



italian
film
festival
usa
2025

21st EDITION

BOSTON | BOULDER | CHICAGO | CLEVELAND
DETROIT | INDIANAPOLIS | KANSAS CITY
MEMPHIS | MILWAUKEE | PHOENIX | PITTSBURGH
PORTLAND | ST. LOUIS

The local premieres of contemporary Italian film. All films in Italian with English subtitles
FREE ADMISSION

Welcome to the Italian Film Festival USA 2025!

Are you ready for a new, amazing cinematic tour of Italy?

In its twenty-first edition, the Italian Film Festival USA continues to offer free screenings of wonderful Italian films. We hope that you will have the opportunity to enjoy our selection of feature and short films. Dramas, comedies, two documentaries, and seven shorts are on our program this year, set in eleven of Italy's twenty regions. A true cinematic tour!

We are proud to showcase an extraordinary line-up of films from Italy, the result of a process of selection from over 80 titles and negotiations with Italian, German, and US distributors. Our program will allow you to discover new talented filmmakers as well as enjoy the most recent works of renowned directors and brilliant actors. We encourage you to attend one of our 83 screenings across the United States.

We are grateful to all of those who assisted us: donors, volunteers, sponsors, and the filmmakers who provide us with entertaining stories that surprise and inspire us. And, of course, many thanks to you, our loyal spectators.

As a non-profit, cultural institution fully supported by donors and staffed entirely by volunteers, it is a pleasure to serve our audience and share, year after year, the best that the Italian film industry has to offer.

See you at the movies!

Barbara Klein, President & Artistic Director
Pierluigi Erbaggio, Director of Operations

City Organizers: **Michela Ardizzoni**, **Jim Carter**, **Denise Caterinacci**, **Pierluigi Erbaggio**, **Cosetta Gaudenzi**, **Lina Insana**, **Barbara Klein**, **Simonetta Milli**, **Konewko**, **Enrico Minardi**, **Zeno Tutino**, **Alberto Villamandos**, **Angela Zagarella**.

SELECTED FILMS

C'È ANCORA DOMANI
THERE'S STILL TOMORROW

COMANDANTE
THE COMMANDER

DUSE, THE GREATEST
DUSE, THE GREATEST

GLI ADDESTRATORI
THE TRAINERS

GLORIA!
GLORIA!

IL MIO POSTO È QUI
MY PLACE IS HERE

IL TEMPO CHE CI VUOLE
THE TIME IT TAKES

IO E IL SECCO
MY KILLER BUDDY

LA SCOMMESSA
HIGH STAKES

LILIANA
LILIANA

TRIFOLE
TRIFOLE

UN MONDO A PARTE
A WORLD APART

UNA STORIA NERA
A DARK STORY

C'È ANCORA DOMANI THERE'S STILL TOMORROW



118 min.

2023

**Comedy
Drama**

Italy

In post-war Rome, Delia is seemingly resigned to her role of wife and mother. Her husband Ivano is the undisputed master of the family. Delia sees her daughter Marcella's engagement to her middle-class boyfriend, Giulio, as Marcella's chance to avoid the same fate as her. Everything suddenly changes when a letter arrives and ignites Delia's courage to challenge convention and start wishing for a better future.

Cast Paola Cortellesi, Valerio Mastandrea, Romana Maggiora Vergano, Emanuela Fanelli, Giorgio Colanageli, Vinicio Marchioni



Director
Paola Cortellesi

Pittsburgh 3/28-7pm | **Portland** 4/5-6:30pm
Detroit 4/6-5pm | **Pittsburgh** 4/10-7pm
Milwaukee 4/11-7pm | **Phoenix** 4/12-1pm
Indianapolis 4/12-6:30pm
St. Louis 4/12-7:30pm | **Memphis** 4/17-6pm
Boulder 4/19-6pm | **Portland** 4/19-6:30pm
Boston 4/26-12pm

COMANDANTE THE COMMANDER



122 min.

2023

Drama

Italy

At the beginning of WWII, Salvatore Todaro commands the Italian Royal Navy submarine *Cappellini*. One dark night in October 1940, while navigating in the Atlantic, the *Cappellini* comes upon the armed Belgian merchant ship *Kabalo* sailing without lights. A brief but fierce battle ensues in which the *Cappellini* crew sink the enemy ship. Commander Todaro then makes a decision that will go down in history.

