

Il Gazzettino

Friends of Italy Society of Hawai'i

c/o Friends of Italy Society of Hawaii

P.O. Box 1376

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96807-1376

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Il Gazzettino

Friends of Italy Society of Hawai'i

September 2008



2008
Cinema Italiano
in Hawai'i
ISSUE

Italian Actress
MICHAELA RAMAZZOTTI
at *Cinema Italiano* in Hawai'i
Film Festival September 25-30

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Letter from the President...

Cari Amici,

I hope this summer finds you all well. I spent part of the summer in Trieste , Venice , Ivrea and traveling in the northern part of the country. I visited family and friends, met some amazing people and enjoyed many serendipitous experiences! I visited Ivrea while the town was setting up for a film festival (can't seem to get away from film festivals!) and encountered new friends everywhere. How splendid I found Italy and the pace of life reinforced what should be important in everyone's life: family, friends and love. Upon my reentry into Hawai'i and still emotionally reverberating from my experience, I took a good look. Hawai'i is so extremely beautiful and we share much with Italy: the same priorities, appreciation of family and friends and yes even love. How fortunate we are to live in Hawai'i.

FOISOH is committed to strengthening a cultural bridge between Hawai'i and Italy. Though the distance is physically great, emotionally many of us are very connected to Italy. Strengthening this bond by sharing with Hawai'i audiences a bit of present day Italy is truly a rich reward. *Cinema Italiano* in Hawai'i in its fifth year has been well received due to the efforts of many volunteers within our community who devote their time to make this festival a reality. Our generous sponsors, many of whom have been with us from day one, allow us to continue our programming efforts and validate our vision.

For those of you unable to have made a recent trip to Italy, consider *Cinema Italiano* in Hawai'i your passport to Italy!. The festival films are funny, dramatic, timely, romantic....they run the emotional gamut. So come and join us in celebrating this event and immersing yourself in a sliver of contemporary Italian life!.

Thank you for your continued support. See you at the movies.

Margherita Parrent,
President, FOISOH



Above: Ivrea, Italy, Margherita Parrent and the Mayor!!

Calendario

- Sept. 25-30 5th Annual *Cinema Italiano* in Hawai'i Film Festival, Doris Duke Theatre Honolulu Academy of Arts (see article in this issue)
- Sept. 25 Sponsor's Opening Reception, Cinema Italiano in Hawai'i
- Sept. 27 Cine and Cena, Honolulu Academy of Arts 900 Beretania Street (see article this issue)
- Sept. 28 Doris Duke Theatre Film "Rosso Come Il Cielo" After the 1 PM screening, Dr. Valeria Wenderoth will host a Q & A
- Sept. Italian lessons continue
- Dec. 14 FOISOH Holiday Celebration Prince Hotel, family and friends invited

Italian Language Mini Course

The Italian Mini Course is continuing and the students are still having a fine time. Even though there are different levels, there is always something new for everyone to learn. The one hour lessons are held every Friday at 10 a.m. and cost \$8 a lesson (four lessons in a month course). The course is primarily for members of FOISOH but inactive members can also participate and pay a little extra.

Since space is limited, payment by check is necessary before the beginning of the month to reserve a space. Please call Concetta for details 394-8032.

Private and semiprivate lessons are also available. Call for details.

L'Angolo di Concetta.....Concetta Volpe-Bonfiglio

Avete mai visto o scritto un acrostico?

Ma che cos'e' un acrostico?

E'un componimento poetico che forma un nome o una parola con le lettere iniziali dei versi. Leggendo le lettere iniziali di ogni rigo verticalmente si potra'identificare il nome o la parola.

Perche'non tentate di scrivere un acrostico con il vostro nome? Non e'difficile ed e'bello e divertente. Basta scrivere cio'che e'nel vostro cuore e se per gli altri non ha molto senso, voi sarete in grado di spiegarne il significato.

