



## *La Bella Stagione Arriva...*

Cari lettori e care lettrici,

With Nor'easters blanketing the country in snow and sending winds howling through our commonwealth, it may not seem like Spring just yet, but *la bella stagione* is definitely around the corner. Our readers know that Spring is an especially exciting time of year to be an Italophile in Charlottesville, because our program is teeming with activities.

On 16 March, a panel of scholars from all over the world will convene to discuss women and girls in media during a special symposium entitled, *Through Their Gazes: Women on Screen and Feminism*, which will also feature a keynote address by Prof.ssa Bernadette Luciano of The University of Auckland (New Zealand). Then, just one week later, the Italian Studies Program will host documentarian Alina Marazzi who will discuss her film *We Want Roses Too*. Finally, March will end with everyone's favorite baking competition, *Dolcissimo*, which returns on the 30th.

And that is only March! We have already enjoyed some very interesting February events, and plan many more for April. To learn all about them, get comfortable with this new edition of *La Vendemmia*!

-Enrico Cesaretti, Director Undergraduate Program in Italian



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*"In Italian, Spring is sometimes referred to as 'la bella stagione,' since it is the time of year when nature reawakens after winter. Spring is also the season during which Italy celebrates International Women's Day (8 March), Father's Day (19 March), and Mother's Day (13 May), as well as Pesce d'Aprile (1 April)."*

-The Editors

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*Wonder Woman* (2017) is featured in the upcoming symposium.

## Breaking the Celluloid Ceiling

On 16 March the Italian Studies Program and the Department of Media Studies will welcome scholars from a variety of fields to discuss the representation of women and girls on screen during a one-day symposium entitled, *Through Their Gazes: Women on Screen and Feminism*. This exciting event will coincide with a visit from noted Film and Women's Studies scholar, Bernadette Luciano, who will be a guest of The University of Virginia for the second time in four years.

Prof.ssa Luciano first came to UVA in the spring of 2014 as a Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese. She has published books on the cinema of Silvio Soldini and new and emerging women filmmakers from the boot-shaped land.

Six speakers will join Prof.ssa Luciano to discuss topics ranging from the Golden Age of Cinema to the Present-day #MeToo movement, and yes, *Wonder Woman* as well.

## All Are Welcome

The Symposium will take place on 16 March in Nau Hall 211. It will include two panels taking place from 11:00-12:30 and 1:45-3:00, and then finally, Prof.ssa Luciano's address at 3:00. The event is free and open to the public.

## Sneak Peek

Those who are interested in attending can look forward to talks about many films and television programs. To get ready, we recommend binge-watching *Wonder Woman*, *The Cave of the Golden Rose*, and the experimental films of Francesca Lolli. Or, you know, just come!

-Sarah Annunziato

## Speaking of...

### ***Translating Silence Penelope to Philomena to the Present***

Mabel Richard Marset

Universidad de Valencia

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### ***Complicated Relationships: Beauty Standards, Photoshop, and Patriarchal Dictates in Francesca Lolli's Video Arts.***

Francesca Calamita

The University of Virginia

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### ***If #MeToo Truly is a Movement, Change is on the Horizon.***

Claire Kaplan

The University of Virginia

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### ***Sex, Class, Trash: Money, Status, and Classed Dreams in Classical Hollywood Cinema.***

Andrea Press & Marjorie Rosen

The University of Virginia,

Lehman College, CUNY

\*\*\*

### ***Is Fantaghirò Another Disney Princess?***

Sarah Annunziato

The University of Virginia

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### ***Superheroes and Graphic Women: Ms. Marvel & Wonder Woman.***

Shilpa Davé

The University of Virginia

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### ***Stories My Mother Never Told Me: The Autobiographical Films of Alina Marazzi, Sarah Polley, and Margot Nash.***

Bernadette Luciano

The University of Auckland (NZ)

