

ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL USA

of CHICAGO

April 8-May 11, 2026



Enjoy the local premiere of four recent Italian films and a program of short films at the 2026 Italian Film Festival USA of Chicago. All films shown in original language with English subtitles at the Northbrook Public Library Auditorium, Kresge Hall on the campus of Northwestern University and Cobb Lecture Hall on the campus of the University of Chicago.



SWEETHEART • GIOIA MIA

Wednesday, April 8 • 7:00 p.m. ♦ Northbrook Public Library Auditorium
Director, Margherita Spampinato, Drama, 2025, 90 min.

Young Nico is forced to spend the summer in Sicily, staying with an elderly, unmarried and very religious aunt who lives completely out of time in an old building full of superstitions and without Wi-Fi. There is a clash between modernity and the past, yet, little by little, a deep bond is formed.



FAMILIA

Monday, April 20 • 6:00 p.m. ♦ Kresge Hall 1515, Northwestern University
Director, Francesco Costabile, Drama, 2024, 120 min.

Rome. Luigi "Gigi" Celeste lives with his brother and their mother, who separated from their violent father Franco. When Franco is released from prison and shows up to claim his family back, Gigi will be forced to confront his past and make crucial decisions about his future. Can he save the family? Liberally inspired by the book *Non sarà sempre così* by Luigi Celeste.



THE ASCENT • LA SALITA

Wednesday, April 29 • 7:00 p.m. ♦ Northbrook Public Library Auditorium
Director, Massimiliano Gallo, Drama, 2025, 90 min.

Naples, 1983. Due to earthquake damage, the women's prison is closed and the inmates are moved to the juvenile prison on the islet of Nisida. Playwright and Senator for life Eduardo De Filippo helps to renovate the prison's theater and create a school for acting.



SHORT FILM PROGRAM • PROGRAMMA DI CORTOMETRAGGI

Thursday, May 7 • 3:30 p.m. ♦ Cobb Lecture Hall 310, University of Chicago
Drama, Documentary, Comedy, Animation, 120 min.

Seven recent films—*Viola*, *Mercato libero*, *Il gatto di Monica*, *Rukeli*, *Oltre la collina*, *C'è da comprare il latte*, *Twentyseven: Sister Portrait*—are in competition for your vote for best short.



THREE GOODBYES • TRE CIOTOLE

Monday, May 11 • 6:00 p.m. ♦ Kresge Hall 1515, Northwestern University
Director, Isabel Coixet, Drama, 2025, 120 min.

After what seemed like a trivial argument, Marta and Antonio break up. When Marta discovers her loss of appetite has more to do with her own health than the pain of separation, everything changes and she makes an important choice on how to live the rest of her life.

FREE admission

For further information, visit www.italianfilmfests.org



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO



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