

From Italy to odyssey and then on to the mall

SCREEN VISIONS
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Less than two months after the end of the Rhodes College Tournées French Film Festival and some six

weeks after the Memphis Jewish Community Center's Morris and Mollye Fogelman International Jewish Film Festival comes another annual movie event with an international perspective, the **Italian Film Festival USA** at the **University of Memphis**.

Like its predecessors, the Italian filmfest — now in its seventh year here — is not a celebration of classic cinema but an introduction to new work, including popular hits and a challenging documentary. The films are in Italian with English subtitles, and admission is free.

The four-film festival begins at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 11, at the Michael D. Rose Theatre with **"An Almost Perfect Town"** ("Un Paese Quasi Perfetto"), a comedy about a Dolomite Mountains village that tries to lure a young doctor to town in hopes of saving itself from economic extinction. If that sounds familiar, it may be because the movie is a remake of the Newfoundland-set **"The Grand Seduction"** (2013), with Taylor Kitsch and Brendan Gleeson, which itself was a remake of the French-Canadian **"Seducing Dr. Lewis"** (2003); both earlier movies played in Memphis during the years of their original release.

At 7 p.m. Thursday, April 13, at the University Center Theatre, the movie is writer-director Paolo Virzi's **"Like Crazy"** ("La Pazza Gioia"), which screened last year at the Cannes Film Festival and has won or been nominated for numerous European cinema awards. (Earlier this year, the movie earned Best Film, Best Director and Best Actress honors from the Academy of Italian Cinema.)

A sort of Tuscany **"Thelma & Louise"** on meds, the movie stars Valeria Bruni Tedeschi as a glamorous, motor-mouthed and parasol-toting mental hospital resident who befriends a tattooed young



Micaela Ramazzotti (top) and Valeria Bruni Tedeschi are escapees from a Tuscany mental hospital in **"Like Crazy."**



Memphis **"Star Trek"** fan Tony Hardy, seen here posing with his re-created Gorn costume, will bring his memorabilia to **"Shelby County Star Trek Day."**

mother (Micaela Ramazzotti) who has been confined to the institution following a suicide attempt. Eluding their doctors, the women hop a bus and steal a car or two during a picaresque road trip that reunites the mother with her young son.

The festival concludes with a

double feature on Tuesday, April 18, at the Rose Theatre. The first of the two films is a topical documentary by Massimo Ferrarri, **"Where the Clouds Go"** ("Dove Vanno le Nuvole"), which screens at 7 p.m. The film examines innovative Italian efforts to assist and assimilate political refugees

and other immigrants, many of whom reached Italy by crossing the Mediterranean Sea from North Africa.

The final film, at 8:30 p.m., is director Roberto Andò's **"The Confessions"** ("Le Confessioni"), a political murder mystery that casts the great Daniel Auteuil as the director of an international monetary fund. The suspects in the crime include economists, financiers and at least one monk.

The Italian Film Festival USA was organized 13 years ago as a touring film event by the non-profit Italian Film Festival of St. Louis. Sponsors include the Italian Institute of Culture, which is why the movies are screened free of charge.