# Ciak!

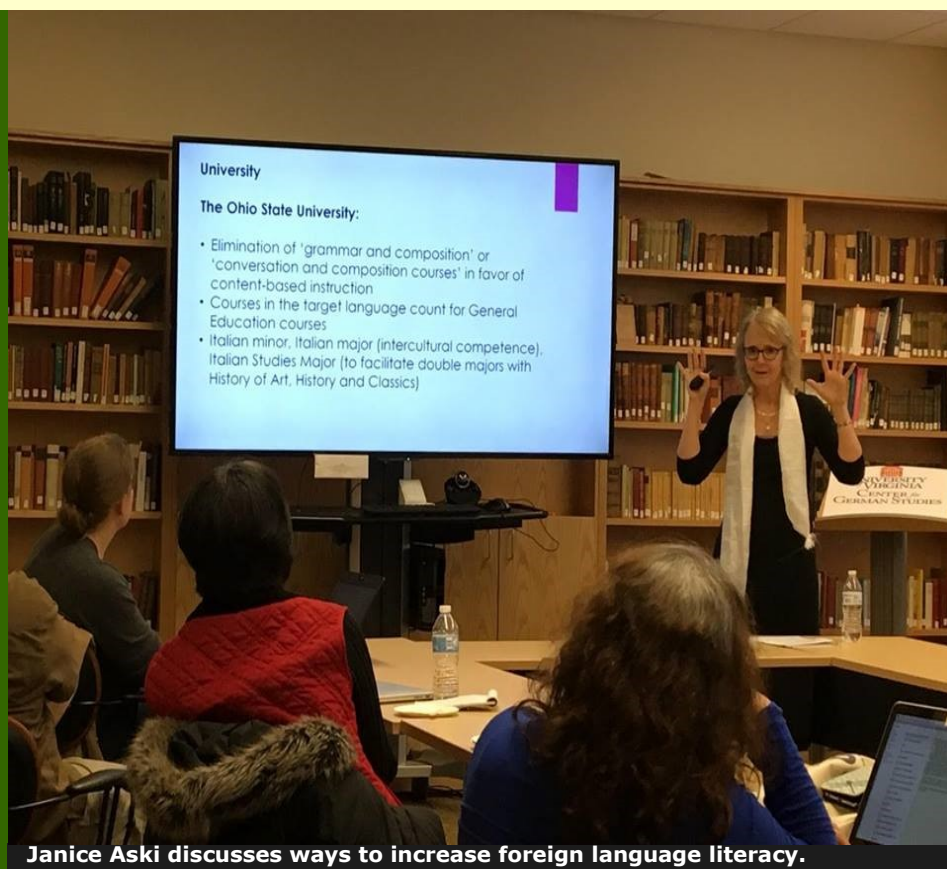
Are you sad that our symposium on women and media will only last one day? Well, don't be, because we have even more interesting events for the movie-lover in you!

On 23 March, the Italian Studies Program will welcome acclaimed director Alina Marazzi to grounds. Ms. Marazzi is a documentarian known for innovative work that examines socially relevant themes.

The Italian Studies Program will host a screening of the documentary, *We Want Roses Too (Vogliamo anche le rose)*, which examines the sexual revolution and feminist movement in 1960s and 1970s Italy.

The event will begin at 4:00 in Maury Hall 104 and feature an introduction and discussion. It is free and open to the public, so mark your calendars for what promises to be a memorable afternoon of cinema!

-Francesca Calamita



**Janice Aski discusses ways to increase foreign language literacy.**

## Resistance to Languages is Futile

On 22 February, the Italian Studies Program and the Institute of World Languages at The University of Virginia were proud to welcome Prof.ssa Janice Aski, of Ohio State University. Prof.ssa Aski visited grounds to discuss some of the current challenges and questions facing Foreign Language Educators in the United States of 2018.

In her talk, entitled "Foreign Language Resistance: A Dynamic Response Through Outreach, Engagement, and Curriculum Revision," Prof.ssa Aski highlighted some common misconceptions and fears about language-learning, and also proposed innovative solutions to help combat these issues.

Her presentation examined how in 21st-century America, many opinion-makers have incorrectly concluded that knowledge of a foreign language is no longer necessary, even though statistics show that the United States may be entering a period of "foreign language crisis" due to the lack of fluent speakers of second languages.

She proposed fighting back against these misconceptions through community outreach activities that are designed to promote the teaching of language in local schools, designing courses that emphasize using target languages in context, and the implementation of interdisciplinary majors that combine a foreign language with another subject, such as engineering.

The Program in Italian Studies was especially excited to hear her ideas and plans to begin putting several of them into practice as early as this upcoming fall. Keep on eye on *La Vendemmia* to learn more!

