

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

MICHAEL ALTIMORE is a Professor of Sociology at Temple University, where he teaches courses on the Sociology of Film. He has written on movies for several journals.

LUCA BARATTONI is an Associate Professor of World Cinema at Clemson University, where he also teaches Video Games studies for the graduate program in Rhetorics, Communication and Information Design.

DEIRDRE BOYLE is Professor emeritus in the School of Media Studies at The New School in New York where she also served as director of the Graduate Certificate in Documentary Studies.

JOHN M. CARVALHO, Professor of Philosophy at Villanova University, is the author of *Thinking with Images: An Enactivist Aesthetics* and of over fifty essays published in journals or anthologies.

MATTIA CINQUEGRANI is a Research Fellow at Università degli Studi di Roma Tre, Italy. He published books and essays on Italian cinema and visual studies.

LUCA COTTINI is an Associate Professor of Italian Studies at Villanova University, host and creator of the YouTube show *Italian Innovators*, speaker, and author of three books.

SAVERIO GIOVACCHINI is an Associate Professor of History at the University of Maryland, where he has served twice as the director of the Nathan and Jeanette Miller Center for Historical Studies.

FRANCOIS LAROSA is an award-winning filmmaker, screenwriter, and producer with 23 years of film industry experience. He is the creator of 4 reality series and writer-director of 3 features films.

FLAVIA LAVIOSA is a Senior Lecturer in Italian Studies at Wellesley College. Her research interests are in Italian women filmmakers and representations of violence against women in international cinema.

CHARLES L. LEAVITT IV is Associate Professor of Italian and Film and Associate Director of the Center for Italian Studies at the University of Notre Dame. He studies modern and contemporary Italian culture in a comparative context.

SUSAN MACKEY-KALLIS is a Professor in the Communication Department at Villanova University. Her teaching and research are in the areas of rhetorical criticism of film, media, and popular culture.

MILLICENT MARCUS is the Sarai Ribicoff Professor of Italian Studies at Yale University. Her specializations include Italian cinema, interrelationships between literature and film, and representations of the Holocaust in post-war Italian culture.

SIMONETTA MILLI KONEWKO is an Associate Professor of Italian and Director of the Italian Program in the Department of Global Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She wrote *Neorealism and the "New" Italy*, "Compassion in the development of Italian Identity."

NELSON MOE is a Professor of Italian and Film at Barnard College, Columbia University. He is the author of the study *The View from Vesuvius: Italian Culture and the Southern Question*.

LAURA MUSCARDIN is an award-winning filmmaker and screenwriter based in Rome. She teaches *Theory and analysis of film language* at the Accademia di Belle Arti di Roma.

JOHN O'LEARY is the director of *The Cultural Film and Lecture Series* at Villanova University. He has co-written two chapters for books about situation comedies. He is also the co-founder of The Social Justice Documentary Program.

CHET PANCAKE is an award-winning transmasculine filmmaker, video, new media, and sound artist. Pancake is Chairperson and Associate Professor in the Film and Media Arts Program at Temple University.

FRANCESCO PITASSIO is a Professor of Film Studies at the University of Udine, Italy. He has published on Neorealist and East Central European cinema.

TANIA ROMERO is a documentary filmmaker, co-director of the Social Justice Documentary Program at Villanova, and Assistant Teaching Professor in the Department of Communication at Villanova.

LAURA E. RUBERTO is a Professor of Humanities at Berkeley City College, Mellon Foundation/ACLS Fellow, and Fulbright Scholar. Her research covers film, material culture, and vernacular culture in Italian diaspora and transnational contexts.

KARL SCHOONOVER is a Professor of Film and Television Studies at the University of Warwick, UK. He is the author of *Brutal Vision: The Neorealist Body in Postwar Italian Cinema* and co-editor of *Global Art Cinema*.

ALESSANDRA SEGGI is the creator, organizer, and facilitator of the *Cinema with a Social Conscience: Italian Neorealism* film series. She authored *Youth and suicide in American Cinema: context, causes and consequences*.

TIMOTHY SHARY has published extensively on the representation of youth and aging in cinema. He is a Professor at Eastern Florida State College in Palm Bay, Florida.

ANASTASIA VALECCE is an Associate Professor of Hispanic Studies at Spelman College. Her research centers on the cultural and artistic productions of contemporary Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Dominican Republic.

QI WANG SCHLUPP is a Professor of Communication at Villanova University. Her research has been focused on interpersonal and intercultural communication and conflict management.

RICK WORLAND is a Professor in the Department of Electronic Media and Film at Southern Methodist University. He has published many articles dealing with American popular culture in books and scholarly journals. He has recently published two books: *The Horror Film: An Introduction* and *Searching for New Frontiers: Hollywood Films in the 1960s*.

CULTURAL FILM SERIES COMMITTEE

This year's Cultural Film Series was created, organized, and facilitated by Alessandra Seggi.

