



# Minneapolis-St. Paul International Film Festival

April 17 - May 3, 2008

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## Italian Films

Check our website for full synopses, discount tickets, venues -- [www.mspfilmfest.org](http://www.mspfilmfest.org)  
(English subtitles for films [or film segments] in original languages)

### *LA FINE DEL MARE*

*\*U.S. Premiere*

**SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 4:45pm & MONDAY, APRIL 21, 9:20pm -- ST. ANTHONY**  
Germany/France/Italy • 2007 • 107 Minutes • Director: Nora Hoppe



Shot at an abandoned harbor in Trieste rundown cafe that's regularly visited by a lonely, destitute Serb seaman (veteran Serb actor Miki Manojlovic), whose meagre income as a smuggler is set aside to purchase a piece of land back home. One day, his world is turned upside-down when the local mafia boss dumps on his boat a crate containing a young woman refugee (Bulgarian actress Diana Dobрева) presumably from Iran. The ante has now been upped from smalltime smuggling to human trafficking. Instead of turning her over, he takes her to his shabby flat to protect her. A spellbinding chamber drama of doom

with scarcely a word of meaningful spoken dialogue, save when a blind chessplayer on a cafe table signals his next move. Instead, the narrative line is supported by its atmospheric depth, striking near black-and-white cinematography by ace Lithuanian cameraman Rimvydas Leipus, and a lightly coated undertone of allusive music scored by renowned Iranian composer Peyman Yazdani (known for scoring films by Abbas Kiarostami). Indeed, *La fine del mare* is one of those genuine auteur films you won't easily forget and want to see again for its subtle, universally aesthetic impact. —Ron Holloway, *Kino Magazine*

### *ALIEN, THE MAN OF THE FUTURE*

*\*U.S. Premiere*

**THURS., APRIL 24, 9:20 pm -- ST. ANTHONY**  
Italy • 2007 • 94 Minutes • Director: Mauro John Capece & Pierpaolo Moio

In this stylized satire, like something out of Buster Keaton in a futuristic world of the modern metropolis, *Alien*, a special man, is born. The environment in which he evolves and interacts selects him as the father of future generations. This is the story of a human "Alien" who observes and reproduces our daily reality, says the maverick director in this offbeat experimental work from a new Rome filmmaking team. Two possible interpretations of our time are given in the film: the logical and neutral one offered by *Alien*, and the passionate and cruel one of the other protagonists. It is also the story of a new generation of Italian men and women, Italians of the future. A science fiction movie it is not, but describes the present situation that Italians are subject to, willingly or unwillingly. What will the future Italian be like? How will he behave? What will he think of other Italians? Who will his friends be? Mauro John Capece and Pierpaolo Moio



Scriptwriters and directors, Mauro John Capece and Pierpaolo Moio made several short films for cinema and television: *How Much Longer?*, *Pop & Soap*, *Nocturne*, *Maledetta scrittura*, *Colori* and *Il sopranista*. *Alien, The Man Of The Future* is their debut feature.

**\* PRESENTED BY: 7 SUSHI**

## **MANUAL OF LOVE 2**

**FRIDAY, MAY 2, 7:00 pm; OAK STREET**

**Italy • 2006 • 120 Minutes • Director: Giovanni Veronesi**

In this follow up to last year's fest, hugely successful *Manual of Love*, this sequel to the rolling-on-the-floor farce has again four interconnected stories romping through tragedy, ill-fated love affairs, passions and ephemeral relationships. In detailing the anxieties and neuroses of middle-aged Italian males, director Giovanni Veronesi teams up with Italy's king of comedy, Carlo Verdone, to follow the journey of Franco and Manuela, a young infertile couple who fly to Barcelona for specialized treatment; get involved in Filippo and Fosco's gay wedding preparations; judge for yourself whether Ernesto, a waiter at a high profile restaurant, should be having an illicit affair with the young Catalan kitchen hand, played by fiery newcomer Elsa Pataky; and meet Nicolas, a paralyzed car crash survivor who falls in love with his beautiful physiotherapist Lucia, played by the gorgeous Monica Bellucci.



For director Veronesi, this film marks only the second part of an ambitious series of episodes to be made into five films dealing with all aspects of love.

**\*\*PRESENTED BY: PIZZA LUCE**

## **MY BROTHER IS AN ONLY CHILD**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 7:15 pm; ST. ANTHONY**

**Italy • 2007 • 108 Minutes • Director: Daniele Luchetti**

This bright, vividly drawn family drama involves two radically different brothers taking divergent paths in the tumultuous '60s; younger Accio takes up with a Fascist organization while his brother Manrico is a dedicated leftist. With the aid of fellow screenwriters Sandro Petraglia and Stefano Rulli (the team behind 2003's critical hit *The Best of Youth*), director Daniele Luchetti has crafted a touching and comedic political coming-of-age tale. Set in a small Italian town south of Rome, *My Brother Is an Only Child* follows two brothers who are divided by wildly different personalities and opposing political beliefs. Accio (Elio Germano in a delightful performance) is a charismatic young smart-aleck with aspirations of joining the priesthood. Under the tutelage of Mario (Luca Zingaretti), the well-regarded local Fascist leader, Accio breaks with his liberal, working class family, while Accio's older brother, Manrico (Italian dreamboat Riccardo Scamarcio), the favored son, garners local attention as a Communist demonstrator. With a stellar cast, intimate, largely handheld cinematography and a collection of '60s and '70s pop hits, Luchetti illuminates a troubled time and still troubled in Italian history, using loveable characters and an optimistic attitude that fills the screen.

**\*\*PRESENTED BY: PIZZA LUCE**

## **THE UNKNOWN WOMAN**

**SUN., APRIL 27, 1:45 pm & WED., APRIL 30, 7:00 pm -- ST. ANTHONY**

**Italy • 2006 • 118 Minutes • Director: Giuseppe Tornatore**

Legendary Italian director Tornatore (*Cinema Paradiso*, *Malena*) returns with this tough noir thriller, a Best Film winner at the European Film Awards. The titular woman is Irina, a Ukrainian immigrant working as a house cleaner in Italy. As she ingratiates herself to her latest employers, the film reveals flashes of a brutal and ugly back story that sheds light on Irina's possible ulterior motives. Tornatore employs an impeccable supporting cast, a classic Ennio Morricone score and a vivid, Kubrickian visual style to make this *Unknown Woman* unforgettable. "Rappoport shows an impressive ability to keep the audience on her side. Her Irina qualifies as one of the most deeply nuanced film portraits of a woman who has lived through hell." – *Variety*



**\*\* PRESENTED BY: SEBASTIAN JOE'S**

## ***MY BEST ENEMY***

**SATURDAY, MAY 3, 5:15 pm -- OAK STREET THEATER**

**Italy • 2006 • 110 Minutes • Director: Carlo Verdone**



Reigning Italian comic Carlo Verdone and rising young star Silvio Muccino are paired together in this “light laughter with a serious underbelly,” writes veteran *Variety* critic Deborah Young. “The chemistry works just fine in a fluidly told, cross-generational tale about the destructiveness of making enemies and the importance of family. With winning thespians and nothing provincial about it, this is one Italian comedy that could travel...”

In his 20th film as director-star, Verdone puts on the self-important mask of Achille, manager of a hotel chain owned by his wife (Agnese Nan). When he fires a hotel maid for stealing, Achille earns the curse of her son, Orfeo (Muccino), who diabolically sets about destroying his personal and professional life. Orfeo doesn't realize the girl he's madly in love with (Ana Caterina Morariu) is Achille's daughter. (In Italian with English subtitles)