Cast Pierfrancesco Favino, Massimiliano Rossi, Silvia D'Amico, Arturo Muselli, Giuseppe Brunetti, Gianluca Di Gennaro



Director
Edoardo De Angelis

Pittsburgh 3/29-7pm | **Portland** 4/4-6:30pm
Kansas City 4/7-6pm | **Detroit** 4/9-7pm
Boulder 4/10-6pm | **St. Louis** 4/11-7pm
Indianapolis 4/12-6:30pm
Milwaukee 4/12-7pm

DUSE, THE GREATEST



On the 100th anniversary of Eleonora Duse’s death, Sonia Bergamasco takes us on an investigation into the actress who forever changed her profession, inspiring subsequent generations of actors. How can a woman of whom one silent film and a few photos and portraits remain still be so influential?

98 min.

2024

Doc.

Italy

Cast Annamaria Andreoli, Sonia Bergamasco, Valeria Bruni Tedeschi, Fabrizio Gifuni, Helen Mirren



Director

Sonia Bergamasco

Pittsburgh 4/4-7pm | **Detroit** 4/26-3pm

GLI ADDESTRATORI THE TRAINERS



Pasquale is a struggling dog trainer who dreams of opening his own canine training center. With his life falling apart and his money running out, Pasquale organizes a dog training class. But his flyer ends up being misunderstood by several parents who bring their unruly children to the week-long session instead of their dogs. This misunderstanding will turn into a fun journey.

100 min.

2024

Comedy

Italy

Cast Pasquale Petrolo aka Lillo, Geppi Cucciari, Giovanna Vernia, Francesca Agostini, Massimo De Lorenzo, Bianca Nappi



Director

Andrea Jublin

Cleveland 4/14-7pm | **Detroit** 4/19-5pm

GLORIA!



106 min.

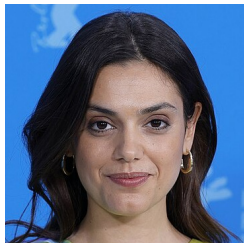
2024

Drama

Italy

Late 1700s. Teresa, nicknamed “the Mute”, is a maid tasked with the humblest chores at Sant’Ignazio College, a religious institution where girls are musically trained by a stern chapel master. One day, a local craftsman gifts the Institute a modern and immediately distrusted instrument: a piano. Relegated to the basement, Teresa finds it and begins to explore the keys, unlocking her musical talents.

Cast Galatea Bellugi, Carlotta Gamba, Veronica Lucchesi, Maria Vittoria Dallasta, Sara Mafodda, Paolo Rossi, Stefano Roberto Belisari aka Elio



Director
Margherita Vicario

Detroit 4/4-7pm | **Pittsburgh** 4/5-7pm
Cleveland 4/8-7pm | **Detroit** 4/11-7pm
Portland 4/11-7:15pm | **Boston** 4/12-7pm
Milwaukee 4/12-9:15pm
Boulder 4/16-4:30pm | **St. Louis** 4/18-7pm

IL MIO POSTO È QUI MY PLACE IS HERE



110 min.

2024

Drama

Italy

Calabria, 1940. Marta and Michele are in love. But he does not return from the war and Marta, who became pregnant before he left, gives birth to Michelangelo. To save the family’s honor, her father promises her in marriage to Gino, an older man she doesn’t love. During the preparations, Marta meets Lorenzo, the parish priest’s assistant, known in the village as “the wedding man,” for his refined taste used to help brides.

Cast Ludovica Martino, Marco Leonardi, Saverio Malara, Giorgia Arena, Francesco Aiello, Biancamaria D’Amato



Directors
*Cristiano Bortone
Daniela Porto*

Pittsburgh 4/11-7pm | **Portland** 4/12-6:30pm
Detroit 4/12-7:30pm | **Boulder** 4/23-4:30pm

IL TEMPO CHE CI VUOLE THE TIME IT TAKES



110 min.

2024

Drama

**Italy
France**

During the 1970s, a father and daughter share a passion for cinema. The father is the famous director Luigi Comencini; the daughter is his third child, Francesca. During her teens, she becomes addicted to drugs, and her father feels he must give “the time it takes” to help her overcome her addiction. Later, determined to become a director herself, Francesca begins to work with her father.

