

PRESENTED BY:  Italian Cultural Center
MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL



FILM **11**TH
FESTIVAL ANNIVERSARY

MINNEAPOLIS | SAINT PAUL

FEBRUARY 20 - 23

ST. ANTHONY MAIN THEATRE 115 MAIN STREET SE, MPLS, MN 55414
FOR TICKETS + SCHEDULE: MSPFILM.ORG/ITALIAN-FILM-FESTIVAL

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:  **FILM
SOCIETY**

Benvenuti!

Welcome to the 11th edition of the Italian Film Festival of Minneapolis/St. Paul! It is a great honor for me to follow my predecessors in welcoming you to IFF 2020.

Since its inception, the IFF has brought a variety of contemporary Italian films and documentaries to the Twin Cities, offering a window into the wonderful landscapes and the ever-changing stories of Italy—A true cinematic journey captured through the lens of Italian directors.



Screening for the first time in the Twin Cities, our nine-film lineup will take you to the gritty outskirts of Rome, the deep blue of the Mediterranean Sea, and the snowy peaks of the Dolomites. You will meet an unruly soccer champion who finds the courage to change; a conflicted, young Italian man of Bangladeshi origin who finds love outside his community; and a business man accused of murder forced to face an unsavory truth. Their stories, complex and fascinating, are all part of today's Italy.

In addition, IFF continues to celebrate emerging filmmakers and short films from Minnesota and Italy through the Building Bridges: Emerging Filmmakers Awards.

In gratitude, I wish to acknowledge everyone who made this event possible. Our festival is supported by the Consulate General of Italy in Chicago, the Italian Honorary Consul in Minnesota and the Institute of Italian Culture in Chicago. It is made possible by the generous contributions of all our sponsors and donors. The festival is presented in partnership with the MSP Film Society and brought to life by the tireless efforts of our staff and volunteers. Above all, I thank you for joining us in celebrating Italian cinema and culture.

I hope you find this year's films inspiring and entertaining. And possibly, one of them will become your new favorite.

Grazie e buona visione!

Sandra Gengler
President, Board of Directors
The Italian Cultural Center of Minneapolis/St. Paul

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20 — OPENING NIGHT

- 6:00 PM OPENING NIGHT APERITIVO
- 7:30 PM BANGLA + Q&A WITH VISITING DIRECTOR
Phaim Bhuiyan
Comedy, 84 min.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

- 5:00 PM BUILDING BRIDGES AWARDS CEREMONY
WITH SCREENING + Q&A WITH VISITING DIRECTORS
Free, 75 min.
- 6:45 PM IL CAMPIONE (THE CHAMPION)
Leonardo D'Agostini
Comedy, Drama, 105 min.
- 9:15 PM SELFIE
Agostino Ferrente
Documentary, 78 min.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

- 2:00 PM MASTER CLASS WITH VISITING ITALIAN FILMMAKER PHAIM BHUIYAN,
DIRECTOR OF BANGLA
Free, 90 min.
- 4:00 PM IL VIZIO DELLA SPERANZA (THE VICE OF HOPE)
Edoardo De Angelis
Drama, 96 min.
- 6:30 PM CROCE E DELIZIA (AN ALMOST ORDINARY SUMMER)
Simone Godano
Comedy, 100 min.
- 9:00 PM IL TESTIMONE INVISIBILE (THE INVISIBLE WITNESS)
Stefano Mordini
Thriller, 102 min.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

- 1:00 PM COME UN GATTO IN TANGENZIALE (LIKE A CAT ON A HIGHWAY)
Riccardo Milani
Comedy, 98 min.
- 3:15 PM LO SCEICCO BIANCO (THE WHITE SHEIK)
Federico Fellini
Comedy, 86 min.
- 6:00 PM FIORE GEMELLO (TWIN FLOWER)
Laura Luchetti
Drama, 95 min.

All films presented in Italian with English subtitles.