Il seguente e'un acrostico dedicato a mia madre:

M are calmo come l'olio
A ncora ricordo il cielo blu'
R icordo anche la tua gioventu'
I eri, era tutto un giuoco
A desso e'tutto un fuoco

Quest'altro e'un acrostico dedicato a mio marito:

J ourney in the infinity
O f my life with you
S erene eternity could become true
E ndless sweet moments
P ulsate in our hearts
H aving more is a fact of art

FLASH!...the pass.

Your Passaporto to Cinema.

See every film, every screening.

Cinema Italiano
in Hawai'i 5th Annual Film Festival
September 25-30, 2008

Doris Duke Theatre
Honolulu Academy of Arts

\$50 FOR FOISOH and ACADEMY MEMBERS

\$60 for general public

6 films/12 screenings Films include Tutta La Vita Davanti, Riprendimi, Giorni e Nuvole, Rosso Come il Cielo, Notturmo Bus, Non Pensarci.

Payment check/moneyorder to FOISOH

PO Box 1376
Honolulu, HI 96807-1376

Call 737-CIAO

* One pass per pass holder's name. Couples and friends need to purchase a FLASH pass for each participant. All sales final. FLASH: Theatre opens 40 minutes before each screening. General public tickets go on sale at that time. Open seating. Guaranteed seating if pass holder is at the theatre before it sells out.

Friends of Italy Society of Hawai'i • Membership Form

Membership runs from July 2008 through June 2009

Mission: To foster friendship among the residents of Hawai'i with a background or interest in the history, culture, arts, theater, fashion and other things Italian; to promote an understanding of Italian culture and traditions as well as present day Italy; and sponsor programs which support and augment the above-mentioned programs.

Name _____

Date _____

Family Member _____

Address _____

City & State _____ Zip Code _____

Day Phone _____ Eve Phone _____ Fax/Email _____

Dues: \$30.00 Single membership • \$40.00 Family membership

Mail to: Friends of Italy Society of Hawai'i • P.O. Box 1376 • Honolulu, HI 96807-1376

Summer Spoleto Festival

The **Festival dei Due Mondi (Festival of the Two Worlds)** is an annual summer music/arts and opera festival held each June to early July in Spoleto, Italy. Founded by composer Gian Carlo Menotti in 1958, it features a vast array of concerts, opera, dance, drama, visual arts and roundtable discussions on science. When Menotti was looking for a festival location, Spoleto was a small town where real estate and other goods and services were at the time relatively inexpensive. The town had two indoor theatres, a Roman theatre and many other interesting spaces. It was also fairly close to Rome, with good rail connections.

The festival has developed into one of the most important cultural manifestations in Italy, with a three-week schedule of music, theater and dance performances. For some time it became a reference point for modern sculpture exhibits. Works of art left to the city by Alexander Calder and others are a testimony to this. In recent years, the fest has experienced a loss of funds, and the birth of many similar festivals throughout Italy has diminished its importance. However, it remains a very important cultural event.

This year the Spoleto festival began its 51st season with a splashy Bollywood style production of the early 20th century opera ballet by Albert Roussel. This production was imported from Paris by the festival's new director Giorgio Ferrara, who promised to breathe new life into the festival. I remember the first time we went to Spoleto It was the 18th Season back in the early 1970s, and the festival was still in the hands of its founder, Gian Carlo Menotti. The sweet summer days were hot, the small charming town had delightful venues for dance, music, performance pieces, opera and theatre. There were performances throughout the day, and in the cool evenings the major productions and artists would perform to sell-out audiences in outdoor spaces. After the performances, the restaurants would start serving, and people would dine al fresco, often beginning dinner at eleven or twelve o'clock midnight, watch the passing parade, become part of the post theatre buzz while enjoying the outstanding food of the region.

