

**LOCAL SCENES: MOVIE NEWS AND NOTES**



Gianni Di Gregorio is a lonely retiree in the Italian comedy "The Salt of Life." He wrote and directed the film.

ANTONIO CARLONI

**FILM EVENTS**

**Angell Hall (U-M):** Chinese Documentary Film Series, featuring "Timber Gang," a 2006 film in northeastern Chinese dialect with English subtitles, 7 p.m. Sat. Auditorium A, 435 S. State, Ann Arbor. 734-764-4189. [www.ii.umich.edu/ccs](http://www.ii.umich.edu/ccs). Free.

**Cass City Cinema:** "The Artist," 7:30 & 9:45 p.m. Thu.-Sat., 5:15 p.m. Sun. 3420 Cass, Detroit. 313-473-9238. [www.casscitycinema.com](http://www.casscitycinema.com). \$5.

**Ford Drive-In:** First run double-feature shows daily, through Oct. 31. 10400 Ford, Dearborn. 313-846-6910. [www.forddrivein.com](http://www.forddrivein.com). \$8.50, \$3 ages 6-12, free ages 5 and younger.

**Michigan Theater:** National Theatre Live: "She Stoops to Conquer," screening of live theater broadcast by the National Theatre London, 7 p.m. Wed. \$12-\$22. 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397. [www.michtheater.org](http://www.michtheater.org).

**St. John's Episcopal Church:** Michigan Coalition for Human Rights and Peace Action of Michigan Film Series, featuring "Priceless," 7 p.m. Tue. 26998 Woodward, Royal Oak. 313-579-9071. [www.mchr.org](http://www.mchr.org). \$5 donation.

**Studio 1219:** "Paris The Luminous Years: Toward the Making of the Modern," 7 p.m. Fri. 1219 Military, Port Huron. 810-984-2787. [www.studio1219.com](http://www.studio1219.com). Free.

**The Magic Bag:** Brew & View, featuring "Chronicle," 9:30 p.m. Thu. "The Wanderlust," 9:30 p.m. Wed. 22920 Woodward, Farmdale. 248-544-3030. [www.themagicbag.com](http://www.themagicbag.com). \$2.

— Compiled by Nancy Chipman Powers

# Middle-aged man aims to spice things up

## DFT to screen warm comedy 'Salt of Life'

By John Monaghan  
Free Press Special Writer

Gianni is a 60-year-old retiree who feels invisible to everyone around him, especially women. So when he discovers that an old codger in the neighborhood is having an affair with a curvy shopkeeper, he starts to get ideas.

"The Salt of Life" (★★★ out of four stars), playing this weekend and next at the Detroit Film Theatre, is a charming new Italian comedy from writer-director Gianni Di Gregorio, who also takes the lead role. His attempts to seduce various women prove funny and poignant, and he's even better than he was in his "Mid-August Lunch," which had a similar sensibility.

You can sympathize with Gianni's yearnings, especially when his wife gives him a list of things to do that includes buying new drapes at Ikea. "What else have you got to do?" she asks in tones more like a scolding mother than a wife.

Gianni has a mother, too, who's nearly 90. She has a live-in nurse but still

calls her son at odd hours to adjust the picture on her TV set. One night, he makes a move on the nurse, only to have her later share a dream in which she envisioned him as her grandfather.

Whether Gianni actually connects through one of his awkward attempts almost proves inconsequential. At its warm heart, the movie taps into the middle-aged male psyche, and it's made all the more pleasant by lovely Italian scenery.

7 p.m. Friday-Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday (also next weekend) at the Detroit Film Theatre at the Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward. 313-833-3237. [dia.org/dft](http://dia.org/dft). \$7.50; \$6.50 students, seniors. (The movie also plays for the next week at the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor.)

**MORE ITALIAN FILMS:** More films from Italy will screen free at area institutions through April as part of the annual Italian Film Festival USA. The fest was schedule to begin Wednesday night and continues Friday with "The Immature," about old high school friends who must return to the books when a government error makes their diplomas invalid. It screens at 7 p.m. Friday at the University of Michigan's Lorch Hall, 511 Tappan St., Ann Arbor.

The festival, in its fifth year in metro Detroit, is part of a national tour to promote Italian cinema in the United States. Titles will screen at other venues, including Wayne State University, Macomb Center for the Performing Arts and Emagine Royal Oak, the latter hosting the closing night entry, "Welcome to the South." Info at [www.Italianfilmfests.org](http://www.Italianfilmfests.org).

**3D 'TITANIC' MAY LOOK BETTER AT HENRY FORD:** When choosing a place to see the 3D rerelease of "Titanic" (★★★★), you might want to make the extra effort to see it in IMAX at the Henry Ford. The museum is one of only five theaters in the world that will show the James Cameron epic in a film-based (rather than digital) 3D process.

The effect, even for the casual filmgoer, will increase the depth of the dimensional effects and give the images more texture and grain.

The 194-minute film plays in conjunction with the current "Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition." That's part of the reason the Henry Ford was chosen to get this rare film print, which costs about \$90,000 to create, according to Henry Ford IMAX projection head Ron Bartsch.

"Titanic" screens today-July 19 at the

Henry Ford IMAX, 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn. Info at [www.thehenryford.org/imax](http://www.thehenryford.org/imax). 313-271-1570. \$13.75, \$12.75 seniors, \$9.75 ages 12 and under.

**PENN PITCHES BASEBALL MOVIES IN APRIL:** "The Pride of the Yankees" (★★★★), the stirring 1942 biopic starring Gary Cooper as slugger Lou Gehrig, kicks off a month of baseball movies at the Penn Theatre. All will be shown at 7 p.m. on Thursdays. The other titles: "Field of Dreams" (April 12), "Bull Durham" (April 19) and "For the Love of the Game" (April 26). 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth. 734-453-0870. [penntheatre.com](http://penntheatre.com). \$3.

**DFT REVIVES 'SHRINKING MAN':** The title sounds dopey, but 1957's "The Incredible Shrinking Man" (★★★★) remains one of the smartest movies of the science fiction genre. Based on a novel by Richard Matheson, it reveals how a mysterious radioactive fog makes '50s everyman Scott (Grant Williams) grow smaller each day and comes with a still-surprising and philosophical conclusion. 4 p.m. Saturday at the Detroit Film Theatre at the DIA.

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