

Film at Lincoln Center and  
Istituto Luce Cinecittà Present

# Open Roads

New Italian Cinema

June 6-12



Film at  
Lincoln  
Center



LUCE  
CINECITTÀ

Tickets: [filmlinc.org](http://filmlinc.org)

Open Roads: New Italian Cinema is the only screening series to offer North American audiences a diverse and extensive lineup of contemporary Italian films. This year's edition again strikes a balance between emerging talents and esteemed veterans, commercial and independent fare, outrageous comedies, gripping dramas, and captivating documentaries, with in-person appearances by many of the filmmakers.

Co-presented by Film at Lincoln Center and Istituto Luce Cinecittà. Organized by Florence Almozini and Dan Sullivan, Film at Lincoln Center; and by Carla Cattani, Griselda Guerrasio, and Monique Catalino, Istituto Luce Cinecittà.



## Piranhas

### Opening Night

Claudio Giovannesi, Italy, 2019,  
112m

Claudio Giovannesi (*Fiore*) returns to Open Roads with this singular coming-of-age story that won the Silver Bear for Best Screenplay at the Berlin Film Festival. Newcomer Francesco Di Napoli stars as 15-year-old Nicola, who leads a pack of cocksure hellions captivated by the lifestyle of the local Camorra as they descend into the violent, paranoid world of Naples's dominant crime group. Based on the novel by Roberto Saviano, who co-wrote the screenplay and mined similar territory in his devastating *Gomorrah*, *Piranhas* is a haunting reflection on doomed adolescence. A Music Box Films release.

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**Thursday, June 6 6:00pm**

**Q&A with Claudio Giovannesi**

**Wednesday, June 12 9:15pm**



## Capri-Revolution

Mario Martone, France/Italy, 2018,  
122m

The stirring period drama from veteran director Mario Martone centers on Lucia (Marianna Fontana), a young goatherd living on Capri in 1914, when Europe is on the precipice of World War I. Also on the island is a commune of free-spirited, politically radical Northern European artists and intellectuals who have retreated to the lush Mediterranean idyll to put their fledgling ideologies into practice. Chafing at the traditions of her native community, Lucia finds herself drawn to the commune and its idealistic leader—but soon she must reckon with the vast tides of cultural and political change.

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**Sunday, June 9 6:00pm**

**Q&A with Mario Martone and  
screenwriter Ippolita Di Majo**



## La Commare Secca

Bernardo Bertolucci, Italy, 1962,  
35mm, 88m

Bernardo Bertolucci made an auspicious filmmaking debut at 21 with this savvy, meticulous murder mystery adapted from a short story by Pier Paolo Pasolini. When the corpse of a prostitute is discovered near a public park, the police attempt to reconstruct the story of the woman's death from the recollections of standersby brought in for questioning, presented in flashback sequences. This formally audacious meditation on memory, contingency, and the elusive implications of "realism" marks a fitting introduction to the Italian master, who passed away in November at the age of 77.

35mm print from Istituto Luce Cinecittà.

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**Tuesday, June 11 6:00pm**



## Dafne

**North American Premiere**

**Federico Bondi, Italy, 2019, 94m**

Dafne (Carolina Raspanti), a young woman with Down syndrome, leads a quiet family life that is upended by the sudden death of her mother. Both Dafne and her father, Luigi (Antonio Piovaneli), struggle to support each other as they differently process this loss: Luigi withdraws into depression, while Dafne gravitates toward greater responsibility at work and at home. Winner of the FIPRESCI Prize in this year's Berlin Film Festival Panorama section, Federico Bondi's understated sophomore feature re-orientates their mourning into a tender story of perseverance, awash in rich everyday detail and anchored by a magnetic breakout performance by Raspanti.