Years after he started the original Spoleto festival, Gian Carlo Menotti created another "Spoleto" festival in the United States, in Charleston, South Carolina. His association with the original festival became strained. After his passing, his adopted son, Francis, became the director of the "1 and 2" Spoletos. Ousted last year, he was succeeded by Mr. Ferrara. The new director has launched his first season with a fantastic production, replete with turbans, circus, flower petal flinging, swordplay, smoky effects and red lighting to depict the flow of blood in the production of a tragic story. Patmavati is an Indian story set to Western Music, and it is as much a ballet as an opera. It is high drama: beautiful wife of Hindu leader is lusted after by Mogul conqueror, she kills the usurper and then herself. And it is high spectacle, something that the Spoleto festival aspires to, and succeeds in attaining, every season.

c.o.

Il Gazzettino The newspaper of The Friends of Italy Society of Hawaii

Advertising prices

Il Gazzettino, the newsletter of FOISOH.

1/8 page
3.5 x 2.125 inches* \$40 per issue \$130 annual

1/4 page horizontal
7.25 x 2.125 inches \$55 per issue \$180 annual

1/4 page vertical
3.25 x 4.5 inches \$55 per issue \$180 annual

1/2 page is the \$345
7.25 x 4.5 inches \$110 per issue \$345. annual

Full page
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*Small size is the size of a business card. If business cards are submitted, they can be scanned as they appear.

An impressive Film Jury

Peter Shaindlin, Chief Operating Officer of Halekulani Corporation; and **Chris Lee**, former President of Productions for TriStar Pictures and Sony Columbia Pictures and current Chairman and visionary for the University of Hawaii's Academy for Creative Media; and **Jason Scott Lee**, actor, martial arts expert, environmentalist and Hawaii resident will join the star studded cast of jurors from last year's film festival, including fifth generation Hawaii-born producer/filmmaker **Edgy Lee**, and **Neal Israel**, executive producer of "Finding Neverland" and a successful writer, director and producer. The festival is indeed fortunate to have jurors of their caliber, credentials and enthusiasm. A big "mahalo" and "grazie" to each of the jurors for their time and participation.

* Cine e Cena * Delectable!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

An enchanted evening to thrill the senses.
Food, Film, Fabulous location

Italian film joins Italian food in an arts' setting!

Where When

Honolulu Academy of Arts Courtyard
Saturday September 27, 2008
6PM until 7:30 dining,

followed by the film Days & Clouds (Giorni e Nuvole)

What...a Menu

Bruschetta mista
Carcioffi con granchio
(pasta baked in crab fonduta topped with artichoke hearts and pine nut gremolata)
Antipasto delle casa, (a selection of fine Italian meats, seafood, cheeses, assorted grilled, marinated and fresh vegetables)
Pizza mista alla Roberto

Sorbetto/Gelato

Cine & Cena...

Live music by Hot Club Hulaville.
Food by Che Pasta, Roberto Pizza Party and La Gelateria.

\$35. per person for ...cine & cena (film and food)

\$30 for cena only.

No host bar. Proceeds benefit the Honolulu Academy of Arts.

