

THE ITALIAN ACADEMY FOR ADVANCED STUDIES AT COLUMBIA  
PRESENTS ITS

SPRING 2008 FILM SERIES:

## Sicily Is Cinema!

Tuesday, April 1 - Thursday, April 10

The island of Sicily is visually ravishing and rich with history. The five films in our Spring Film Series explore the breadth of history, geography, beauty, horror, and mystery in the notorious island. Our series begins with the renowned director Luchino Visconti's **The Leopard**, an adaptation of the eponymous 1958 best-selling classic Italian novel by Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa that chronicled the changes in Sicilian society during the Risorgimento. (Throughout April, the Academy hosts other events with a Sicilian focus; see details below). The film, starring Burt Lancaster, Alain Delon, and Claudia Cardinale, has become a classic in its own right. Our second film, **Kaos**, is also a literary adaptation and is based on four offbeat short stories by the Nobel Prize-winning author Luigi Pirandello. The stories were set around the turn of the century near Caos, the village where he was born; the stunning cinematography is by Giuseppe Lanci and the equally gorgeous score by Nicola Piovani. With our third film, Alessandro Blasetti's rarely screened 1934 film **1860**, we return to the Risorgimento era. The film focuses on the Battle of Calatafimi, in which the citizens of Sicily rebelled against the King of Naples' troops. Blasetti uses an amateur cast speaking in regional dialects for the first time in Italian cinema, a practice that would significantly influence Neorealism. **Placido Rizzotto**, our fourth film, is set in 1948 during the rise of the Corleonese Mafia and is based on the true story of a Sicilian trade-union organizer's struggle against Mafia corruption, control of the unions, appropriation of land, and exploitation of peasant workers. Our final film, Marco Tullio Giordana's highly popular and acclaimed **The Hundred Steps**, set in the 1970s, is again based on a true story: the hero is Peppino Impastato, a young left-wing activist who dares to speak out against the Mafia. Each film will be introduced by a film scholar who will lead a question and answer session following the screening.

CURATED BY JENNY McPHEE / RSVP [wb2149@columbia.edu](mailto:wb2149@columbia.edu)

All screenings in the Teatro / English Subtitles / \$5 Donation Recommended

**On the launch night of the series the Academy will present two new illustrated books about Sicily: the *Enciclopedia della Sicilia* and the 1811 herbarium, *Fiori di Sicilia*.**

At 5:30 pm on Tuesday, April 1; the film screens at 8:30 pm.

See [italianacademy.columbia.edu](http://italianacademy.columbia.edu) for details.

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### THE FILMS:

Tuesday, April 1, at 8:30 pm:

**Il Gattopardo** (The Leopard, 1963; 187 minutes) Dir. Luchino Visconti

Starring: Burt Lancaster, Alain Delon, Claudia Cardinale

Speaker: Gaetana Marrone-Puglia, Princeton University

Wednesday, April 2, at 6 pm:

**Kaos** (1984; 188 minutes) Dir. Paolo and Vittorio Taviani

Starring: Margarita Lozano, Claudio Bigagli, Massimo Bonetti

Speaker: Leonard Quart, Cineaste magazine

Thursday, April 3, at 6 pm:

**1860** (1934; 80 minutes) Dir. Alessandro Blasetti

Starring: Giuseppe Gulino, Aida Bellia, Gianfranco Giachetti, and Mario Ferrari

Speaker: Silvana Patriarca, Fordham University

Tuesday, April 8, at 6 pm:

**Placido Rizzotto** (2000; 110 minutes) Dir. Pasquale Scimecca  
Starring: Marcello Mazzarella, Vincenzo Albanese, Gioia Spaziani  
*Speaker: Giancarlo Lombardi, CUNY*

Thursday, April 10, at 6 pm:

**I Cento Passi** (A Hundred Steps, 2000; 114 minutes) Dir. Marco Tullio Giordana  
Starring: Luigi Lo Cascio, Luigi Maria Burruano, Lucia Saro  
*Speaker: Ariella Lang, Barnard College*

## THE SPEAKERS:

**Ariella Lang** is Lecturer in the Departments of Italian and Comparative Literature at Barnard College, where she teaches courses on film, cultural studies, and Holocaust literature. Her book, *Converting a Nation: A Modern Inquisition and the Unification of Italy* will be coming out with Palgrave Press in 2008, and she has published articles in Italian cultural studies and literary history. She is currently working on a project that explores the relationship between Catholic culture, fascism and the Jews during the Second World War.

**Giancarlo Lombardi** is Associate Professor of Italian and Comparative Literature at the College of Staten Island and at the CUNY Graduate Center. In 2002, he published a book entitled *Rooms with a View: Feminist Diary Fiction, 1954-1999*. He has also published a number of articles on contemporary women writers, Italian cinema, and Italian cultural studies. He is currently working on a volume on the cinematic representations of Italian political terrorism.

**Gaetana Marrone-Puglia** is a Professor of Italian at Princeton University, specializing in 19th- and 20th- century literature, film, and cultural studies. She is the author of award winning works including *La drammatica di Ugo Betti: Tematiche e archetipi*; *New Landscapes in Contemporary Italian Cinema*; *The Gaze and the Labyrinth: The Cinema of Liliana Cavani*; *Lo sguardo e il labirinto*; a critical edition of Ugo Betti, *Delitto all'isola delle capre*; and is General Editor of a two-volume *Encyclopedia of Italian Literary Studies*. She is working on a critical study of filmmaker Francesco Rosi. Marrone-Puglia has also produced award winning films, including *Woman in the Wind* (Gold Award, Houston International Film Festival), starring the late Colleen Dewhurst; a documentary on Princeton's intellectual and social history, *Images of a University*; and *Zefirino: The Voice of a Castrato*, a documentary that traces the artistic evolution of the famed castrati singers (both qualified for the Academy Awards).

**Silvana Patriarca** was educated in Italy and in the US, has taught at Columbia University, and is currently an Associate Professor at Fordham University, where she teaches Italian and European history. She is the author of the award-winning *Numbers and Nationhood: Writing Statistics in Nineteenth-Century Italy* (Cambridge University Press, 1996) and of many articles on the social and cultural history of modern Italy. She has just completed a book entitled *Italian Vices: Nation and Character Since the Risorgimento* (forthcoming, 2008).

**Leonard Quart** is Professor Emeritus of Cinema Studies at the College of Staten Island and at the CUNY Graduate Center. He has written essays and reviews for *Dissent*, *Film Quarterly*, *The Forward*, *London Magazine*, *Newsday*, and *The Villager*. He is a Contributing Editor of *Cineaste*. His major publications include *How the War was Remembered: Hollywood and Vietnam*, co-authored with Albert Auster (Praeger, 1988); *The Films of Mike Leigh* (Cambridge University Press); and the third edition of *American Film and Society* (Praeger, December 2001).