

# ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL USA

## of CLEVELAND

### March 26 – April 8, 2026



Enjoy the local premiere of five recent Italian films and a program of short films at the 2026 Italian Film Festival USA of Cleveland. All films shown in original language with English subtitles, at the Strosacker Auditorium on the campus of Case Western Reserve University (CWRU). In collaboration with the CWRU College of Arts & Sciences Department of Modern Languages and Literatures Program in Italian and CWRU Film Society. **FREE** admission. For further information, visit [www.italianfilmfests.org](http://www.italianfilmfests.org)



#### SWEETHEART • GIOIA MIA

Thursday, March 26 • 7:00 p.m. ♦ *Opening Night Sponsor: Dattilo Wealth Management Group*  
 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 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.



#### LIFE IS LIFE • LA VITA VA COSÌ

Tuesday, March 31 • 7:00 p.m. ♦ *Film Sponsor: Frank Giaimo*  
 Director, Riccardo Milani, Comedy, 2025, 118 min.

Two worlds collide on a beautiful Sardinian beach—that of Efisio, a local shepherd, and that of Giacomo, a Milanese real estate developer who is determined to transform the unspoiled coast into a luxury resort. Who will prevail?



#### SHORT FILM PROGRAM • PROGRAMMA DI CORTOMETRAGGI

Thursday, April 2 • 7:00 p.m.  
 Drama, Comedy, Animation, Historical, 2025, 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.



#### FOR YOU • PER TE

Monday, April 6 • 7:00 p.m.  
 Director, Alessandro Aronadio, Drama, 2025, 115 min.

Based on the true story of young Mattia Piccoli and his father Paolo who, in his early forties, slowly begins to lose parts of his memory. A story that celebrates the power of love beyond memory and time.



#### ELVIRA NOTARI. BEYOND THE SILENCE • ELVIRA NOTARI. OLTRE IL SILENZIO

Wednesday, April 8 • 7:00 p.m.  
 Director, Valerio Ciriaci, Documentary, 2025, 94 min.

A look at Elvira Notari, Italy's first female director during the golden age of Neapolitan silent cinema, who made more than sixty films.



#### THE ASCENT • LA SALITA

Wednesday, April 8 • 9:00 p.m. ♦ *Closing Night Sponsor: Liberatore Landscape Construction*  
 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.