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**Friday, June 7 3:30pm**

**Q&A with Federico Bondi**

## The Disappearance of My Mother

**Beniamino Barrese, Italy, 2019, 94m**

In his directorial debut, cinematographer Beniamino Barrese weaves together new and archival footage spanning decades and continents to craft an intimate, vignette-like documentary portrait of his mother, the renowned Italian model, activist, and feminist educator Benedetta Barzini. Taking this formidable woman as its protagonist, the film adopts an inquisitive stance, delving into her personal and professional history and probing her present-day reality with a son's affectionate persistence, and ultimately opens up into an exploration of such vast and timeless themes as beauty, womanhood, aging, and image-making, while simultaneously engaging in deeply personal contemplation of the relationship between a mother and her son, and between an artist and his subject. A Kino Lorber release in association with Breaker.

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**Monday, June 10 6:00pm**

**Q&A with Beniamino Barrese and Benedetta Barzini**



Photo by Andrea Pirrello



## Euforia

**Valeria Golino, Italy, 2018, 120m**

Acclaimed leading men Riccardo Scamarcio and Valerio Mastandrea play Matteo and Ettore, two adult brothers living drastically different lives, in actor-director Valeria Golino's quietly wrenching new drama. When Ettore, a public-school teacher and father of modest means, is diagnosed with an illness, he goes to stay with cosmopolitan Matteo in his sprawling Roman bachelor pad, and Matteo takes charge of overseeing his brother's medical care. Between appointments with doctors and visits from Ettore's wife (Isabella Ferrari) and his mistress (Jasmine Trinca), the brothers reckon with long-unresolved tensions and unspoken resentments, and face the implications of Ettore's failing health, against the thrumming backdrop of the sunny Roman cityscape.

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**Saturday, June 8 6:00pm**  
**Q&A with Valerio Mastandrea**

**Wednesday, June 12 2:00pm**

## If Life Gives You Lemons

**Ciro D'Emilio, Italy, 2018, 88m**

Abandoned by his father and left alone to care for his mentally ill mother, 17-year-old high-school dropout Antonio (Giampiero De Concilio) has had to grow up fast, navigating the complexities of the adult world while trying to hold onto what's left of a normal teenage life. When he's scouted by a professional soccer team, it seems like the break he's been waiting for—but a series of calamitous personal crises threaten to derail his dreams. Anchored by a compelling lead performance from its up-and-coming star, this achingly naturalistic coming-of-age drama vividly evokes the world of a young man striving to succeed in the face of overwhelming odds.

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**Saturday, June 8 3:30pm**  
**Q&A with Ciro D'Emilio**



## Laughing

**North American Premiere**  
**Valerio Mastandrea, Italy, 2018,**  
**90m**

After a young man dies in a controversial workplace accident, those who loved him grapple with what it means to go on living: his widow, seemingly unable to cry, questions why she feels so numb; his son sublimates the trauma by rigorously preparing for the media frenzy that will accompany the funeral; his father, haunted by his inability to prevent the tragedy, wrestles with survivor's guilt. Punctuated by disarming humor and flashes of poetic realism, the feature debut from acclaimed actor Valerio Mastandrea is a powerfully cathartic exploration of the myriad ways we grieve, cope, and find hope in the face of loss.

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**Saturday, June 8 1:00pm**  
**Q&A with Valerio Mastandrea**  
**and actress Chiara Martegiani**

## Loro

**Paolo Sorrentino, Italy/France,**  
**2018, 150m**

The Oscar-winning director of *The Great Beauty* returns with a satirical reimaging of the fall of Silvio Berlusconi (Toni Servillo). *Loro* offers ample sex and drugs as it follows Sergio Morra (Riccardo Scamarcio), a power-hungry talent scout who installs himself in a villa next door to Berlusconi with a troupe of young escorts. But the debauchery stands in pointed contrast to the prime minister's slow decline. Despite Morra's determination to coax his neighbor to one of his ragers, Berlusconi is dealing with a quieter range of chamber dramas: a long-suffering wife who doesn't believe in his limp vows of fidelity, a son with whom he's trying to bond, and a mounting sense of helplessness and apathy as he feels power slipping through his fingers. An IFC Films release.

