



**HUMOUROUS:** *The Mafia Kills Only in Summer* (La mafia uccide solo d'estate) is a heartrending tale of the mob's pernicious influence in Sicily.

## 'The Mafia Kills Only in Summer' and other gems at 'Italian Film Focus'

### Arts writer

**DIRECTOR** Sebastiano Riso will present a screening of his film *Darker Than Midnight* (Piu buio mezzanotte) at The Labia on Orange Street on November 16 as part of *Italian Film Focus*, which runs from November 14 to 23.

The festival this year will feature six recent Italian films, with the directors and producers being present at select screenings.

*Darker Than Midnight* tells the story of Davide, a 14-year-old boy whose delicate looks don't fit with his father's ideas of what a boy should be. Fleeing the conflicts at home, he is drawn to Catania's biggest public park, Villa Bellini, a place the rest of the city pretends not to see and whose regulars live on the margins of society.

Davide takes refuge in the company of hustlers and outcasts. It will be screened on November 15 at 1.45pm, November 16 at 6.15pm, November 17 at 8.30pm, November 19 at 1.45pm, and November 21 at 8.30pm.

Edoardo Winspeare's *Quiet Bliss* (In grazia di dio) is a fleshing out of the economic crisis affecting our "global village". It takes place in a

small town in the Salento in Italy. It tells the story of four women from one family who face a crisis as their small textile factory heads for bankruptcy. It screens on November 14 at 1.45pm, November 16 at 8.30pm, November 19 at 6.15pm, November 21 at 1.45pm and November 23 at 6.15pm.

Gabriele Salvatores' *Italy in a Day* (Un giorno da Italiani) is the Italian version of a project of Ridley Scott. Here Italians were asked to send videos made with any device during the 24 hours of October 26, 2013. The film is a diary of the emotions and the thoughts of a large number of people.

It will be featured on November 15 at 6.15pm, November 16 at 1.45pm, November 18 at 8.30pm, November 20 at 6.15pm, November 22 at 1.45pm and November 23 at 8.30pm.

The day a well-known Mafioso is elected mayor of Palermo is also the day Arturo is born in Gianfrancesco's *The Mafia Kills Only in Summer* (La mafia uccide solo d'estate). The young boy has two obsessions, his love for the girl who shares a desk with him, and the frightening connections between his city and the Mafia. The film will

show on November 15 at 8.30pm, November 17 at 1.45pm, November 18 at 6.15pm, November 20 at 8.30pm and November 22 at 6.15pm.

Matteo Andreolli's *Seven Little Killers* (Eppideis) looks at a group of children in a village in the south of Italy in the 1980s. One windy afternoon something terrible happens, and 30 years later they have to deal with the ghosts of their past. *Seven Little Killers* will be screened on November 17 at 6.15pm, November 18 and 20 at 1.45pm, November 19 at 8.30pm.

*Rewined* (Vino dentro) by Ferdinando Vicentini Orgnani tells of the life changing effect wine had on Giovanni Cuttin, a shy, ridiculed bank clerk. That first sip transforms him into the most revered wine expert in Italy.

However, when his wife is murdered, things take a sinister turn. It features on November 22 at 8.30pm and November 23 at 1.45pm.

The festival is sponsored by the Italian Ministry of Culture, Controluce, and the Italian Institute of Culture in Pretoria, with the collaboration of the Italian Consulate in Cape Town.

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