Cast Fabrizio Gifuni, Romana Maggiore Vergano, Anna Mangiocavallo, Luca Donini, Daniela Monterosi, Lallo Circosta, Luca Massaro

Director

Francesca Comencini



Memphis 4/10-7pm | **Pittsburgh** 4/12-7pm
Milwaukee 4/13-7pm | **Boston** 4/17, 7pm
St. Louis 4/26-7:30pm | **Detroit** 4/27-5pm

IO E IL SECCO MY KILLER BUDDY



99 min.

2023

Drama

Italy

Denni is a ten-year-old boy living on the Adriatic coast. He’s on a mission: to save his mother from his father’s physical abuse. Denni is too small to do it alone, and so he decides to hire a professional hit man. He chooses Secco, who is not a criminal at all, but rather a harmless, unemployed father-to-be in need of money. Denni and Secco’s encounter sets off a series of tragicomic adventures.

Cast Andrea Lattanzi, Francesco Lombardo, Barbara Ronchi, Swamy Rotolo, Andrea Sartoretti

Director

Gianluca Santoni



Detroit 4/5-7:30pm | **Phoenix** 4/12-3pm
Milwaukee 4/12-5pm | **Detroit** 4/12-5pm
St. Louis 4/19-5pm | **Chicago** 5/8-7pm

LA SCOMMESSA

HIGH STAKES



84 min.

2024

Comedy

Italy

It's Ferragosto in a deserted hospital in Naples. Two nurses, Angelo and Salvatore, are on duty when Mr. Caputo is hospitalized in very serious condition. For Angelo, an experienced nurse, one look is enough to understand that the man will not make it through the night. Salvatore decides to bet otherwise. The stakes are high: the winner gets to take days off during the Christmas holiday, so Angelo accepts the challenge.

Cast Carlo Buccirosso, Lino Musella, Nando Paone, Iaja Forte, Chiarastella Sorrentino



Director
Giovanni Dota

Phoenix 4/12-11am | **St. Louis** 4/12-5pm
Detroit 4/26-5pm

LILIANA



97 min.

2024

Doc.

Italy

Liliana Segre's testimony of her 1943 arrest, deportation, and poignant final farewell to her father. The film is built around the juxtapositions, cross-references, and contrasts between the historical record and a contemporary portrait of one of the most important women on the Italian scene. It highlights lesser-known aspects of Segre, who was appointed Senator-for-life in 2018.

Cast Liliana Segre, Alberto Belli Paci, Luciano Belli Paci, Federica Belli Paci, Davide Belli Paci, Edoardo Belli Paci, Geppi Cucciari, Ferruccio De Bortoli



Director
Ruggero Gabbai

Pittsburgh 4/3-7pm | **Cleveland** 4/10-7pm
Indianapolis 4/11-4:30pm
Portland 4/11-5:30pm | **Milwaukee** 4/13-3pm
Phoenix 4/13-3pm | **Detroit** 4/13-4pm
Chicago 4/16-7pm | **Boulder** 4/25-3pm
St. Louis 4/26-5pm | **Kansas City** 4/28-6pm

TRIFOLE



Dalia, a young woman who grew up in London, is sent by her mother to a small village in the Langhe area of Piedmont to take care of her grandfather Igor. Upon arrival, Dalia discovers that her grandfather, whose health is worsening day by day due to dementia, has received an eviction notice. Local wineries hope to take over the land once used by truffle hunters, including Igor and his faithful dog Birba. Dalia has to come up with a plan.

100 min.

2024

Drama

Italy

Cast Ydalie Turk, Umberto Orsini, Margherita Buy, Enzo Iachetti, Birba

Director

Gabriele Fabbro



UN MONDO A PARTE

A WORLD APART



After forty years of teaching in the urban jungle of Rome, primary schoolteacher Michele Cortese moves to an idyllic village in the heart of the Abruzzo National Park to teach at a small school with only a handful of students aged seven to ten. He struggles to overcome the challenges of small-town life but finds a friendly face in vice-principal Agnese and gradually adapts, thanks to her and their spirited pupils.

112 min.

2024

Comedy

Italy

Cast Antonio Albanese, Virginia Raffaele, Sergio Saltarelli, Alessandra Barbonetti, Solidea Pistilli, Donatella La Cesa

Director

Riccardo Milani



St. Louis 4/25-7pm* | **Detroit** 4/26-7:30pm*

Portland 4/6-5pm | **Indianapolis** 4/11-6:30pm
Memphis 4/12-7pm | **Phoenix** 4/13-1pm
Milwaukee 4/13-5pm | **Cleveland** 4/14-9pm
Detroit 4/19-7:30pm | **St. Louis** 4/19-7:30pm

*Director's visit

UNA STORIA NERA

A DARK STORY



100 min.