TICKETS

SINGLE MOVIE

\$ 12.00 General Admission

\$ 10.00 ICC and Film Society members, students with a valid ID

ALL-ACCESS FESTIVAL PASSES (INCLUDES OPENING NIGHT APERITIVO + MOVIE)

\$ 80.00 General Admission

\$ 65.00 ICC and Film Society members, students with a valid ID

THE ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTER

ABOUT

Founded in 2006, The Italian Cultural Center (ICC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the best of Italian life and culture to all people in Minnesota. Located in the historic Hennepin Center for the Arts in downtown Minneapolis, the ICC offers Italian language classes for adults and children at all levels of proficiency. The ICC also organizes and sponsors cultural and social events throughout the year.

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Italian Cultural Center

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL



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OPENING NIGHT

APERITIVO

6:00–7:15 PM

The 11th edition of the Italian Film Festival of Minneapolis / St. Paul (IFF), organized by The Italian Cultural Center of Minneapolis / St. Paul and presented in partnership with MSP Film Society, kicks off with an Aperitivo, the Italian-style happy hour in the Fireside room at Pracna on Main adjacent to the St. Anthony Main Theatre.

Aperitivo is also an invitation to relax and mingle with our special guests including: Phaim Bhuiyan, director of *Bangla*; Mauro Maugeri, winner of The Building Bridges' Best Italian Short Film; and Joe Fairbanks, winner of The Building Bridges' Best Minnesota Short Film.

Each ticket to Aperitivo includes admission to the opening night film, *Bangla*, screening at 7:30 pm.



BANGLA

COMEDY

7:30 PM

2019, 84 MIN. MINNESOTA PREMIERE

POST-SCREENING Q&A WITH PHAIM BHUIYAN AND LORENZO FABBRI

Promising director Phaim Bhuiyan's debut is a fresh and vibrant romantic comedy about the difficulties of love caught between different beliefs.

Phaim (played by the director himself), is a young Italian man of Bangladeshi origin. He lives with his family in Rome's multiethnic Torpignattara neighborhood, works as a museum steward, and plays in a band. At a concert, he meets Asia (Carlotta Antonelli, *Suburra*), his exact opposite: impulsive and free-spirited. Despite this, the attraction between the two is immediate. How will Phaim reconcile his love for her with one of his faith's most inviolable principles? Based essentially on the director's own life, *Bangla* is an honest story about integration and identity with comedy as a driving force.

DIRECTOR Phaim Bhuiyan (Rome, 1995) is a second-generation Italian of Bangladeshi origin who grew up in Rome's Torpignattara neighborhood. He began working as a video maker at age 17, producing several videos for rappers and punk rock bands on the Roman underground scene. He studied Video Design and Film at the Istituto Europeo di Design. During his three years there, he continued working and, among various opportunities, he collaborated with Rai on the program *Nemo - Nessuno Escluso*, in which he produced a report on second-generation love. This led the path to *Bangla*, his debut feature film.

CAST Phaim Bhuiyan, Carlotta Antonelli, Simone Liberati, Pietro Sermonti, Davide Ornarò, Alessia Giuliani, Milena Mancini, Sahila Mohiuddin, Nasima Akhter, Rishad Noorani, Fabian Durrani, Sanija Shoshi Haque, The "Real" Tangir, Raja Sethi

SPONSORS Christine Imbra, Anna Olivero and Craig Agney, Nassim and Federico Rossi, Jonathan and Kathy Moe Watson

FESTIVALS + AWARDS

Best Comedy, Nastro d'Argento, Italy (2019)

Best First Feature, Globi d'Oro, Italy (2019)

Audience Award, Festa do Cinema Italiano, Portugal (2019)

Pix Junior Award, Oslo Pix, Norway (2019)

BUILDING BRIDGES: EMERGING FILMMAKER AWARDS

CEREMONY + SCREENING

5:00 PM

FREE

POST-SCREENING Q&A WITH VISITING AND LOCAL FILMMAKERS AND JURORS

With the second edition of the Building Bridges: Emerging Filmmakers Awards, we continue to celebrate connections between Italy and Minnesota through film. These awards recognize short works by new filmmakers in each place. This year's theme, "Water" (*acqua* in Italian), asked filmmakers to present their very own artistic and/or poetic interpretation of water.