Make checks payable to
Academy of Arts' Doris Duke Theatre

Mail to FOISOH

PO Box 1376
Honolulu, Hawaii 96807-1376

Checks should be received by September 23

Due Chiacchiere

Welcome to new members, including **Deborah Tulipani**, **Blake Johnson** and **Trina Kudlacek!!!!!!** Get well **Kathy Wright**, **Jill Ackerman**, **Ellen Fera**... It was a happy celebration in July, when **Sabrina Collo** celebrated the ninth anniversary of the restaurant, Sabrina's, located at 3036 Waiialae Avenue. Congratulations!!!! Italian fashion history was made this summer, when Italian VOGUE magazine used only black models in its summer issue, the first time any VOGUE magazine did this... and this summer, the only Italian film entrant in the Sundance Festival (and an award nominated film) was Anna Negri's Riprendimi. This film will be screened twice at our own *Cinema Italiano* in Hawai'i film festival... A big "Grazie" to Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hanneman for his kind words in a "Mayor's Message" to FOISOH and the *Cinema Italiano* in Hawai'i Film Festival... Condolences to **Carmen Di Amore-Siah** whose mother passed away this summer in Guam... The summer's Italian political news included various civil demonstrations in protest of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's government. There were garbage strikes and demonstrations against proposed parliamentary measures which would affect eldercare. In Italy it is a common sight to see an elderly person strolling arm in arm with an aide, but these aides are often illegal immigrants. Under a new law proposed by the far right and Prime Minister Berlusconi, being in Italy illegally would be a felony punishable with jail time. This does not bode well for the elderly who are a rapidly expanding group and rely on immigrant help caregivers and aides... The United States has asked Italian authorities to certify that any bottle of Brunello di Montalcino imported into the USA is made from 100 percent Sangiovese grape. Without certification by laboratory analysis or a statement from the Italian government, the wines cannot be sold in the USA... Several Italian art exhibits are touring the mainland including: Italian 16th Century sculptor and Master of Bronze, Andrea Riccio is showcased at the Frick Gallery in New York with over 40 pieces of sculpture. (Riccio is the Italian word for "curly"); and on the west coast, Italian art takes center stage at the Getty Museum... Speaking of art (and masterpieces), check out the arts website frankolivaislandart.com, local artist and FOISOH member... In Italy there is real concern that the glorious colors, structures and artwork in Pompeii are being ruined by lack of attention, too many tourists, too little government money and environmental damage. Nearly 2,000 years after Mount Vesuvius buried Pompeii under pumice and steaming volcanic ash, some 2.6 million tourists tramp annually through this archaeological site which is on UNESCO's list of endangered world treasures. Citing threats to public security and to the site itself, the Italian government has for the first time declared a yearlong state of emergency for the ancient city, which is being steadily destroyed by the modern world... As one Italian city faces deterioration, another is in the making. The city of Rome has announced plans to build an expansive theme park just outside its limits modeled on Disneyland Resort Paris. The park, to be built on roughly 1200 acres, should feature attractions showing what life in ancient Rome was like... Welcome to the FOISOH board **Ann Caputo** who will take on Secretary duties... It's not too early to join the Festa di Natale committee, contact **Rose Marie Giasolli** rosemariehawaii@gmail.com... contact **Connie Oliva** at conniefive@yahoo.com and share member news for this column. Grazie!

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Mark Your Calendar

The Fifth Annual *Cinema Italiano* in Hawai'i Film Festival

The Fifth Annual *Cinema Italiano* in Hawai'i Film has blossomed since its inception in 2003. The films themselves are more diverse and cutting edge; the number of filmmakers from Italy and elsewhere in attendance has grown; the festival is now a juried event; the festival component parts now include not only an opening night gala reception, but sponsorship events, seminar events, student/director educational exchanges, and a mid festival cinema/dining evening at the Honolulu Academy of Arts. Hawaiian and Italian cultures join together in celebration of a universal experience: storytelling in film.

The goal of the festival is to promote Italian culture to Hawaii residents while showcasing an exciting array of original films featuring some of the best of Italy's cinematic talent. Our long term goal is to create a link between our local film schools with the best of Rome. From the proceeds of last year's film festival, a \$2000 grant was awarded to student Tommy Takemoto-Chock at the UH Academy of Creative Media. This year's festival (September 25-30) kicks off with the film *Tutta La Vita Davanti* and is the USA Premiere of this 2008 film. The film's director Paolo Virzi and the film's leading actress Micaela Ramazzotti will attend. Actors Daniel Dae Kim and Jason Scott Lee, and Italian actor/director/writer Franco Amurri are the very special guest presenters at the 8:00 PM screening on Thursday evening September 25 at the Doris Duke Theatre, HHA. This year's jury, chaired by Chris Lee, includes Edgy Lee, Neal Israel, Jason Scott Lee and Peter Shaindlin.

Tickets for screenings may be purchased at the Doris Duke Theatre box office 40 minutes before each showing. FLASH passes are available at \$50 for Academy or FOISOH members, \$60 to the general public. Look for additional information about FLASH passes, the cinema/dining evening at the Academy September 27 and educational programs during the festival in this issue.

