

Press release

Friday 2 October

For immediate release

Italian Film Festival Cardiff launches with focus on poetry, gender and migration

The Italian Cultural Centre Wales presents the first ever Italian Film Festival Cardiff (IFFC), which will take place on 10, 16 and 17 October at Cineworld, Chapter Arts and Penarth Pier Pavilion. The festival will showcase a selection of contemporary films, all premiering in Wales and most of them in the UK too, with central themes of poetry, gender and migration.

The event brings to the screens of Wales a dynamic and diverse portrait of Italy with its beauty, complexity and contradictions. The selection of films includes a number of genres of Italian cinematography with a strong emphasis on new narrative forms and independent productions.

The festival will be launched as part of the celebrated LGBT Iris Prize Film Festival on Saturday 10 October at 8.30pm with the harrowing story *Più buio di mezzanotte (Darker than Midnight)* by Sebastiano Riso followed by a Q&A with the director. The film deals with the controversial issue of gender in modern Italy.

The main festival will run over 16 and 17 October starting with a double bill *L'arbitro* and *Io sto con la sposa (The Referee and On the Bride's Side)* at Penarth Pier Cinema on Friday 16 October followed by Q&A with directors of both films, Paolo Zucca and Gabriele Del Grande.

Migration from Palestine and Syria is the theme of the heartrending account of *On the Bride's Side* by Antonio Augugliaro, Gabriele Del Grande and Khaled Soliman Al Nassiry. *The Referee* by Paolo Zucca is a humourous take on soccer as a metaphor for life without shying away from the dark places.

Chapter Arts Cinema will host a full day of the festival on Saturday 17 October with *Sarà un paese (It Will Be a Country)* by Nicola Campiotti at 3.30 pm, a docu-film that aims to explain contemporary Italy, its issues and its hopes for the future, to a young audience. The film is aimed to young people (8+) but it will be suitable also for anyone interested in issues of contemporary Italy. The screening will be preceded by an Italian language workshop for children focusing on the themes of the film.

The festival will continue with another double bill in the evening at Chapter Arts Cinema with films exploring the beauty of poetry in *Il giovane favoloso (Leopardi)* by Mario Martone and the crude reality of the disillusion of Naples in *Le cose belle (The Beautiful Things)* by Agostino Ferrente and Giovanni Piperno, followed by a Q&A with the director and producer.

For further details visit: www.iccw.wales

Notes to editors

Saturday 10 October, Cineworld, 8.30, *Più buio di mezzanotte (Darker than Midnight)* by Sebastiano Riso (in partnership with the Iris Prize Festival), followed by Q&A with director.

Friday 16 October, Penarth Pier Pavilion, 5.30, *L'arbitro (The Referee)* by Paolo Zucca, followed by Skype Q&A with director.

Friday 16 October, Penarth Pier Pavilion, 8.30, *Io sto con la sposa (On the Bride's Side)* by Antonio Augugliaro, Gabriele Del Grande and Khaled Soliman Al Nassiry, followed by Q&A with director.

Saturday 17 October, Chapter, 3.30, *Sarà un paese (It Will Be a Country)* by Nicola Campiotti.

Saturday 17 October, Chapter, 5.30, *Il giovane favoloso (Leopardi)* by Mario Martone.

Saturday 17 October, Chapter, 8.30, *Le cose belle (The Beautiful Things)* by Agostino Ferrente and Giovanni Piperno, followed by a Q&A with director and producer.



The ICCW is an active space displaying a range of Italian cultural activities and events including cinema, music, visual arts, poetry and literature. The centre hosts regular cultural initiatives and events with the aim of creating and reinforcing new connections between Italy, Wales and the rest of Europe.