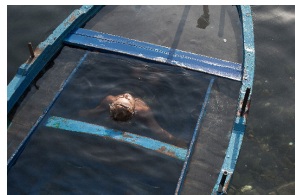
Water is the key to life. Water runs the world. It is also what defines and connects us—from beautiful Venice to the beloved state of "clear blue water", Minnesota, from the pristine shores of the Amalfi Coast to the fragile sanctuary of the Boundary Waters.

Water is powerful yet scarce and precious. It brings life as easily as it takes it. It impacts humanity as much as we do it. Water can generate violence and territorial struggles between communities and nations. It is also the source of incredible beauty, deeply anchored in civilizations and their beliefs.

Our talented jurors—Tommaso Cammarano, Eric D. Howell, Emily Downes, and Jila Nikpay—selected four films from this year's competition.

Dedicated to Massimo Bonavita, former president and co-founder of the ICC.

SPONSORS KNOCK, inc. and our generous Give to The Max Donors



ACQUASANTA (Mauro Maugeri, 15 min.) In the seaside village of Santa Maria la Scala in Sicily, the feast of the Madonna is the occasion to repopulate the houses and the harbor kept silent for the rest of the year. Young fishermen, elders, and children are the living bodies of archaic rites connected to the water that recognizes them as a community blessed by the sea. They come from all over the Mediterranean Sea to celebrate an explosive "baptism" where there's room for everyone.



HOMECOMING – A BOUNDARY WATERS STORY

(Joe Fairbanks, 9 min.) *Homecoming* is a paddling adventure that raises awareness about the threat of

proposed sulfide-ore copper mining near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Northern Minnesota.



FINALIST - ITALY

RÈSCE LA LUNE (Giulia Di Battista, Gloria Kurnik, 9 min.) Love is a net that traps the mind, but that's not her only net. Vittoria learned to make fishing nets as a very young girl and now, from the perspective of old age, she will tell us that we all swim in the sea full of them—social norms, toxic relationships, our own

preconceptions, just to name a few.



FINALIST - MINNESOTA

WATERWAY JAY (Brenda Piekarski, 7 min.)

In 2017, Jay Gustafson launched Paddle for Progress, a two-year, 4,300-mile personal journey in response to Governor Dayton's call for water-quality protection. Jay's mission to reconnect humanity with one of our most precious resources took him to the most remote

and least visited corners of Minnesota, as well as through nearly every major community in the state.



IL CAMPIONE

COMEDY DRAMA

6:45 PM

2019, 105 MIN.
MINNESOTA PREMIERE

Leonardo D'Agostini's debut wonderfully pairs the talents of Stefano Accorsi (*Veloce Come il Vento*, IFF, 2017) with an extraordinary Andrea Carpenzano (*Tutto Quello Che Vuoì*, IFF, 2018) in this story of arrogance, betrayal, friendship, and the essentials of life.

Young, talented, unpredictable, wealthy, and spoiled, Christian Ferro (Andrea Carpenzano) is *The Champion*, the raising star of Italian soccer, living a rebellious millionaire lifestyle that often lands him in trouble. Exasperated, the team's president assigns him a personal tutor and gives him an ultimatum: earn his high-school diploma and get back in line or get out. Valerio Fioretti (Stefano Accorsi), his tutor, is a shy and solitary professor, the exact opposite of the troubled player. Tensed at first, their relationship will soon change for the better.

DIRECTOR Leonardo D'Agostini (Rome, 1977), has worked as an editor and screenwriter for numerous Italian TV series before making two shorts: *Smart!* (winner of the 2004 Festival Archipelago and Nastro d'Argento finalist) and *Sangre de Perro* (selected in the New Italian Cinema showcase at Lincoln Center in New York and Nastro d'Argento 2007 finalist). *The Champion* is his cinema debut.