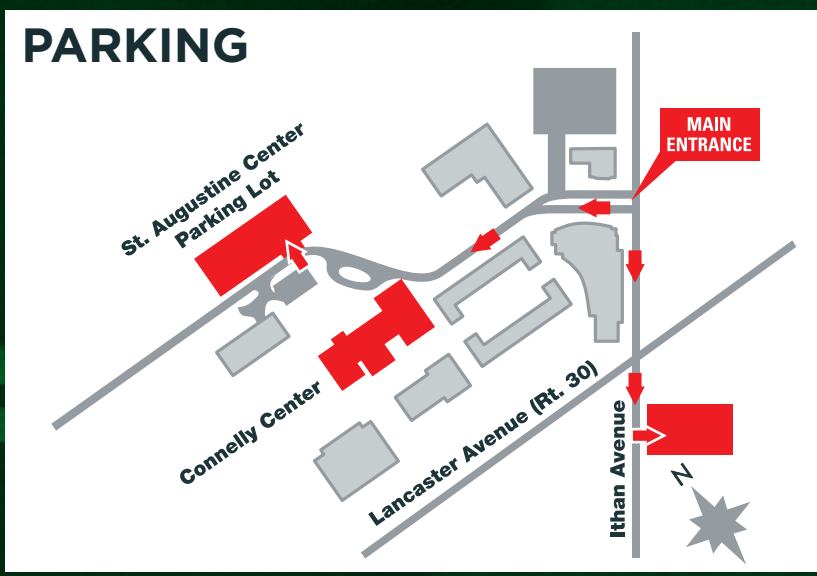
- JOHN O'LEARY**, Director
- JARRYD KAINZ**, Assistant Director
- J.J. BROWN**, Treasurer
- TONY ALFANO**, Associate Vice President of Auxiliary Services

ADVISORS

- DAN JEFFERSON**, **SUSAN MARCOSSON**, **JOHN PAUL SPIRO**, **ELANA ROSE STARR**

INFORMATION

CALL (610) 519-4454
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All films are screened at the Connolly Center Cinema. Parking available in the St. Augustine (M2) lot behind the Connolly Center



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CINEMA WITH A SOCIAL CONSCIENCE: Italian Neorealism

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CULTURAL
FILM
SERIES
2024 - 2025

This year's film series will feature pictures from the Italian Neorealism film movement and movies related to that movement. Films are screened in the Cinema of the Connelly Center on Villanova's campus on Sundays at 3:30 and 7 p.m. and Monday evenings at 7 p.m. The speakers, who introduce the film and lead a discussion after the screening, are only present for the Monday evening screenings. As always, all screenings are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Dr. John O'Leary at john.oleary@villanova.edu, or by calling (610) 519-4454

FALL 2024

SEPTEMBER 29-30

ROMA CITTÀ APERTA— OPEN CITY

Italy, 1945 | 105 minutes

DIRECTED BY Roberto Rossellini

This story about a Resistance leader on the run from the Nazis in 1944 Rome was described by Kenneth Turan of the *Los Angeles Times* as, "a world cinema landmark."

SPEAKER: Millicent Marcus



OCTOBER 6-7

FIGLI DI ROMA CITTÀ APERTA— CHILDREN OF OPEN CITY

Italy, 2005 | 53 minutes

DIRECTED BY Laura Muscardin

Director of the documentary *Children of Open City*, Laura Muscardin, will join us to discuss her documentary examining the making of *Open City*.

SPEAKER: Laura Muscardin



OCTOBER 27-28

SINCE YOU WENT AWAY

USA, 1944 | 173 minutes

DIRECTED BY John Cromwell, Edward Cline, & Tay Garnett

Following a mother raising two daughters when her husband leaves to fight in WWII, Wesley Lovell of *Cinema Sight* says of WWII movies, there are, "none more fascinating or heart-wrenching as those of the lives of the people left behind at home."

SPEAKER: Rick Worland



NOVEMBER 10-11

PAISAN

Italy, 1946 | 120 minutes

DIRECTED BY Roberto Rossellini

Featuring six vignettes of interactions between American forces and locals in Italy during WWII, "this remarkable film communicates how the war in Italy actually took place on a very personal level," says John Nesbit of *Old School Reviews*.

SPEAKERS: Flavia Laviosa & Qi Wang Schlupp



NOVEMBER 17-18

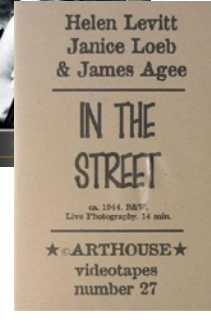
THE BATTLE OF SAN PIETRO & IN THE STREET

45 minutes

DIRECTED BY (John Huston) and (Helen Levitt, Janice Loeb & James Agee)

This double screening will feature two documentaries capturing vastly different places in the mid-1940's: the Battle of San Pietro and the streets of Spanish Harlem.

