



Calendar of Events

Film Festival The Rise and Fall of Italian Neorealism

FEBRUARY 7 – APRIL 18

The Film Festival showcases Neorealism, an innovative movement in Italian cinema that grew out of the sociocultural experience of World War II. Neorealism experimented with using non-professional actors to emulate the realities of daily life with great success. The directors highlighted in this series are: Giuseppe De Santis, Vittorio De Sica, Federico Fellini, Roberto Rossellini, and Luchino Visconti.

FEBRUARY 7
time: 8:00pm

Ossessione

Ossessione (Obsession), directed by Luchino Visconti, is the harbinger of neorealism, a story of fascist repression.

1942 - Italy - 135 min. - B&W

Pictorial Beauty and The Harbinger of Neorealism: A Story of the Dirtiness, the Crime and the Unemployment of Fascist Repression

Guest Speaker: Kent Jones

BIO: Kent Jones is the associate director of programming at the Film Society of Lincoln Center and member of the New York Film Festival selection committee. He is the editor-at-large and frequent contributor to Film Comment and Artforum. Among other publications, Jones is the New York correspondent for Cahiers du Cinéma; author of the Monograph l'argent and two upcoming books on Hou Hsiao-Hsien and André Téchiné, and co-author of Martin Scorsese's "il Mio Viaggio in Italia."

FEBRUARY 13
time: 8:00pm

Roma Citta Aperta

Roma Citta Aperta (Open City), directed by Roberto Rossellini, represents the birth of neorealism: a study and placing of the resistance movement and the war.

1945 - USA / Italy - 103 min.

The Birth of Neorealism: A Study and Placing of the Resistance Movement and the War Itself

Guest Speaker: Ingrid Rossellini

BIO: Ingrid Rossellini was raised in Italy and immersed in the movie world of her father, Roberto. She obtained her BS, MA and Ph.D. in Italian Literature from Columbia University. Her dissertation on Petrarca was published by Olschki, Italy. She taught Italian literature at SUNY Stony Brook and World War II Italian cinema at Princeton University. Rossellini is currently teaching literature of social reflection at Harvard University.

FEBRUARY 28
time: 8:00pm

Ladri di Biciclette

Ladri di Biciclette (Bicycle Thieves), directed by Vittorio DeSica, depicts a meditation of the human condition

1948 - Italy - 90 min. - B&W



A Dead-end for Hope: A Single Story Into a Meditation Of the Human Condition

Guest Speaker: Nelson Moe

BIO: Nelson Moe is an associate professor of Italian at Barnard College. He has written on various aspects of 19th and 20th century Italian culture. Moe was awarded the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione publication award for a manuscript in Italian literary studies by the Modern Language Association with his forthcoming publication "The View from Vesuvius: Italian Culture and the Southern Question."

MARCH 13

time: 8:00pm

Riso Amaro

Riso Amaro (Bitter Rice), directed by Giuseppe DeSantis, is a social critique focused on sex and violence.
1948 - Italy - 96 min. - B&W

Bitter Rice - Hard Hitting Social Critique, Sex and Violence

Guest Speaker: Richard Peña

BIO: Richard Peña is the program director of the Film Society of Lincoln Center, director of the New York Film Festival and associate film professor at Columbia University, specializing in film theory and international cinema. Together with Unifrance Film, Peña has organized the annual Rendez-vous with French Cinema Today program since 1996. He hosts the monthly program Conversations in World Cinema for the Sundance channel.

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MARCH 28

time: 8:00pm

Umberto D

Umberto D, directed by Vittorio DeSica, marks the end of unadorned neorealism.

1952 - Italy - 89 min. - B&W

The End of the Unadorned Neorealism

Guest Speaker: Flora Ghezzi

BIO: Flora Ghezzi is a post-doctoral fellow in the Italian department at Columbia University and teaches courses on 19th and 20th century Italian literature. Ghezzi received her "laurea" from Università di Venezia, Italy, and her Ph.D. from Rutgers University. She is currently co-editing a collection of essays on distinguished Italian writer Anna Maria Ortese and working on a book-length study on gender and self-representation in women's literature under fascism.

APRIL 18

time: 8:00pm

La Strada

La Strada (The Road), directed by Federico Fellini, looks beyond neorealism.

1954 - Italy - 115 min. - B&W

Neorealism and Beyond

Guest Speaker: Peter L. Haratonik

BIO: Peter L. Haratonik is the co-founder, former director and member of the core faculty, graduate media studies program at New School University. He became intimately involved with Fellini and his opus while working with John Culkin, founder of the Center for Understanding Media, the parent of the media studies program. Fellini is currently working on a study of the politics of award-winning director Bertolucci's cinema and a course in co-operation with the Toscana photographic workshops in Buonconvento, Italy.