



Third Annual *CineFesta Italia*  
Brings Contemporary Italian Film  
to Santa Fe April 20 - 22, 2018



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**— March 6, 2018 (Santa Fe, NM) CineFesta Italia in Santa Fe is gearing up for its April 20 opening with a carefully curated selection of Italian feature films. Selections are ongoing, but here's a sneak peek at a few titles screening this year:

- *A Ciambra*, by Jonas Carpignano was Italy's official submission to the Oscars for Best Foreign Language Film. Executive produced by Martin Scorsese, this keenly observed drama from Jonas Carpignano revisits characters from his *Mediterranea*. At its center is Pio Amato, a 14-year-old boy living on the poor side of a Calabrian town ("A Ciambra"), where frictions between Italians, gypsies and African immigrants run high, and petty crime is a way of life. Carpignano elicits terrific performances from the predominantly nonprofessional cast, aided by Tim Curtin's fluid cinematography. "A coming-of-age drama with a stealthy emotional charge that further enhances the writer-director's reputation as a gifted practitioner of Italian neo-neorealism." – David Rooney (THR)  
 TRAILER: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R1I4Hpp27A4>  
 SCREENER: available upon request
- *Tutto Quello Che Vuoi* (English title: *Friends by Chance*) Alessandro (Andrea Carpenzano) is a tempestuous young slacker and a source of endless frustration to his father. Giorgio (Giuliano Montaldo) is a former poet in the early stages of Alzheimer syndrome. The two live within a stone's throw of one another, but their paths have never crossed ... until Alessandro is forced to accompany the old man on his afternoon walks. Bruni received a Nastri d'Argento Award for Best Screenplay for this heartwarming dramedy.  
 TRAILER: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w7LNUMN-0WM>  
 SCREENER: available upon request
- *Gatta Cenerentola* (*Cinderella the Cat*) The classic fairytale gets an unexpectedly dark and hip update in this strikingly animated tale from the Italian directorial foursome Ivan Cappiello, Marino Guarnieri, Dario Sansone and Alessandro Rak (all newcomers except for Rak, who earlier directed European Film Award winner *The Art of Happiness*). Set almost entirely aboard a retro-futuristic ship in the harbor of Naples, the story re-imagines Cinderella as a 17-year-old, vaguely emo-punk chick who's about to be married off to a megalomaniac drug dealer who wants to turn Naples into the crime capital of the world. Of course, there's an evil stepmother who's raising her own children as — what else? — cabaret dancers, and also a heroic policeman who might be able to give this crazy, music-filled and intentionally somewhat chaotic ride a happy ending.  
 TRAILER: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwRM120iZK8>  
 SCREENER: available upon request
- *Ammore e Malavita* (*Love and Bullets*) This music-filled romp from the Manetti Bros. earned a Golden Lion nomination at the Venice Film Festival. Ciro (Giampaolo Morelli) is among the most feared men in Naples, one of two killers at the service of crime boss Don Vincenzo (Carlo Buccirosso), "the King of Fish." One night a young nurse, Fatima (Serena Rossi), finds herself in the wrong place at the wrong time and sees too much; Ciro is given the job of getting rid of her. But when the two end up face to face, they recognize each other as childhood sweethearts. Set in the beautiful

Bay of Naples, the movie is a musical, an action thriller but also a romantic comedy with scores from Neapolitan songs to rap.

TRAILER: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9HMD5SGOUyE>

SCREENER: available upon request

- *Il Ragazzo Invisibile: Seconda Generazione (Invisible Boy: Second Generation)*, Heroes meets X-Men, Gabriele Salvatores style! A new era of Italian action / adventure. Two years after its debut, the Invisible Boy is back with the second chapter of the saga, once again directed by Oscar-winner Gabriele Salvatores. The young superhero Michele is now 16 and is facing all the troubles of his age. However, it is hard to return to all of the problems this age demands after having discovered you have super powers.

TRAILER: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2fCd25Dxt5M>

SCREENER: available upon request

“The focus this year is on films and the curated film selection is very dynamic and exciting for the 2018 edition of CineFesta Italia,” says Creative Director Luca Ceccarelli. “It’s possibly our best yet.”

