

ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL USA

of St. Louis

April 3 – 18, 2026



Enjoy nine recent Italian films and a program of short films at the 2026 Italian Film Festival USA of St. Louis. Screenings held at Washington University (WUSTL) and Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville (SIUE). Sponsored by Julie & Nicolas Poulos, the Italian Club of St. Louis, the Mazzarella Family Foundation, Carlo & Martha Giordano, Beck & Beck Attorneys. In collaboration with WUSTL Program in Film & Media Studies, Department of Romance Languages & Literatures and SIUE Dept of Foreign Languages & Literatures.

FREE admission For further information, visit www.italianfilmfests.org



NAPOLI-NEW YORK • Director, Gabriele Salvatores, Drama, 2024, 124 min.

Friday, April 3 • 7:00 p.m. • WUSTL, Jerzewiak Family Auditorium, Wrighton Hall, Throop Drive
Orphaned children Carmine and Celestina survive post-war life in Naples, dreaming of going to America. One night, they stow away on a ship bound for New York. Based on a screenplay by Federico Fellini.



FOR YOU • PER TE • Director, Alessandro Aronadio, Drama, 2025, 115 min.

Saturday, April 4 • 5:00 p.m. • WUSTL, Jerzewiak Family Auditorium, Wrighton Hall, Throop Drive
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.



SWEETHEART • GIOIA MIA • Director, Margherita Spampinato, Drama, 2025, 90 min ♦ *Film Sponsor: Julie & Nicolas Poulos*

Saturday, April 4 • 7:30 p.m. • WUSTL, Jerzewiak Family Auditorium, Wrighton Hall, Throop Drive
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.



LIFE IS LIFE • LA VITA VA COSÌ • Director, Riccardo Milani, Comedy, 2025, 118 min.

Friday, April 10 • 7:00 p.m. • WUSTL, Brown Hall, 6350 Forsyth Blvd. ♦ *Film Sponsor: Martha & Carlo Giordano*
Two worlds collide on a beautiful Sardinian beach—that of Efisio, a local shepherd, and that of Giacomo, a real estate developer who is determined to transform the unspoiled coast into a luxury resort. Who will prevail?



LIKE BROTHERS • COME FRATELLI • Director, Antonio Padovan, Drama, 2025, 90 min.

Saturday, April 11 • 5:30 p.m. • WUSTL, Brown Hall, 6350 Forsyth Blvd. ♦ *Film Sponsor: Beck & Beck Attorneys*
Giorgio and Alessandro, unable to cope with the challenges of being both fathers and widowers, join forces to help each other raise their children. This balance is challenged when a woman enters the picture.



THE ASCENT • LA SALITA • Director, Massimiliano Gallo, Drama, 2025, 90 min

Saturday, April 11 • 7:30 p.m. • WUSTL, Brown Hall, 6350 Forsyth Blvd. ♦ *Film Sponsor: Mazzarella Family Foundation*
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 the first school for acting in a juvenile prison.



SHORT FILM PROGRAM • PROGRAMMA DI CORTOMETRAGGI Drama, Comedy, Animation, 2025, 110 min.

Sunday, April 12 • 3:00 p.m. • SIUE, Chemistry Lecture Hall, Science East 1136, 40 Hairpin Drive, Edwardsville
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 film.



ZVANI • Director, Giuseppe Piccioni, Biografic, 2025, 110 min. ****North American premiere****

Friday, April 17 • 7:00 p.m. • WUSTL, Brown Hall, 6350 Forsyth Blvd ♦ *Film Sponsor: Italian Club of St. Louis*
The life of famous 19th century poet Giovanni Pascoli as seen through the eyes of his beloved sister Mariù.



ELVIRA NOTARI. BEYOND THE SILENCE • ELVIRA NOTARI. OLTRE IL SILENZIO • Dir, V. Ciriaci, Doc., 2025, 94 min.

Saturday, April 18 • 5:00 p.m. • WUSTL, Brown Hall, 6350 Forsyth Blvd.
A look at Elvira Notari, Italy's first female director during the golden age of Neapolitan silent cinema, who made more than sixty films that entertained audiences in Italy and the Little Italy neighborhoods of the United States.



THE TASTERS • LE ASSAGGIATRICI • Director, Silvio Soldini, Drama, 2025, 123 min. ♦ In German language

♦ An exclusive recorded interview with director Soldini will be shown before the screening ♦
Saturday, April 18 • 7:30 p.m. • WUSTL, Brown Hall, 6350 Forsyth Blvd
1943. Rosa, fleeing bombed-out Berlin, reaches her in-laws and discovers the peaceful village hides a secret: within the nearby forest is Hitler's headquarters. Rosa is taken, along with other young women from the village, to taste the food prepared for the Führer.