Grazie to our many supportive sponsors and volunteers, including: Ferrari Maserati, Damiani, First Hawaiian Bank, Creations in Catering, HONBLUE, HI Luxury, Honolulu Weekly, Sheraton, RumFire, R.Fields, Movie Museum, College of Languages, Linguistics and Literature at University of Manoa, Castiglione a Casaura Foundation, Aloha Graphics, Che Pasta, Café Sistina, Roberto Pizza Party, MIX Café, La Gelateria, Sabrina's, Roberto Cavalli Vodka, Peroni Beer, Mobi, Jetset, Kevin Two Boots and B&Company .

This year, the San Francisco Film Society, a 501c(3) organization has become a supporter. You can contribute to *Cinema Italiano* in Hawai'i and receive a tax deduction when you make a donation and write a check to SFFS/Cinema Italiano in Hawai'i.

For information on the festival, go to www.cinemaitalianoinhawaii.org.

Meet the Members..... Paride Monti

Paride Monti, the new Membership Director for Friends of Italy, moved from Sturno (Avellino), Italy to New York in his late teens. Upon completing a civil service career in financial management with the Federal Government, he decided to move to Hawaii and realize his lifetime dream of building his own house on an exotic island. Upon "completing" the project of a lifetime, and needing additional financial resources, he decided to rent his house in Makakilo and move to town, Honolulu. He now lives in the Nuuanu Valley with his wife, his three children live on the mainland. In spite of all the many years that have gone by since his Pan Am flight landed at JFK in New York, and all the various cultures he has experienced, Paride remains inside, "Italian".

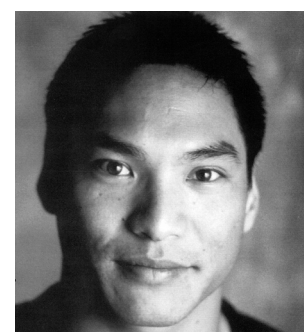
Paride's Italian childhood remembrances are cherished memories: his first day to school accompanied by his grandmother, playing hide and seek with his neighborhood friends, following the local band through town and playing at all presepi (nativity scenes) at Christmas-time, enjoying fantastic scampagnate (picnics) on the day of Pasquetta (the Monday after Easter Sunday), etc. Paride tries to visit his native town every one or two years, where he still meets and enjoys the company of childhood friends. In the not-too-distant future, he hopes to be able to stay in Sturno for few months at a time when he visits.

Paride lived and worked in Japan, where he strived to keep his fluency and knowledge of the Italian language alive by teaching Italian his spare time. Currently, he is considering enrollment in Scuola Leonardo da Vinci in Rome to obtain certification for "Teacher of Italian as a Foreign Language".

About a year ago, Paride discovered FOISOH while talking with member Carmen Di Amore-Siah. She recommended him to "Amici D'Italia"! Paride is thrilled to have found and joined Friends of Italy Society of Hawaii. He is eager to contribute, is the organization's Membership Chair and is looking for ways to share Italian culture in this part of the world. He is always so happy when he can express a few words in Italian, talk about Italian culture, and participate at get-togethers, attending *Cinema Italiano*, etc. If you would like to get in touch with Paride, you may email him at paridemonti@yahoo.com, or call him at 808-230-4753.



Franco Amurri



Jason Scott Lee

In the magnificent Italian cook book (it's so much more than a cookbook) *MADE IN ITALY FOOD AND STORIES* by Giorgio Locatelli, 2007, the back cover contains a quote - a quote so simple and poignant and true- "Italians just want to welcome people by sharing what they have, however simple, in abundance. An Italian's role in life is to feed people. A lot. We can't help it."

The book is a dream...almost three inches thick, with color photographs on page after page which enthrall with wisdom and words and cooking knowledge. It should be the bible of Italian cooks everywhere. It is unlike any book any cook has ever read!! It is a generous pleasure, a celebration of so many factors which make eating and preparing and enjoying Italian food so special. Read this book!! You will learn and be entranced and inspired.

