

the **NATIVITY**
SCENE THE LEGACY OF SAINT
FRANCIS OF ASSISI
THROUGH ITALIAN DESIGN AND IRISH CRAFTSMANSHIP

curated by Andrea Vecera

OCTOBER 2026 - PROGRAMME OF CULTURAL EVENTS



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4.10.2026 - 6.1.2027
RATHFARNHAM CASTLE - DUBLIN

DESIGN

4 October -
6 January

The Nativity Scene: The Legacy of Saint Francis of Assisi
Rathfarnham Castle, Dublin

To mark the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi, the Embassy of Italy and the IIC Dublin present *The Nativity Scene: The Legacy of St Francis of Assisi through Italian Design and Irish Craftsmanship*. Bringing together Italian designers and Irish craftspeople, the exhibition explores the tradition of the presepe through contemporary design and materials inspired by the Irish landscape, celebrating creativity, cultural exchange and collaboration. Free admission. In collaboration with the OPW and DCCI.

05 OCTOBER 2026
THE BLACK ITALIAN RENAISSANCE

In the halls of the Uffizi Gallery, the great Venetian Palaces, or among the nave of the most important churches in Rome, Renaissance artworks conceal countless faces, hidden in plain sight: those of African and afro-descendant characters. Who were they? Where did they come from? Why were they portrayed, and why did they remain unobserved until these days? For more info see: <https://www.italy.it/en/visiting-the-black-italian-renaissance/>

FRANCESCA PRIORI CREATOR

Francesca Priori is an Italian journalist, showrunner, screenwriter and director of documentary films, cultural and entertainment series and television programs. Since 1980, she has explored literature, art, design, music, social issues and the environment. Her empathetic yet clear-eyed observation of the world, developed through her work with Mediaset, Talea and Sky, combined with her rigorous commitment to source research, has enabled her to meet, document and narrate the lives of leading figures in contemporary culture, including writers, artists, musicians, directors, actors, scientists, historians and thinkers.

CRISTIAN DI MATTIA DIRECTOR

Cristian Di Mattia is a director and filmmaker with over 20 years of experience in documentaries, television programs, commercials and audiovisual content. He has a narrative vision deeply focused on the human, social and emotional dimensions of storytelling. A graduate of the New York Film Academy, he has written and directed short films, music videos and advertising campaigns, and his work has been presented at international festivals and cultural events. For RAI Cinema and major Italian television networks, he has directed docu-films dedicated to key moments in contemporary history, from the Aldo Moro case to the fall of the Berlin Wall, from the history of the Italian left to the end of Fascism.

06 OCTOBER 2026
IL MORO (THE MOOR)

IL MORO - The Moor is a short film about the untold story of Alessandro de' Medici, the first Duke of Florence in 1530 and the first man of African descent to become a head of state in Renaissance Europe. While unveiling a true story from the past, the film aims to speak loudly of the situations that Black Europeans are still experiencing today and to celebrate today's Afro-European community in the history of the continent. For more info see: <https://www.ilmorofilm.com/>

DAPHNE DI CINIO DIRECTOR

Daphne Di Cinio is a Black Italian Filmmaker and a 2026 Sundance Episodic Intensive Lab Fellow, currently residing in London. She began her film and theatre studies in Rome, before moving to New York for her Master's in Fine Arts at the Actors Studio Drama School. While developing a series based on the life of Alessandro de' Medici, Daphne wrote, directed and produced the short film *Il Moro - The Moor*, her directorial debut, longlisted for Oscar qualification in 2024. Daphne received the Cultural Focus Visionary in Film Award during the 79th Venice Film Festival. She played Sarah Bassett in the Netflix series *Bridgerton*.

DR ANGELICA PESARINI RESEARCH TALK

Dr Angelica Pesarini is a scholar of race and cultural studies, race and diaspora and Italian studies at the University of Toronto. Her research explores the field of Black Italia by examining the intersections of race, gender, identity and citizenship in post-colonial Italy. She is co-editor of *Black Italia for California Italian Studies* and a founding member of the Black Mediterranean Collective, which published *The Black Mediterranean: Bodies, Borders, and Citizenship* (2021). As a scholar-activist, she is involved in the Italian anti-racist movement and is interested in the impact of Black Lives Matter in Italy.

CINEMA

5, 6
October

2 Film Screenings ‘The Black Italian Renaissance’ and ‘Il Moro/The Moor’
University College, Cork

We are delighted to promote the screening of two films at the University College of Cork. As part of Black History Month, the Department of Italian, with the Department of Film and Screen Media, is organizing two exciting film events: “The Black Italian Renaissance” (90 min film in English) and “Il Moro” [“The Moor”] (22 minutes, in Italian with English subtitles). Both screening will be followed by Q&A and discussions with directors and filmmakers. Info on the ucc website. Free event.