CAST Stefano Accorsi, Andrea Carpenzano, Ludovica Martino, Anita Caprioli, Mario Sguelgia, Giorgio Ridarelli, Massimo Popolizio, Camilla Semino Favro, Giulio Maroncelli

SPONSORS Marco Pavoloni, Pavoloni International Translators and Interpreters

FESTIVALS + AWARDS

Best New Director, Nastro d'Argento, Italy (2019)
Villerupt Italian Film Festival (2019)
Annecy Cinema Italien (2019)
Lavazza Italian Film Festival (2019)
Shanghai International Film Festival (2019)



DOCUMENTARY

9:15 PM

2019, 78 MIN.
MINNESOTA PREMIERE

For this 2019 documentary, Agostino Ferrente, the director, traveled to the Traiano district of Naples, a gang-ravaged neighborhood, to give voice to its teenagers who normally aren't able to speak out.

Alessandro and Pietro, 16-years-old friends, live in Traiano. They are inseparable. Alessandro works as a waiter in a bar and Pietro dreams of becoming a hairdresser. It was in this very same district in the summer of 2014 that Davide Bifulco, also 16, was shot by a policeman who mistook him for a fugitive. Alessandro and Pietro accept the director's proposal to capture their daily lives in their gang-ravaged neighborhood using smartphone cameras in "selfie" mode.

This film documents the improbable persistence of hope in the context of precarity, conflicting moralities, and the complexity of teenage years.

DIRECTOR Agostino Ferrente (Cerignola, Italy, 1971) is a director, producer, and artistic director. Before becoming involved in cinema, he was an editorial coordinator for magazines and news programs created for communities of Italians living abroad. After he studied at DAMS (Drama, Art & Music Studies) at the Università di Bologna, he produced and directed a series of shorts and documentaries and co-founded, in 2001, the group "Apollo 11," which saved the historical Apollo cinema theatre in Rome from becoming a bingo hall. By promoting film, music, and writing, the group turned it into one of the liveliest cultural centers in Italy's capital city, the first with an ongoing program dedicated to cinema of the real. He is currently working on his first non-documentary feature film.

CAST Alessandro Antonelli, Pietro Orlando

FESTIVALS + AWARDS

Nominated in the European Documentary category of the European Film Awards (2019)
Berlinale, Germany (2019)
Cinéma du Réel Paris, France (2019)

MASTER CLASS

WITH PHAIM BHUIYAN, DIRECTOR OF *BANGLA*

2:00 PM

FREE + OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.
FACILITATED BY LORENZO FABBRI

Visiting Italian director Phaim Bhuiyan will share his passion and inspiration for the art of filmmaking and storytelling. He will bring the perspective of his personal experience as a young filmmaker in present-day Italian Cinema.

Phaim Bhuiyan (Rome, 1995) is a second-generation Italian of Bangladeshi origin who grew up in Rome's Torpignattara neighborhood. He began working as a video maker at age 17, producing several videos for rappers and punk rock bands on the Roman underground scene. He studied Video Design and Film at the Istituto Europeo di Design. During his three years there, he continued working and, among various opportunities, he collaborated with Rai on the program *Nemo - Nessuno Escluso*, in which he produced a report on second-generation love. This led the path to *Bangla*, his debut feature film.

Bangla screens on Thursday, February 20 at 7:30 PM

ABOUT THE FACILITATOR Lorenzo Fabbri is a McKnight Land-Grant Professor for the Department of French and Italian at the University of Minnesota.



IL VIZIO DELLA SPERANZA

DRAMA

4:00 PM

2018, 96 MIN.
MINNESOTA PREMIERE

“If I have to die, I want to die on my own terms”. Edoardo De Angelis (*Indivisibili*, IFF, 2018) *Il vizio della speranza* tells the story of Maria (Pina Turco), a compassionate woman fighting to escape the criminal life she was born into.

Maria’s existence flows like that of the Volturno, a river in South-Central Italy, along which she lives, one day at a time, without dreams or desires. She takes care of her mother while assisting the family business of trafficking pregnant women across the river.

When she helps one of the women escape, Maria is plunged deeper into the underworld than she is prepared to go. But in this shadowy and dying world, Maria will find unexpected grace and hope in the most ancestral and powerful form, proving that staying human has always been the greatest of revolutions.