Noteworthy this year is the festival’s first-ever competition. In addition to the curated films selected by Luca Ceccarelli, CineFesta Italia will screen selections from entries to the competition. “This is a truly exciting time in Italian cinema, not only at the Oscars, but also in the festival circuit at large,” says Luca. “We’re especially excited at CineFesta Italia to proudly announce our festival is now open to submissions. And you’ll be riveted by the entries!”

CineFesta Italia is keeping mum about the jury for the competition until selections have been made, but it includes a wide range of experienced film professionals from as near as Santa Fe and Los Angeles to as far away as Rome.

The final date for entries is March 15 and no details about films selected from the competition will be available until filmmakers have been notified on March 20. Interested filmmakers may view the competition, along with rules and submission requirements at [FilmFreeway.com/CineFestaItalia](http://FilmFreeway.com/CineFestaItalia).

Under the auspices of the Italian Consulate General of Italy - Los Angeles, and the support of the Istituto Italiano di Cultura - Los Angeles, the festival opens in Santa Fe, New Mexico at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 20, with a reception featuring Italian wine and hors d’oeuvres at Jean Cocteau Cinema. Attending the reception will be the Honorable Antonio Verde, Consul General of Italy in Los Angeles and Valeria Rumore, Director of the Italian Institute of Culture in Los Angeles. These dignitaries will preside over the Awards Ceremony for the juried awards for films entered into the festival competition. Invitations will also be sent to both outgoing Mayor Gonzales and the incoming newly elected official.

Also new this year, winners of the juried awards for Best Narrative Feature, Best Documentary Feature and Best Short will enjoy a public screening in Los Angeles on April 24, courtesy of the collaboration between CineFesta Italia and the Italian Institute of Culture in Los Angeles.

The reception and Awards Ceremony will be followed by the screening of the opening film in the festival.

On Saturday, in addition to films, the lineup will include *The Liquid Art of the Aperitivo*, a lively exploration of the Italian Aperitivo and a sampling of easy-to-make “appetite opening” cocktails with Natalie Bovis, founder of The Liquid Muse and New Mexico Cocktails & Culture Festival.

Named one of four women leading the liquor industry, Natalie Bovis is a spirits expert, cocktail book author, event producer and marketer creating brand immersion experiences ranging from her annual NM Cocktails & Culture Festival (returning June 1 - 3, 2018) to cocktail classes and other spirited culinary adventures in the U.S. and abroad. She’s been a spokesperson for spirit and wine brands, hosts video shows, has taught at cocktail festivals around the country and judged cocktail competitions around the world. She is also the Co-Creator of OM Organic Mixology Liqueurs.

As Natalie says, “The Italian way of drinking is part of living ‘la dolce vita.’ ”

Sunday’s selection of films will culminate Sunday evening in the Audience Choice Awards Ceremony at the Violet Crown Cinema.

Films are still being selected and schedule details finalized, but the festival will screen at least eight to ten films; possibly as many as twelve, during the three days of CineFesta Italia.

#### Prices:

- All Festival Pass (including films, receptions, seminar, ceremonies): \$125 if purchased by March 20.
- All Film Pass (including opening reception): \$99 if purchased by March 20.
- Individual film tickets: \$12; student and senior discounts available. See website for details.
- Opening reception: \$45, includes film; \$40 if purchased by March 20.
- Aperitivi Seminar: \$40; \$35 if purchased by March 20.

To stay up-to-date about film selections, programming and other events, visit [CineFestaItalia.org](http://CineFestaItalia.org) and join the mailing list. Tickets to all scheduled films and events may also be purchased on the CineFesta website.

**About CineFesta Italia**

*CineFesta Italia raises awareness of Italian culture through an annual Italian film festival, delighting moviegoers with contemporary and emerging Italian cinema. A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization fully staffed by volunteers, CineFesta Italia donates a portion of festival proceeds to charitable partners that support Santa Fe's neediest children in today's challenging world. This year's festival benefits Communities in Schools at Santa Fe and Cooking with Kids.*

Film stills from top:

*Tutto Quello che Vuoi, Gatta Cenerentola, Ammore e Malavita*

SCREENERS FOR ALL FILMS ARE AVAILABLE TO THE PRESS.

EMAIL [Eileen@CineFestaItalia.org](mailto:Eileen@CineFestaItalia.org) for links and passwords.