2024

Thriller

Italy

Vito and Carla have been separated for a long time. They have three children together and loved each other desperately before hatred took the place of love. Now Vito has a new life and Carla has a new partner: everyone feels as if tragedy has been averted and destiny is on their side. At least, until the evening when Vito disappears without a trace. His disappearance sets in motion an investigation of everyone's past.

Cast Laetitia Casta, Andrea Carpenzano, Lea Gavino, Cristiana Dell'Anna, Mario Sgueglia, Giordano De Plano, Licia Maglietta,



Director
Leonardo D'Agostini

Milwaukee 4/11-9:15pm

Detroit 4/12-5pm

Detroit 4/12-7:30pm



THERE'S STILL TOMORROW



THE COMMANDER



DUSE, THE GREATEST



THE TRAINERS



GLORIA!



LILIANA



IL TEMPO CHE CI VUOLE



TRIFOLE



MY KILLER BUDDY



A WORLD APART



HIGH STAKES



A DARK STORY

Seven recent short films will be presented in one short film program lasting 110 minutes.

L'ACQUARIO
THE AQUARIUM



Director
Gianluca Zonta

14 min. Vincenzo, who is on his first date with Sara, does not know what to say to her. He asks Chat-AIT, an IA-based app, for help; the app tells him what to say.

2024

Comedy

Italy

NINA



Director
Arianna Mattioli

20 min. Nina, a child with Down syndrome, needs to stay two days in a structure for children with disabilities so her mom can bring her brother to a soccer tryout. What was meant to be a quick stop becomes an important journey for the entire family.

2024

Drama

Italy

SHORT FILMS

LOVE AND CHEWING GUM



Director
Arianna Di Stefano

13 min. How will 13-year-old Riccardo kiss Anna, the most beautiful girl in his middle school?

2024

Rom-Com

Italy

RONZIO

BUZZ



Director
Niccolò Donatini

12 min. Alma is in her twenties and has ADHD. Among bee hives, she feels perfectly comfortable as she learned to manage her neurodiversity in that situation. She is preparing to take a university admission test.

2024

Drama

Italy

Each short is preceded by a director video. The audience will vote on their favorite short.

IL TAGLIO DI JONAS JONAS' HAIRCUT



Director
Rosario Capozzolo

10 min. Jonas travels to a beauty salon where Patty, the owner, will cut his hair. A
2024 haircut that will change both of their lives.
Drama

Italy

SUPERBI



Director
Nikola Brunelli

15 min. Since 1860, the *Superbi* store produces the town of Ascoli Piceno's best
2024 olive ascolane. That was true until young Ismail opens a new fried olive shop in town.
Comedy

Italy

IL GIARDINO DELLE DELIZIE THE GARDEN OF DELIGHTS



Director
Simone Spampinato

17 min. Some of the students in the Velletri penitentiary cooking school are learning to become a chef, with the hope of
2024 one day working at the 5-star restaurant: the Garden of Delights.
Doc.

Italy

The Short Film Program will be presented in the following cities:

Detroit 4/5-5pm
Phoenix 4/13-11am
Portland 4/13-5pm
Kansas City 4/14-6pm
Chicago 4/15-3:30pm
Cleveland 4/16-7pm
St. Louis 4/27-3pm

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ST. LOUIS



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The Italian Film Festival USA is organized by the 501(c)(3) non-profit organization Italian Film Festival of St. Louis. All donations are tax-deductible.

Join our community of spectators in
one of the cities hosting the
Italian Film Festival USA!

BOSTON	APRIL 12-APRIL 26
BOULDER	APRIL 10-APRIL 25
CHICAGO	APRIL 15-MAY 8
CLEVELAND	APRIL 8-APRIL 16
DETROIT	APRIL 4-APRIL 27
INDIANAPOLIS	APRIL 11-APRIL 12
KANSAS CITY	APRIL 7-APRIL 28
MEMPHIS	APRIL 10-APRIL 17
MILWAUKEE	APRIL 11-APRIL 13
PHOENIX	APRIL 12-APRIL 13
PITTSBURGH	MARCH 28-APRIL 12
PORTLAND	APRIL 4-APRIL 19
ST. LOUIS	APRIL 11-APRIL 27