia Arslan.

London Riverside 19 Nov 8.50pm  
London Riverside 20 Nov 6.30pm  
Glasgow 22 Nov 6.00pm (tbc)  
Edinburgh 23 Nov 8.30pm tbc)

### **Marina Spada**



**Marina Spada** was born in Milan and studied music history at Milan State University. She began work as an assistant director before directing commercials, documentaries and television programmes. She directed the short films *Un Giorno dopo l'altro* (1989) and *L'Astice* (1995) and made her feature directorial debut in 2002 with *Forza cani*. As *the Shadow* (2006) is her second feature.

Glasgow Film Theatre 23 Nov 6.30pm  
Edinburgh Filmhouse 24 Nov 6.00pm

London Renoir 26 Nov 6.30pm

### **Agostino Ferrente**



**Agostino Ferrente**, director, producer, artistic director, music publisher. Born October 28, 1971 in Cerignola (Foggia), "survivor" of Ipotesi Cinema (the group directed by Ermanno Olmi) and the Dams (Department of Performing Arts) at the University of Bologna.

He achieved recognition at international film festivals with his short films *Poco più della metà di zero / A Little More Than Half of Zero* (1993) and *Opinioni di un pirla / A Dickhead's Opinions* (1994). His Pirata Manifatture Cinematografiche film company produced some documentaries, one of which he co-directed with Giovanni Piperno, *Intervista a mia madre / Interview With My Mother*.

In 2001, along with a dozen accomplices, he founded the group Apollo 11. The association saved the historic cinema-theatre Apollo in Rome from becoming a bingo hall.

With Mario Tronco of the band Avion Travel, he created, through Apollo 11, the Orchestra di Piazza Vittorio, an ensemble of about 20 musicians from as many countries around the world and then made a documentary about them.

The film has since been successfully distributed in Italy, and Nanni Moretti re-launched the "cineconcerto" format (film+ concert) at his Cinema Nuovo Sacher which was sold out for several weeks. The film has received many awards including: Nastro D'Argento (Italian Cinema Journalists Union) – for best documentary, Globo D'Oro Award (Foreign Press), Best Director at the Sulmona Cinema Festival, Best Film from the Signis Jury at the Buenos Aires Festival. It continues to receive invitations from many festivals all over the world.

London Riverside 17 Nov 7.00pm  
Glasgow Film Theatre 26 Nov 6.15pm  
Edinburgh Filmhouse 27 Nov 6.00pm

**Davide Marengo**



Davide Marengo was born in Naples in 1972. After completing an arts degree he began to direct video clips and advertising spots, as well as documentaries, television programmes and three short films comprising: *Shit!* (1995), *Dead Train* (1998) and *The Fist* (2002). *Night Bus* (2007) is his first feature.

Edinburgh Filmhouse 25 Nov 8.30pm  
Glasgow Film Theatre 26 Nov 8.20pm  
Dundee DCA 27 Nov 8.30pm

[www.italianfilmfestival.org.uk](http://www.italianfilmfestival.org.uk)

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