DIRECTOR Edoardo De Angelis (Naples, 1978), film director and screenwriter, has studied filmmaking at Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia in Rome. His films have screened around the world and have won several awards, including his three previous features: *Indivisibili* (2017), *Perez* (2014), and *Mozzarella Stories* (2011).

CAST Pina Turco, Massimiliano Rossi, Marina Confalone, Cristina Donadio, Odette Gomis, Uljet Esey Joseph, Mariangela Robustelli, Jane Bobkova, Yvonne Zidiouemba, Marcello Romolo, Demi Licata, Nancy Colarusso, Imma Mauriello

SPONSOR Tamara Sweere

FESTIVALS + AWARDS

Best Director, Tokyo International Film Festival (2018)
Best Actress (Pina Turco), Tokyo International Film Festival (2018)
Best Actress in a Supporting Role (Marina Confalone), David di Donatello (2018)
TIFF - Toronto International Film Festival (2018)



CROCE E DELIZIA

COMEDY

6:30 PM

2019, 100 MIN.
MINNESOTA PREMIERE

In this pure comic delight with gorgeous Mediterranean scenery and a stunning cast including Alessandro Gassmann, Jasmine Trinca, and Fabrizio Bentivoglio, director Simone Godano beautifully brings one life's lesson to the screen: love has no boundaries.

Two very different families spend their summer holidays by the Italian seaside: the aristocratic Castelvechio family is open minded and eccentric, whereas the Petagnas are close knit, from a humbler background, and united around firm family values.

Only the heads of families, Tony (Fabrizio Bentivoglio) and Carlo (Alessandro Gassmann), know what has brought them together. When an unexpected engagement is announced, the lives of all get disrupted, especially those of Penelope (Jasmine Trinca) and Sandro (Filippo Scicchitano), their respective firstborn children. What started as an ordinary summer now becomes an emotional, chaotic, and amusing journey.

DIRECTOR Simone Godano (Rome, 1977) studied cinema at DAMS (Drama, Art and Music Studies) in Rome and has been shooting shorts since 2002. In 2010, his short film *Niente orchidee* at the Venice Film Festival. In 2017, thanks to Matteo Rovere, his long-time collaborator, he made his feature film debut with *Moglie e Marito* which was nominated for Best Comedy at the Nastri d'Argento Awards. *An Almost Ordinary Summer* is his second film.

CAST Alessandro Gassmann, Jasmine Trinca, Fabrizio Bentivoglio, Filippo Scicchitano, Lunetta Savino, Anna Galiena, Rosa Diletta Rossi, Clara Ponsot, Giandomenico Cupaiuolo

SPONSORS James and Denise D'Aurora, Nancy and Gary Schaefer, Catherine Allan, Luisa and Ryan O'Gara

FESTIVALS + AWARDS

Best Actress (Jasmine Trinca), Globi d'Oro, Italy (2019)
Lavazza Italian Film Festival, Australia (2019)
Villerupt Italian Film Festival, France (2019)
Seattle International Film Festival (2019)



IL TESTIMONE INVISIBILE

THRILLER

9:00 PM

2018, 102 MIN.
MINNESOTA PREMIERE

Il Testimone Invisibile is a classic thriller in the noir style—done well. It will leave you guessing until the final shot.

“When I woke up, the nightmare began.” So begins the story of Adriano Doria (Riccardo Scamarcio), a very successful forty-year-old businessman, who wakes up one morning in a mountain hotel room next to a dead body. The lifeless body belongs to his young mistress, the charming photographer Laura (Miriam Leone, *At War for Love*, IFF, 2018). Though he protests his innocence, Adriano is the obvious prime suspect. He commissions the notoriously tough attorney Virginia Ferrara (Maria Paiato), who has never lost a case, to plan his defense strategy. With the emergence of a key witness and just hours to go before his interrogation that could definitively condemn him, Adriano is forced to tell the whole truth.

DIRECTOR Stefano Mordini (Marradi, Firenze, 1968) has been working as an executive director and subsequently as a producer since 1990. His films have won several awards at major Italian and international festivals. In 2016 he presented (*Un Certain Regard*) *Pericle il nero* at the Cannes Film Festival. The film was based on the novel of the same name by Giuseppe Ferrandino and starred Riccardo Scamarcio. *The Invisible Witness* is his fourth feature film.

