

HER WHOLE LIFE AHEAD

Friday 7.30pm

(Ticket includes finger food & entertainment from 6.00pm - bookings essential, limited reserved seating)

Director: Paolo Virzi

Cast: Isabella Ragonese, Sabrina Ferilli

"Hands down one of the best Italian comedies in recent years." - Variety

This irresistible film from Virzi is a witty satire that centres on the lives, loves & struggles of the employees of an Italian call centre. Marta is a brilliant unemployed philosophy graduate. A chance encounter leads her to a position as a telemarketer. Her new workplace, led by the outrageous Daniela, fosters a distinctly American style of motivational exercises & cut-throat sales techniques, but incongruously, Marta takes to her new job like a fish to water. On the surface, with its surreal juxtaposition of motivational psychology & reality-show feel, Virzi's vision is more whimsical comedy than biting reportage. Virzi's 'commedia all'italiana' genre, critique of Italian society pulls no punches. (120 mins)

WILD BLOOD

Saturday 4.00pm

Director: Marco Tullio Giordana

Cast: Monica Bellucci, Luca Zingaretti

WINNER - François Chalais Award, Official Selection Cannes Film Festival 2008. In *Sanguepazzo*, Marco Tullio Giordana uses modern-day stars (Bellucci & Zingaretti) to portray the renowned actors of Fascist cinema, Luisa Ferida & Osvaldo Valenti. The heart of this film is Luisa, ambitious, principled & in love with two men: seducer & gambler Osvaldo & Golfiero, the gay director who makes her a star. With Golfiero unattainable, Luisa & Osvaldo soon become inseparable. Eventually, Golfiero joins the Resistance movement as Osvaldo (as addicted to fame as he is to drugs) opportunistically allies himself with the Fascists. Giordana strikes several timeless notes: the proximity of show business to power & the fact that celebrities are equally loved & loathed for the very excesses that bring them fame - talent, fearlessness or recklessness. (150 mins)

All films are in Italian with English subtitles.

LESSONS IN CHOCOLATE

Saturday 7.00pm

Director: Claudio Cupellini

Cast: Luca Argentero, Violante Placido

WINNER - Best Comedy & Best Actress (Placido) Monte Carlo Comedy Film Festival. *Lessons In Chocolate* is a fresh comedy where humour & pathos are mixed in the right proportions. Mattia, a building contractor in Perugia, is about to close the biggest deal of his professional life, when his illegally-hired worker Kamal is badly injured on the job. Kamal threatens to sue, unless Mattia takes his place in an advanced chocolate making course! Kamal came to Italy from his native Egypt to realise his dream of opening his own pastry shop, but needed a diploma to do so. Now Mattia has no choice but to take Kamal's place in the school & pretend to be him. There, Mattia meets the model student Cecilia. Among laughs, misunderstandings & mouth-watering recipes, Mattia will discover a way to bring his & Kamal's disparate cultures together while finding love & life at the same time. (100 mins)

DAYS & CLOUDS

Sunday 4.30pm

Director: Silvio Soldini

Cast: Margherita Buy, Antonio Albanese

Popular writer-director Silvio Soldini (*Bread & Tulips*, *Agatha & the Storm*) returns with another beautifully made gem to savour. This absorbing drama brilliantly renders an increasingly familiar nightmare: an upper middle-class family whose comfortable lives suddenly disappear. The day after a lavish birthday party, Elsa discovers that her husband Michele was out-manoeuvred by his former partners & pushed out of the company he helped found. He hasn't worked in months. Soon, the altered circumstances begin to bite, causing a schism in the marriage, & further strain with their 20-year-old daughter. Margherita Buy, one of Italy's greatest actresses, is simply magnificent in the lead role in this optimistic film about commitment. The cast is uniformly great, with Buy collecting the David di Donatello Award for Best Actress, & Rohrwacher for Best Supporting Actress. (120 mins)