GIORNATA DEL CONTEMPORANEO ITALIAN CONTEMPORARY ART

ART

Sat 10
October

Geographies in Relation
ONLINE at the Istituto Italiano di Cultura YouTube Channel

The theme chosen for the 2026 edition of AMACI is “Geographies of Contemporaneity.” The IIC will bring into dialogue the artistic practices of Rebecca Moccia in Dublin and Deirdre Kelly in Venice. Geographies in Relation aims to reflect on the present as a space shaped by continuous transformation, in which territories, communities, and identities are defined through relationships, conflicts, exchanges, and ongoing processes of redefinition.



CHILDREN

Mon 12
October

Maths Magic
From 4 PM to 5.30 PM
Italian Institute of Culture, Dublin

Get ready for an entertaining experience filled with mathematical magic, games, numbers and challenges that will put your common sense to the test. We are delighted to present "Anche in matematica importanti i binari" (a play on words in Italian involving the binary system and railway tracks), in collaboration with Irish Math Week and as part of the programme of the Week of the Italian Language in the World 2026. Prof. Guido Ramellini will guide the audience on a journey of discovery through the magical properties of mathematics.



MUSIC

16, 21, 25,
29 Oct

**75th WEXFORD FESTIVAL OPERA –
L'equivoco stravagante by Rossini**
O'Reilly Theatre, National Opera
House

The Italian Institute of Culture in Dublin is delighted to announce the 2026 edition of Wexford Festival Opera, which celebrates its 75th anniversary. The Institute is proud to support the Festival's production of Rossini's *L'equivoco stravagante*. Led by Italian conductor Riccardo Bisatti, this early work by Rossini is a fast-paced and playful exploration of social climbing and the lengths to which we will go for love. Tickets are available at wexfordfestivalopera.com.



ITALIAN LANGUAGE

19-25
October

**Week of the Italian Language in the
World**
Programme on our website

The Week of the Italian Language in the World takes place annually in the third week of October. Organised by the Italian Embassy in Ireland and the IIC Dublin, in collaboration with the Italian Departments, it is the leading global event dedicated to the Italian language. This year's theme is "A Brilliant Language: Conceiving, Designing and Creating in Italian." The Week will be officially opened as part of the events marking the Italy–County Meath Pairing, within the framework of the Irish Presidency of the Council of the EU.



MUSIC

Thu 22 October	Francesco Turrisi – “Vuci” Album Launch Project Arts Centre, Dublin
The Italian Institute of Culture in Dublin is glad to present the album launch of the Grammy-Award winning pianist Francesco Turrisi. Vuci is an exploration of Turrisi’s Sicilian roots through a series of solo piano compositions inspired by the time he spent on the island as a child. It is a reflection on migration: that of his own family leaving Sicily, and the more recent one of people arriving on its shores. The event will take place at the Project Arts Centre of Dublin, in the Space Upstairs room, on October 22 at 7:30 pm. Ticketed event.	



CINEMA

22 October - November	EUNIC SHORT SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL 2026 Limerick, Galway, Dublin, Cork, Waterford
The 2026 edition of the EUNIC Short Shorts from Europe Film Festival will feature short films from Cyprus, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Spain and Slovenia, in their original language with English subtitles. After the screenings, viewers will have the chance to vote for their favourite short film. The free screenings will take place in the following cities: Limerick, Galway, Dublin, Cork, Waterford. More info on our website.	



MUSIC

Sat 24 October	A Puccini Aria Celebration Concert: A Night of Passion, Beauty and History Lime Tree Theatre, Limerick
The Italian Institute of Culture is delighted to promote the event celebrating the genius of Giacomo Puccini organized by the Limerick Opera Festival. Audiences will be transported through a captivating journey of some of the greatest arias and ensembles ever written, drawn from Puccini’s timeless masterpieces including La Bohème, Tosca, Madama Butterfly, Turandot, Manon Lescaut and Gianni Schicchi. Date: Saturday, 24 October 2026 at 8pm. Ticketed event.	



In collaboration with



Embassy of Italy
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Office of Public Works



SETTIMANA
DELLA LINGUA
ITALIANA
NEL MONDO



**Design & Crafts
Council Ireland**



**Temple Bar
Gallery + Studios**



Discover our calendar of cultural events including concerts, exhibitions,
and film screenings, along with language courses for an authentic
Italian experience



**Any questions?
Feel free to reach out!**

RECEPTION OPENING HOURS

Monday to Friday

From 10am to 1pm and from 3pm to 5pm

Tel: 00 353 (1) 662 0509 / 662 1507

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