

THAT'S ITALIAN!

U of M to host three-film festival, starting April 15



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SCREEN VISIONS



COURTESY OF WUNDERBELL



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LEFT: Carlo Buccrosso won Italy's equivalent of the Oscar for Best Supporting Actor for his role as a mobster in the comedy "The Legendary Giulia and Other Miracles," which kicks off this year's Italian Film Festival on April 15 at the University of Memphis. RIGHT: Roberto Herlitzka plays a veteran theatrical performer known for his role as "Harlequin" in "L'Harlequin," which will screen April 15. A third movie, "Giulia" will be shown April 12.

Also returning: Dixon's outdoorsy South Lawn Cinema

Less than two months after the end of the Rhodes College Tosarnees French Film Festival and some five weeks after the Memphis Jewish Community Center's Morris and Mollye Fogelman International Jewish Film Festival comes another annual movie event with an international perspective, the **Italian Film Festival USA** at the **University of Memphis**.

Now in its sixth year in Memphis, the three-film festival begins at 7 p.m. April 5 with "The Legendary Giulia and Other Miracles" ("Nol e la Giulia"), a 2015 comedy written and directed by its star, Edoardo Leo, a filmmaking triple-threat in the comedic tradition of Chaplin, Jerry Lewis and (closer to his home) Robert Benigni. Winner of a best supporting actor award from the Academy of Italian Cinema (which does

out Italy's equivalent of the Oscars), the movie chronicles the misadventures of three friends whose tourism business runs afloat of the conorra (an Italian crime syndicate).

"Giulia" will be followed at 7 p.m. April 12, by director Edoardo Falcone's "God Willing" ("Se Dio Vuole"), a 2015 comedy about an atheist surgeon (Marco Giallini) who goes undercover in a monastery to uncover dirt on the monks

who have "brainwashed" his son into a desire to become a Catholic priest.

The final film in the series, which screens at 8 p.m. April 13, is "L'Harlequin" ("Lo, Arlecchino"), directed by Matteo Bini and Giorgio Pasotti, a 2014 drama about a handsome young daytime TV host (Pasotti) whose dying father (Roberto Herlitzka — the cardinal in "The Great Beauty") is a longtime theatrical performer in the Italian tradition of "Commedia dell'Arte."

All screenings, which take place in the on-campus University Center Theatre at 499 University St., are free and open to the public.

Memphis is one of 13 cities that will host some version of this year's 12th annual Italian Film Festival USA, organized by the Italian Film Festival of St. Louis and the Italian Cultural Institute of Chicago to give wider U.S. exposure to "the most acclaimed recent releases of Italian cinema." The event is coordinated in Memphis by Cosetta Gaudenzi, associate professor of Italian at the U of M, with the support of the Memphis chapter of UNICO.

The movies are in Italian, with English subtitles. Coffee and refreshments are provided after the movies, and viewers are invited

to stay and discuss the films. For more information, visit www.italianfilmfest.org/memphis.