CAST Riccardo Scamarcio, Miriam Leone, Fabrizio Bentivoglio, Maria Paiato, Sara Cardinaletti, Nicola Pannelli, Sergio Romano, Paola Sambo, Gerardo De Blasio

SPONSORS Kristine and Tor Aasheim, Ronald Curran

FESTIVALS + AWARDS

Villerupt Italian Film Festival, France (2019)
Lavazza Italian Film Festival, Australia (2019)
Seattle International Film Festival, USA (2019)



COME UN GATTO IN TANGENZIALE

COMEDY

1:00 PM

2017, 98 MIN.
MINNESOTA PREMIERE

What happens when the teenage children of the world's most opposite people fall in love?

Giovanni is a politically active intellectual and a prophet of social integration, living in the center of Rome. Monica is a former supermarket cashier, dealing every day with the multicultural challenges of her suburban neighborhood. Despite their differences, they share a common goal: the love story between their children must end!

DIRECTOR Riccardo Milani (Rome, 1958) is a director and writer known for his award-winning comedies and dramas such as *Scusate se esisto!* (*Do You See Me?*, 2014), *Il posto dell'anima* (*The Soul's Place*, 2003) and *Piano, solo* (2007). He is married to actress Paola Cortellesi.

CAST Paola Cortellesi, Antonio Albanese, Sonia Bergamasco, Luca Angeletti, Antonio D'Ausilio, Alice Maselli, Simone De Bianchi, Claudio Amendola

SPONSORS Joan and Rick Naymark, Joseph Pingatore and Karen Sauro, John and Lisa Nicotra

FESTIVALS + AWARDS

Best Comedy, Nastro d'Argento, Italy (2018)

Best Actress, Comedy (Paola Cortellesi), Nastro d'Argento, Italy (2018)

Best Actor, Comedy (Antonio Albanese), Nastro d'Argento, Italy (2018)



LO SCEICCO BIANCO

COMEDY

3:15 PM

1952, 86 MIN.

MINNESOTA PREMIERE - 4K RESTORATION

2020 marks the 100th anniversary of Federico Fellini's birth, one of the greatest and most influential filmmakers of all time. We are delighted to present a new 4K restoration of *The White Sheik*, Fellini's little-known gem starring Alberto Sordi and set against the world of the *fotoromanzo* ("photo novel"), the photographed comics which became popular just after World War II. Fellini's solo directorial debut also marked his first collaboration with composer Nino Rota who went on to create unforgettable scores for most of the director's future masterworks.

In *The White Sheik*, provincial Leopoldo Trieste's Roman honeymoon plans go sour when bride Brunella Bovo goes missing. Unbeknown to him, Bovo's first priority is to meet the "The White Sheik" (Sordi), the fantasy hero of her beloved *fotoromanzo*. However, when Bovo finally arranges a tryst with her dream man, she finds he's not what he's cracked up to be.

DIRECTOR Federico Fellini (1920–1993) moved to Rome in 1939 to attend law school at the request of his parents, but soon took a job with a humor magazine instead of attending class. In the years leading up to his personal cinematic breakthrough, Fellini worked by drawing caricatures, selling cartoons, and writing jokes for small papers. Fellini's start in cinema began during World War II thanks to his growing circle of professional acquaintances in Rome. By 1947, Fellini had been nominated for an Oscar for his collaborative efforts on the screenplay titled *Roma Città Aperta* (Rome, Open City), and in 1951, he completed his first solo-directed film, *Lo Sceicco Bianco*. Today, Federico Fellini is best known for his 1960 masterpiece *La Dolce Vita*. It was in that iconic film that Fellini invented the term "paparazzi." (Italy Magazine)

CAST Alberto Sordi, Brunella Bovo, Leopoldo Trieste, Giulietta Masina, Lilia Landi, Ugo Attanasio, Ernesto Almirante, Fanny Marchiò, Enzo Maggio, Gina Mascetti, Jole Silvani

SPONSORS John Moroney and Sheila Delaney Moroney



FIORE GEMELLO

DRAMA

6:00 PM

2018, 95 MIN.