The essence of the book, if not the actual recipes, was reflected in June, when FOISOH members Beth and Michele Carbone invited cinema enthusiasts to their home for a dinner completely prepared by their host. The evening was a culinary tour de force. Dr. Carbone prepared a feast for the hundred or so guests. The dishes were Italian and wonderful and beautiful to look at and delicious to eat. The "chef" dazzled with authentic dishes including a polenta, tasty fish dishes, and vegetables - so authentically prepared -that they tasted as if the Mediterranean sea breezes had just wafted over each pepper skin and tomato with fragrant and salty essence. There wasn't one false note in the preparation or presentation. The food was outstanding, and the hospitality warm and inviting.

The event at the Villa Carbone was a delightful kickoff for sponsors and supporters of the 2008 *Cinema Italiano* in Hawai'i Film Festival. Appropriately billed as "A Sunset Reception - Vino e Antipasti", the event was co-hosted by HI LUXURY Magazine, Ferrari Maserati of Hawaii, Istituto Italiano di Cultura San Francisco and Friends of Italy Society of Hawaii. Wonderful evening, location, food, drink and hospitality! *Cinema Italiano* in Hawai'i Film Festival chairperson Margherita Parrent spoke appreciatively about the hosts, introduced several of the attendees who included past supporters and volunteers, potential new sponsors, and the recipient of a recent FOISOH film student grant, film student Thomas Takemoto-Chock.

Cooking... and Entertaining... Italian Style



Above: Dwight Damon, Princess Dialta Allia di Montereale, Dr. Michele Carbone, Margherita Parrent, Tommy Takemoto-Chock



Above: Margot Silva, Beth Carbone, Fred Silva

TUTTA LA VITA DAVANTI *A Whole Life Ahead* USA Premier

Variety calls this "hands down one of the best Italian comedies of recent years." Marta, a brilliant student graduates cum laude. After dozens of fruitless job interviews and strapped for cash, Marta becomes a live-in babysitter for a single mother, and a temp at an international call center. Director Paolo Virzi describes the story as "...about the difficulty of living in Italy today." (Sept 25 1 pm and 8. pm)

RIPRENDIMI *Good Morning Heartache* Hawaii Premier

Italy's lone entry and nominated for an award at the Sundance Film Festival this year, the film follows a struggling couple who invite two fledgling filmmakers to film them as they try to find work in the film business and raise a child. When the husband walks out, the wife allows the crew to "lens" her personal crises. One of the filmmaker's realizes he's falling in love with her. (Sept 26 1 pm and 7:30 pm)

GIORNI E NUVOLE *Days and Clouds* Hawaii Premier

Silvio Soldini's engrossing marital drama tracks the rift that occurs between a well-heeled couple when their fortune takes a turn for the worse. Margherita Buy won this year's David di Donatello Award (the Italian Oscar) for Best Actress for her performance as Elsa. (Sept 27 1 pm and 8 pm)

ROSSO COME IL CIELO *Red Like the Sky* Hawaii Premier

Inspired by the true story of Mirco Mencacci, one of Italy's most gifted sound editors (he worked on this film). Blinded by an accident at age 10, Mirco discovers he has a talent for sound engineering while at a residential school for the blind. He helps his fellow students identify their own innate gifts, incurring the wrath of the headmaster who doesn't believe his pupils have a future beyond switchboard operating and weaving. (Sept 28 1 pm and 7:30 pm)

NOTTURNO BUS *Night Bus* Hawaii Premier

A frothy mix of film noir, romantic comedy, pulp thriller. Franz, a night bus driver is a compulsive gambler in debt. He encounters Leila, a thief and compulsive liar who unwittingly is wrapped up in a blackmail deal involving the Italian President. (Sept 29 1 pm and 7:30 pm)

NON PENSARCI *Don't Think About It* Hawaii Premier

Droll sharp comedy. Post-punk guitarist Stefano misses his childhood home in Rimini. Broke, he returns to his idiosyncratic family which includes a sister who trains dolphins, a brother who is running the family business into the ground, a mother who is taking classes from a kooky guru, and a father who obsessively plays golf to get away from it all. (Sept 30 1 pm and 7:30 pm)