

27 NOVEMBER 2025

Bertha House (UCT) / Screening - 10:00 am

THE OLIVE TREE AND THE BAOBAB

by Serena Porta - duration 60'

The film will be presented by scriptwriter and producer Corrado Azzollini

Followed by two Masterclasses - 11:00 am

Tickets available exclusively on [Eventbrite](#)

RLabs / Screening - 6:30 pm

U.S. PALMESE

by Marco Manetti, Antonio Manetti - duration 122'

Tickets available exclusively on [Eventbrite](#)

28 NOVEMBER 2025

Cinema Labia / Screening - 6:00 pm

HEADS OR TAILS?

by Alessio Rigo de Righi, Matteo Zoppis - duration 116'

Cinema Labia / Screening - 8:30 pm

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER

by Fiorella Infascelli - duration 107'

The film will be presented by the scriptwriter Mimmo Rafele

Tickets available exclusively on [Eventbrite](#)

29 NOVEMBER 2025

Cinema Labia / Screening - 6:00 pm

MADLY

by Paolo Genovese - duration 98'

Franschhoek Theatre / Screening - 6:30 pm

U.S. PALMESE

by Marco Manetti, Antonio Manetti - duration 122'

Admission by donation

30 NOVEMBER 2025

Cinema Labia / Screening - 6:00 pm

THE LAST ONE FOR THE ROAD

by Francesco Sossai - duration 98'

Presented by the actor Filippo Scotti

Tickets available exclusively on [Eventbrite](#)

Cinema Labia / Screening - 8:30 pm

LA GRAZIA

by Paolo Sorrentino - duration 131'

The film will be presented by Filippo Scotti, protagonist of Paolo Sorrentino's previous film *The Hand of God*

Tickets available exclusively on [Eventbrite](#)

1 DECEMBER 2025

Cinema Labia / Screening - 6:00 pm

U.S. PALMESE

by Marco Manetti, Antonio Manetti - duration 122'

The association of film authors Controluce, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture of Italy MIC, The Embassy of Italy in South Africa, the Consulate of Italy in Cape Town and the Italian Cultural Institute in Pretoria presents the 25th edition of

THE ITALIAN FILM FOCUS SOUTH AFRICA 2025

WATCH THE TRAILER 



associazionecontroluce.org

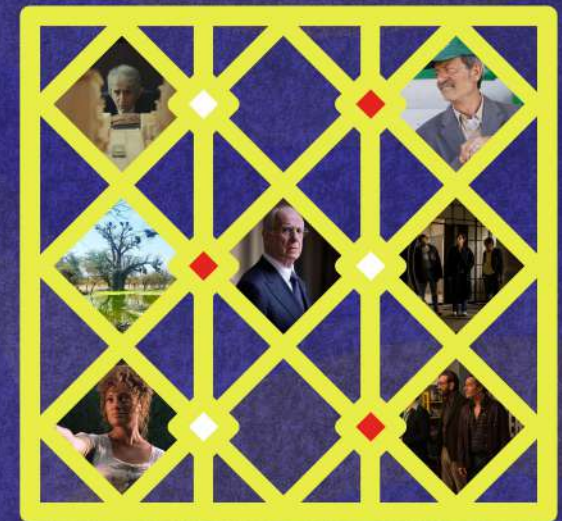
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25th
edition

Italian Film FOCUS

THE LARGEST SHOWCASE OF RECENT
ITALIAN FILMS IN AFRICA FOR 25 YEARS



27 NOVEMBER - 1 DECEMBER 2025

CAPE TOWN

Cinema Labia, 68 Orange Street, Gardens

UCT, Bertha House (UCT), 67-69 Main Road, Mowbray

RLabs, 55 Boschendal Road Westridge, Mitchells Plain

Franschhoek Theatre, 15 Akademie Street, Franschhoek

FREE ENTRY

25th
edition

Italian Film FOCUS



HEADS OR TAILS? Testa o croce?

By Alessio Rigo de Righi,
Matteo Zoppis
Italy, 2025, 116'

From Cannes Film Festival, a historical and compelling western set in Maremma, Tuscany! At the start of the 1900s, Buffalo Bill's Wild

West Show arrives in Italy, sparking a challenge between American cowboys and Italian butchers. Santino, a local farmhand, unexpectedly wins, catching the eye of Rosa, the abused wife of a wealthy landowner. When her husband is killed, Rosa flees with Santino, who is accused of the murder. Pursued by bounty hunters and Buffalo Bill's men, they cross paths with anarchists and dreamers. Between myth and reality, fate is decided by a final "heads or tails" — leaving Rosa to walk her own path.

Cast: Nadia Tereszkiewicz, Alessandro Borghi.