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**Saturday, June 8 9:00pm**  
**Tuesday, June 11 8:00pm**



## Lucia's Grace

Gianni Zanasi, Italy/Greece/Spain,  
2018, 110m

Alba Rohrwacher (*I Am Love*, *Happy as Lazzaro*) stars as a land surveyor and single mother whose compassion is tested when she learns that her new building project threatens the environmental safety of the city. While she is torn between her decision to speak up or keep her job, a mysterious woman enters Lucia's already chaotic life and proposes she build a church on the site. *Lucia's Grace*, which was the Closing Night selection of the 2018 Cannes Directors' Fortnight, is a pleasantly original comedy about faith and acceptance in the modern world, and a showcase of Rohrwacher's emotional range and flair for physical comedy.

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**Monday, June 10 3:30pm**

**Wednesday, June 12 7:00pm**

## Magical Nights

**North American Premiere**  
Paolo Virzì, Italy, 2018, 125m

The latest from maestro Paolo Virzì (*Human Capital*) is a sparkling murder mystery and film-industry satire set in the early 1990s, the tail end of Italian cinema's golden age, when neorealism and *commedia all'italiana* gave way to a culture of excess, greed, and artistic stagnation. When a famous film producer is found dead in the Tiber River, suspicion falls on three young screenwriters who, when they are hauled in for questioning, recount their wild adventures navigating Rome's declining film industry. Studded with winking references to Italian cinema legends, *Magical Nights* is Virzì's loving yet irreverent glance back to the not-so-good old days.

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**Sunday, June 9 12:45pm**

**Wednesday, June 12 4:30pm**



## Normal

**North American Premiere**  
**Adele Tulli, Italy, 2019, 67m**

Atmospheric vignettes in such striking settings as a doctor's office, a toy factory, and a dirt-bike rally build off of one another in Adele Tulli's stylized documentary, which reckons with the ever-changing norms around gender identity. Through a diverse cross section of Italian society—including tween pop idols, stage parents, socialites, gamers, and soon-to-be-newlyweds—Tulli finds a humanistic pathos, whether it be in the solitary gaze of a young child, or in the mass groupthink of an exercise class. A standout from the Berlin Film Festival's Panorama section, *Normal* is a sweeping work of anthropology that looks at the ways that conventional gender expression is instilled and reinforced.

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**Monday, June 10 8:30pm**  
**Q&A with Adele Tulli**

## Ricordi?

**North American Premiere**  
**Valerio Mieli, Italy/France, 2018, 106m**

Nine years after his debut feature, *Ten Winters*, played in Open Roads, Valerio Mieli returns with an evocative romance about an unnamed, archetypal couple (Luca Marinelli and Linda Caridi) wrestling with the passage of time. When they move into the house where Marinelli's character spent his childhood summers, the past resurfaces in sensory bursts and exerts a profound hold on him; meanwhile, she struggles to overcome his anxieties about the inevitability of change. *Ricordi?* is an earthy meditation on love that's pushed and pulled by the tidal waves of memory.

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**Friday, June 7 8:30pm**  
**Q&A with Valerio Mieli**



## Selfie

North American Premiere

Agostino Ferrente, France/Italy,  
2019, 78m

Several years after an unarmed teenager was shot by police in the Traiano region of Naples, filmmaker Agostino Ferrente traveled to the gang-ravaged neighborhood to make a documentary about the lives of its young people—for whom the prospect of being swept up in Camorra activity perpetually looms. The film's central subjects are Alessandro and Pietro, 16-year-old best friends whom Ferrente recruited to film themselves using smartphones in "selfie" mode as they go about their daily lives. The result is at once lyrical and raw, a deceptively offhand, richly moving chronicle of adolescent friendship in a social microcosm shaped by economic precarity, conflicting moralities, and the improbable persistence of hope.

