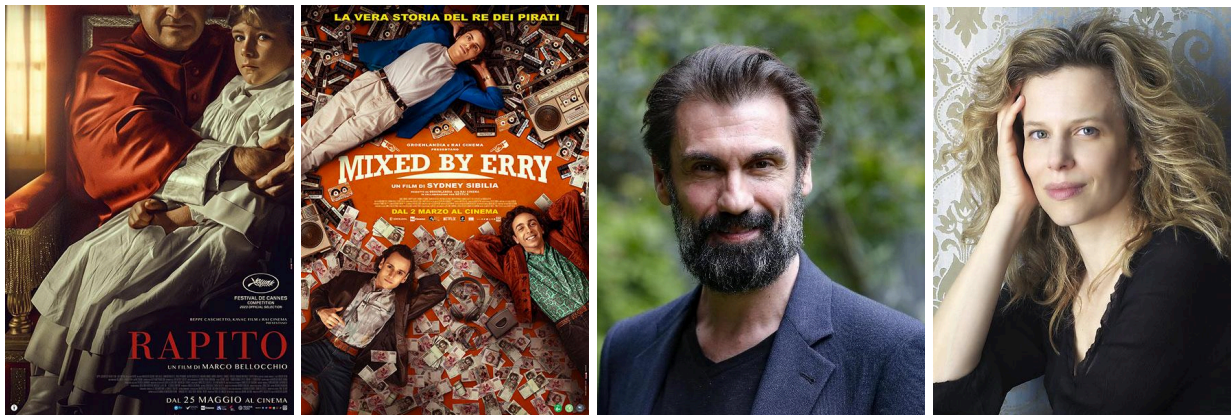


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò at NYU to host Bellocchio's *Kidnapped* and a tribute to Giordana's *The Best of Youth* in its 20th anniversary as part of Italy On Screen Today NY film fest. Italian movie stars Sonia Bergamasco and Fabrizio Gifuni among the special guests



NEW YORK (December 4, 2023) - “Never like this year, the movies selected for [Italy On Screen Today New York](#) uniquely reflect the tensions, problems and contradictions of Italian society,” states **Stefano Albertini, Director of Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò at New York University**, proud of hosting the eighth edition of **Italy on Screen Today - New York Film & TV Series Fest**, a cinematic festival directed and curated by **Loredana Commonara**.

The festival is set to showcase the pinnacle of contemporary Italian cinema and TV series. It is a week-long celebration (December 4-10, 2023) featuring live events in Manhattan and online on [Mymovies.it](#). **The screenings scheduled at Casa Italiana NYU (24 West 12th Street) will take place on December 6 and 8** and, apart from the festival’s opening movie “*Io Capitano*” by

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Matteo Garrone, they are the only ones in person offering the opportunity to meet directors and actors. Journalist Silvia Bizio will moderate all Q&As.

The festival's other titles are uniquely accessible online, in the US, for free at <https://www.mymovies.it/ondemand/italy-on-screen-today/>

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"In particular, this year it is an honor for us to screen films with a strong narrative impact such as *Kidnapped by Bellocchio*," continues Albertini, "and it is a pleasure to welcome on our stage famous Italian actors of great talent such as **Fabrizio Gifuni and Sonia Bergamasco** who are among the protagonists of *The Best of Youth*, **Marco Tullio Giordana's** masterpiece that celebrates its twentieth anniversary this year."

This festival has captured the hearts of Americans who relish the finest Italian cinema and TV series showcased by this festival in New York, and every year, Casa Italiana has been a partner and venue for it.

Expressing her gratitude, the festival's director, Loredana Commonara, said: "We are very grateful to Director Albertini to be able to renew the prestigious collaboration with New York University by returning to the elegant rooms of Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò. Thinking about the program for Casa's attentive and prepared public is always challenging. That's why we thought about a diversified offering with two featured movies and several shorts this time."

Please note: **All events at Casa Italiana are free but require RSVP at www.casaitaliananyu.org/events**

The festival at Casa Italiana will open on December 6, at 6 pm, with the 22-minute-long movie *The External Gaze* (Lo sguardo esterno), the intimate monologue of an elderly director about to shoot her latest documentary. Director Peter Marcias will briefly introduce his short movie (US premiere). The highlight of the evening will be Marco Bellocchio's last movie, *Kidnapped* (Rapito), previously showcased in competition at the Cannes Film Festival. This historical drama, based on true events and awarded Best Film at the Italian Golden Globes (Globi d'Oro 2023), narrates the story of a young boy whose abduction from his parents by the Vatican fuelled outrage in 19th-century Italy. The Guardian described it as "a full-tilt melodrama with the passionate vehemence of Victor Hugo or Charles Dickens."

The program on December 8 is vibrant. The evening starts at 5:30 pm with *Unfitting* (US premiere), written and directed by Giovanna Mezzogiorno. In only 9 minutes, the Italian actress,

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famous for *L'Ultimo bacio* (2001) by Gabriele Muccino, among other movies, describes her own experience of weight gain after giving birth to her twins and the subsequent ostracism by the movie industry, more interested in her aesthetics than talents. It will be followed by the feature *Mixed by Erry*, directed by Sydney Sibilia. The movie, based on a true story, is about the rise

and fall of the pirate mixtape empire of three brothers from Naples and their “Mixed by Erry”-trademarked cassettes that brought pop music to 1980s Italian youth. To follow: *Due mondi separati* (US Premiere) by Marianna Sciveres, plus a Q&A with actor Lucia Sardo. **The evening will close with the highly anticipated celebration of the 20th anniversary of *La meglio gioventù*, Marco Tullio Giordana’s seminal coming-of-age film that marked a milestone in Italian cinema of the new millennium. The protagonists, Sonia Bergamasco and Fabrizio Gifuni (he also starred in *Kidnapped* and *Mixed by Erry*), will engage in a special conversation during which they will be honored with the Italy on Screen Excellence Award.**

About Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò at New York University

Founded in 1990 by Baroness Mariuccia Zerilli-Marimò with the goal of promoting Italian culture by offering a program of free events, “Casa,” as we call it, is open to everyone, on all topics related to Italian studies, including language, literature, cinema, music, theater, visual art, as well as politics, economics, and lifestyle. Owing to the generosity of its Founder, and its affiliation with a prominent institution of higher education, Casa Italiana has risen to prominence as a renowned Italian cultural center. It continues to foster scholarship and excellence in a wide range of fields and disciplines while simultaneously nurturing a vibrant community of scholars, students, and citizens. Casa’s mission is to create a physical and virtual space for dialogue between Italy and the United States on all of these themes.

About Italy on Screen today New York - Film & Tv series Fest

Italy on Screen Today New York-Film & TV Series Fest is made possible through the support of the Ministry of Culture - General Directorate of Cinema and Audiovisual, with backing from the Consulate General of Italy in New York, the Italian Cultural Institute, New York University-Casa Italiana Zerilli Marimò, Rai Cinema, and in collaboration with esteemed partners like Italy for Movies, the New York Film Academy, and the Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia. The festival continues to be an essential showcase for the finest contemporary Italian productions. Once again this year, the film festival collaborates with Italy for Movies (www.italyformovies.com), the portal showcasing Italian locations and financial incentives managed by Cinecittà, in collaboration with Italian Film Commissions and coordinated by the General Directorate of Cinema and Audiovisual (Ministry of Culture). The portal, available as an app in digital stores, offers a wealth of valuable information about filming locations and available funding opportunities for productions looking to shoot in Italy. It also provides industry news,

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intriguing information, and suggested itineraries for cinema enthusiasts wishing to explore the locations featured on the screen.

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