MINNESOTA PREMIERE + POST-SCREENING Q&A WITH DIRECTOR LAURA LUCHETTI

Twin Flower is a tale of desperate and pure love between two very different people who share the same destiny. The film is bolstered by incredibly moving and naturalistic performances from first-time actors Anastasyia Bogach (Anna) and Kallil Kone (Basim).

Anna, a young woman and the daughter of a migrant smuggler, is on the run after a man named Manfredi murders her father. On the road, she meets Basim, a young immigrant who recently arrived from Ivory Coast. Together, they embark on a dangerous journey towards a new beginning, traveling through the breathtaking yet mysterious Sardinian landscape. The two do not speak the same language, but as their bond deepens, they become like twin flowers on a single stem.

DIRECTOR Laura Luchetti has directed short films, music video clips, documentaries, and plays. *Febbre da fieno*, her first feature movie, has screened at numerous international film festivals including the Italian Film Festival of Minneapolis / St. Paul 3rd edition in 2011. *Sugarlove*, her latest short film, has won a prestigious Nastro d'Argento Award in 2019 for Best Short Film. Her second feature movie, *Fiore gemello*, was selected in 2015 by the Cannes Film Festival's Cinefondation Atelier and by the Sundance Screenwriters Lab and premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival.

CAST Anastasyia Bogach, Kalill Kone, Aniello Arena, Mauro Addis, Fausto Verginelli, Alessandro Pani, Giorgio Colangeli

FESTIVALS + AWARDS

Discovery - Honorable Mention, Toronto International Film Festival, 2018

Rome Film Festival, 2018

Villerupt Italian Film Festival, 2018

Open Roads, New Italian Cinema, 2019

2020 ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL

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UN RINGRAZIAMENTO SPECIALE A...

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JURORS

Tommaso Cammarano, Jury President, earned his MFA in Film at Columbia University. He is a screenwriter and producer who also served as head writer on Season 8 of *Un Medico in Famiglia* (A Doctor in the Family), one of Italy's most renowned and longest-running TV series. He coproduced the award-winning short film *The Bravest, The Boldest*, which premiered at Sundance in 2014. He also coproduced the documentary *House in the Fields*, which premiered at the 2017 Berlin Film Festival and screened at the Walker Art Center last October.

Emily Downes is an artist and filmmaker from who received both her BFA and MFA in Film, Video, Animation and New Genres from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee. Emily has made several experimental short videos, documentaries, and animations showcased at film festivals and galleries worldwide. Her short film, *Anna*, was an official selection of the 2013 Cannes Short Film Corner. Emily is passionate about sharing her talents for digital and media arts with all ages—exemplified by her initiative to include digital storytelling in high school curriculums both locally and abroad.

Eric Howell is an award-winning writer and director with experience in every aspect of motion picture production. After working his way through technical filmmaking, Eric joined the Screen Actors Guild in 1992 as a stuntman and actor. He has directed television series and served as cinematographer/director of several documentaries for various NGOs. Eric was dubbed by *Shoof!* Magazine “as one of the industry’s crop of new directors to watch” and won the *FADE IN* Magazine Grand Prize. His short, *Ana’s Playground*, was shortlisted for an Academy Award nomination and he won top honor at the Silver Telly Awards for a series of three shorts he directed for the American Cancer Society.

Jila Nikpay is a writer and director who has made short films in diverse locations from New York City to the Caspian Sea. Her films are highly visual and exist at the intersection of exilic and feminist cinemas. They include *Soliloquy*, *Dreaming with Lola*, *Labyrinth*, *Rhythm of Tides*, and *Shroud and Torrent*. The films have garnered multiple awards from various foundations and been screened at international film festivals and museums. Jila has served on film-granting panels and guest lectured at various colleges and universities. Besides teaching film courses at Augsburg, Jila teaches an intensive workshop, *The Screen and The Female Gaze*, at FilmNorth. Currently, she is working on a short narrative film, *Objects of Love*.

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