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Sunday, June 9 9:00pm

Q&A with Agostino Ferrente

Tuesday, June 11 4:15pm

## Sono Gassman! Vittorio re della commedia

North American Premiere

Fabrizio Corallo, Italy, 2018, 94m

This brisk, engaging documentary surveys the life, work, and legacy of Vittorio Gassman, the Italian screen icon who began his illustrious career as a serious dramatic stage actor before going on to subvert that image in classic works of *commedia all'italiana* by Mario Monicelli (*Big Deal on Madonna Street*), Dino Risi (*Il Sorpasso*), and Ettore Scola (*We All Loved Each Other So Much*). Through a wealth of interviews, film clips, and archival footage, *Sono Gassman!* reveals how Gassman's comedic screen persona cannily reflected and critiqued mid-20th-century Italian society, while shedding light on the complex inner life of the man himself.

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Sunday, June 9 3:30pm

Q&A with Fabrizio Corallo



## Twin Flower

Laura Luchetti, Italy, 2018, 96m

In writer-director Laura Luchetti's strikingly photographed sophomore feature, two teen runaways forge a relationship haunted by their respective pasts. Anna (Anastasiya Bogach) is eluding a human trafficker for whom her father worked, and Basim (Kallil Kone) is a refugee from the Ivory Coast in search of gainful employment. Together, they embark on a dangerous trip across the tough but breathtaking terrain of Sardinia in the hopes of overcoming their personal demons. The remarkable chemistry between Bogach and Kone—both nonprofessional actors—carries Luchetti's powerful film about coming of age in the throes of the refugee crisis. Received an honorable mention from the FIPRESCI Discovery Prize jury at the 2018 Toronto International Film Festival.

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**Friday, June 7 6:00pm**  
Q&A with Laura Luchetti

## The Vice of Hope

Edoardo De Angelis, Italy, 2018, 96m

A compassionate woman desperately fights to escape the criminal life she was born into in this breathless tale of resilience and inner strength. Maria (Pina Turco) assists her aunt in the family business of trafficking pregnant women through the shadowy, black market baby underground. When she helps one of the women escape, Maria—now pregnant herself—is plunged deeper into the underworld than she is prepared to go. Capturing the gray, rubble-strewn bleakness of its lawless port town setting in immersive, tension-building tracking shots, this stirring survival saga finds unexpected grace in a seemingly hopeless world.

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**Thursday, June 6 9:00pm**  
Q&A with Edoardo De Angelis

# OPEN ROADS SCHEDULE

All screenings take place at the Walter Reade Theater [▷](#) In-Person Appearance

## THU June 6

6:00 Opening Night: Piranhas [▷](#)

9:00 The Vice of Hope [▷](#)

## FRI June 7

3:30 Dafne [▷](#)

6:00 Twin Flower [▷](#)

8:30 Ricordi? [▷](#)

## SAT June 8

1:00 Laughing [▷](#)

3:30 If Life Gives You Lemons [▷](#)

6:00 Euforia [▷](#)

9:00 Loro

## SUN June 9

12:45 Magical Nights

3:30 Sono Gassman! Vittorio  
re della commedia [▷](#)

6:00 Capri-Revolution [▷](#)

9:00 Selfie [▷](#)

## MON June 10

3:30 Lucia's Grace

6:00 The Disappearance  
of My Mother [▷](#)

8:30 Normal [▷](#)

## TUE June 11

4:15 Selfie

6:00 La Commare Secca

8:00 Loro

## WED June 12

2:00 Euforia

4:30 Magical Nights

7:00 Lucia's Grace

9:15 Piranhas

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## Tickets

\$10 Members

\$12 Students, Seniors, and  
Persons with Disabilities

\$15 General Public

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Images: (this page) *Ricordi?*; (cover) *Capri-Revolution*, photo by Mario Spada

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