LA GRAZIA La grazia

By Paolo Sorrentino
Italy, 2025, 131'

Eventbrite

By Oscar-winning director Paolo Sorrentino, one of the most acclaimed films in competition at the 2025 Venice Film Festival, starring the iconic Toni Servillo, winner of the Best Actor

Award. Mariano De Santis is the President of the Italian Republic — entirely a product of the author's imagination. A widower and devout Catholic, he shares a close bond with his daughter Dorotea, a legal scholar like himself. As his term nears its end, two petitions for presidential pardon confront him with profound moral dilemmas that intertwine with his private life in unexpected ways. Torn by doubt yet guided by duty, he must make the ultimate decision with dignity and integrity.

Cast: Toni Servillo, Anna Ferzetti, Milvia Marigliano.

The film will be presented by **Filippo Scotti**, protagonist of Paolo Sorrentino's previous film *The Hand of God*.



MADLY FolleMente

By Paolo Genovese
Italy, 2025, 98'

Screened in the Horizons section at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival and a hit at the Italian box office, this surprising new comedy from the director of *Perfect Strangers*

features a very talented cast. On their first date in Rome, Piero and Lara are guided by personified versions of their inner selves — from the rational to the romantic. As the evening unfolds, these internal voices navigate the complexities of attraction, vulnerability, and self-doubt. Through witty and heartfelt moments, their connection deepens, leading to an unexpected and genuine bond. *Madly* offers a fresh perspective on modern romance, blending psychological insight with comedic charm.

Cast: Edoardo Leo, Pilar Fogliati.



THE COUNCIL CHAMBER La camera di consiglio

By Fiorella Infascelli
Italy, 2025, 107'

Eventbrite

Fresh from the Rome Film Festival, this film, starring the acclaimed actor Sergio Rubini and

written by renowned screenwriter Mimmo Rafele, portrays the final act of the largest criminal trial in history: the 1987 Palermo Maxi Trial. Eight jurors, four women and four men, locked inside a deliberation room for 36 days, tasked with convicting or acquitting 470 defendants. Eight people, forced to live together in a small apartment in Ucciardone Prison. All communication with the outside world is cut off: no televisions, telephones or radios. They find themselves imprisoned.

Cast: Sergio Rubini, Massimo Popolizio, Roberta Rigano.



THE LAST ONE FOR THE ROAD Le città di pianura

By Francesco Sossai
Italy, 2025, 98'

Eventbrite

From the Cannes Film Festival comes a touching comedy and Italian box office

success featuring one of the countries most acclaimed new actors, Filippo Scotti. The film tells the story of two broke, bar-hopping fiftysomethings who meet a shy and aimless architecture student. Together, the three men embark...

Cast: Filippo Scotti, Sergio Romano, Pierpaolo Capovilla.



THE OLIVE TREE & THE BAOBAB

L'ulivo e il baobab

By Serena Porta
Italy, 2025, 60'

Eventbrite

A unique documentary about Italy, Africa, and ancient trees, narrated by the iconic actor and

Gladiator Russell Crowe. Presented at the Lecce European Film Festival 2024, *The Olive Tree and the Baobab* takes viewers from the sun-soaked groves of the Mediterranean to the arid plains of Africa. These two ancient trees embody humanity's enduring connection to the land and its people. Through their stories, the film explores cultural heritage, ecological balance, and the shared challenges of survival in a changing world. With stunning visuals and Crowe's insightful narration, this documentary is a moving journey of discovery and wonder.



U.S. PALMESE U.S. Palmese

By Marco Manetti, Antonio Manetti
Italy, 2024, 122'

Eventbrite

Winner of Best Comedy at the Globi d'Oro 2025, this charming film takes place in Palmi, a small town in Calabria, where Don Vincenzo, a brilliant and retired farmer, comes up with

the crazy idea of reviving the local football team. He organizes a quirky fundraising campaign to recruit Etienne Morville, a Serie A player with a difficult temper but extraordinary talent. Although initially reluctant, Morville leaves Milan to move to Palmi and repair his public image. There, he encounters a world grounded in honesty, leading to an unforgettable experience for everyone involved.

Cast: Rocco Papaleo, Blaise Alfonso, Giulia Maenza.

27 NOVEMBER 2025

Bertha House (UCT) 11:00 am

Two Masterclasses

CO-PRODUCTION OPPORTUNITIES AND ACCESS TO
EUROPEAN FILM FUNDS

with

Corrado Azzollini – President, Confartigianato Cinema e Audiovisivo
Antonio Falduto – Head, Association of Film Authors Controluce
Alberto Iannuzzi – Filmmaker, DP and head of Educational Programs,
Association of Film Authors Controluce

HOW TO MAKE A TV SERIES
FOR THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET

with

Mimmo Rafele – scriptwriter of *The council chamber*

FREE ENTRY

ALL SCREENINGS ARE FREE. SPECIAL EVENT FILMS REQUIRE BOOKING VIA **EVENTBRITE**. ALL OTHERS ARE FIRST COME FIRST SERVED, WITH TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE CINEMA ONE HOUR BEFORE THE SHOW.

All films are subtitled