SPEAKERS: Deirdre Boyle & Chet Pancake



NOVEMBER 24-25

GERMANIA ANNO ZERO— GERMANY YEAR ZERO

Italy, 1948 | 88 minutes

DIRECTED BY Roberto Rossellini

This film, following the struggles of a young boy in post-WWII Berlin, "makes you feel the weight of every smashed facade and fallen stone," says David Denby of the *New Yorker*.

SPEAKERS: Timothy Shary & Francesco Pitassio



DECEMBER 8-9

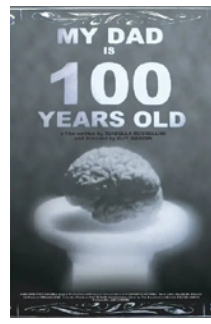
MY DAD IS 100 YEARS OLD

2005 | 16 minutes

DIRECTED BY Guy Maddin

The short documentary *My Dad is 100 Years Old* features Isabella Rossellini discussing the life of her father, legendary Italian neo-realist film director Roberto Rossellini

SPEAKER: Alessandra Seggi



FEBRUARY 9 - 10

OSSESSIONE - OBSESSION

Italy, 1943 | 140 minutes

DIRECTED BY Luchino Visconti

Described as, "a landmark film in both Neo-Realist and giallo traditions," (Alexandra Heller-Nicholas, *Senses of Cinema*) this story follows the love affair between a drifter and an inn-owner as they plan to murder her husband.

SPEAKERS: Saverio Giovacchini & Luca Cottini



FEBRUARY 16 - 17

THE POSTMAN ALWAYS RINGS TWICE

USA, 1946 | 113 minutes

DIRECTED BY Tay Garnett

This, "masterclass in noir," (Jennie Kermode, *Eye for Film*) tells the story of a married woman and a drifter who fall in love and plot to murder her husband.

SPEAKERS: Rick Worland & Susan Mackey-Kallis



FEBRUARY 23 - 24

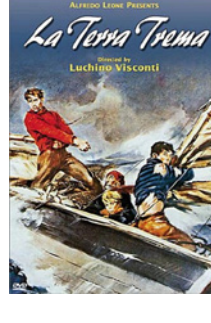
LA TERRA TREMA— THE EARTH TREMBLES

Italy, 1948 | 160 minutes

DIRECTED BY Luchino Visconti

This film, following fishermen living in rural Sicily as they fight to break out of poverty, is, "one of the greatest films to emerge from the Italian neorealist movement" (*TV Guide*).

SPEAKERS: Nelson Moe & Luca Barattoni



MARCH 16-17

BELLISSIMA

Italy, 1951 | 108 minutes

DIRECTED BY Luchino Visconti

Bellissima, "the first honest self-portrait of the cinema," (*TV Guide*) tells the story of a woman desperately trying to get her daughter into the movies.

SPEAKER: Mattia Cinquegrani



MARCH 23-24

I BAMBINI CI GUARDANO— THE CHILDREN ARE WATCHING US

Italy, 1943 | 84 minutes

DIRECTED BY Vittorio De Sica

This family drama, centered around a four-year-old boy, depicts, "the painful and necessary maturation of a child and of Italian cinema," says Fernando Croce of *CinePassion*.

SPEAKER: Simonetta Milli Konewko



MARCH 30-31

LADRI DI BICICLETTE— BICYCLE THIEVES

Italy, 1948 | 99 minutes

DIRECTED BY Vittorio De Sica

This "brilliant, tactlessly real work of art," (Peter Bradshaw, *Guardian*) tells the story of a father and son setting out to find the father's stolen bicycle.

SPEAKERS: Karl Schoonover, Michael Altimore & John Carvalho



APRIL 6-7

UMBERTO D & 40 WEEKS IN CINECITTÀ

105 minutes

DIRECTED BY (Vittorio De Sica) and (Francois La Rosa)

This double feature will show the film *Umberto D*, a story about an elderly man and his dog struggling to survive in Rome, followed by *40 Weeks in Cinecittà*, a documentary about Italian neorealist film director Federico Fellini.

SPEAKERS: Anastasia Valecce, Tania Romero & Francois Larosa



APRIL 27-28

RISO AMARO - BITTER RICE

Italy, 1949 | 108 minutes

DIRECTED BY Giuseppe De Santis

This story about two criminals on the run, "fuses the class-based politics - and the on-location authenticity - of neorealism with a smoldering romantic melodrama," says Richard Brody of the *New Yorker*.

SPEAKERS: Laura E. Ruberto & Charles Leavitt



I Rossellini's *Open City*:
The founding

WHEN MANFREDI, the partisan leader who has been captured by the Nazis at the end of *Open City*, refuses to disavow the Committee of National Liberation, he is hailed as the heroism of his leader.

SPRING 2025