-Sarah Annunziato

## **DOLCISSIMO: from Rome to Shanghai via Paris**

*An Italian, French and Chinese dessert-cooking competition and second language acquisition project*

*Sponsored by the Institute of World Languages*



*Whip up a sweet creation, wow the VIP judges, speak **Italian**, **French** and **Chinese** and win a lot of prizes!*

*Friday, March 30, from 5 to 7 pm  
Lorna Sundberg International Center*

For more info please contact Prof. Francesco Salamita [fs@virginia.edu](mailto:fs@virginia.edu) Rachel Zee [rzz@virginia.edu](mailto:rzz@virginia.edu) and Dan Zee [dzee@virginia.edu](mailto:dzee@virginia.edu)

**Dolcissimo III: The globalization of dessert!**

## Spring Flings

If you are a student of Italian at The University of Virginia, or simply a dedicated Italophile, there is no shortage of ways to satisfy your passion for Italy this spring.

Students should keep in mind that the Caffè italiano will open once again on 19 March and 13 April, so if you would like to practice your Italian in an informal setting, stop by!

Also, dare to be bold and participate in this year's Lola Pelliccia Essay contest. Submit your work by 20 March and then prepare for glory!

Finally, do not forget to check out "A Gendered Wor(l)d" on 25 April and "The Gangster Movie Festival" on 30 April.

-The Editors

## Dolcissimo III: Return of the Sweets!

In a world where people have given up carbs and count calories, one bake-off still reigns supreme! That's right, *Dolcissimo* is back for another dramatic season of high-stakes baking. *Dolcissimo: From Rome to Shanghai via Paris* will once again pit Italy's delicious confections against the classic pastries and tarts of France...but wait! This time it's personal for China, who also joins the competition, and is promising to stir things up quite a bit with its own special treats.

The contest will feature students from the Italian Studies Program, Department of French, and Department of East Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures who will meet in a battle of linguistic strength and culinary prowess.

As usual, the teams will prepare the signature desserts of their home countries, while speaking exclusively in the target languages of their respective programs. A panel of VIP judges will award prizes for Best Dessert and Best Apron Design, while separate Language Judges will recognize Best Use of Chinese, French, or Italian.

Last year, France claimed victory with the decadent *gâteau de Nancy*, leaving Italy to vow that revenge is a dish best served with powdered sugar. Meanwhile, much like with 15 year-old Russian figure skating prodigies, those who underestimate China do so at their own peril!

To witness the drama and sample the desserts, come to the Lorna Sundberg International Center on 30 March from 5-7.

-Sarah Annunziato



**My cat and I will not miss the "Gangster Movie Festival."**



## Student News!

The Italian Studies Program is pleased to welcome Ms. Hannah Fernandez, from the class of 2021, as a brand new major!

Hannah will be joined by a new minor as well, Ms. Alexandra Loperfito, from the class of 2020.

Finally, Nick Molodow, an advanced-level Italian student, has been accepted in VoluntarItaly to teach English in Milan.

Congratulations to all!

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming either a major or a minor in Italian Studies, don't hesitate to act! Please contact Prof. Enrico Cesaretti, Director of Undergraduate Programs in Italian, for more information.

-The Editors



Hannah Fernandez



## Sunshine State of Mind

Meanwhile, after making a guest appearance on *Mad Men* and co-authoring a Dan Brown novel, Italy's national poet, Dante Alighieri, recently took a trip to Florida with Prof.ssa Deborah Parker.

In February, Prof.ssa Parker visited Florida State University to speak about President John F. Kennedy's use of Dante in the many historic speeches that he gave throughout his political career. Prof.ssa Parker's talk was featured in the university's Road Scholars Program on 16 February. It is part of her ongoing research about the famed poet's influence on artists and thinkers of the modern period.

Prof.ssa Parker has previously published an article on this subject in the journal *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, which not only examines President Kennedy's use of Dante, but also his occasional incorrect citation of the medieval poet.

Additionally, Prof.ssa Parker was also recently featured on National Public Radio to discuss her new book, *Sucking Up: A Brief Consideration of Sycophancy*. She and her co-author, Prof. Mark Parker (James Madison University) appeared on the show *Good Reason* during the first week of March.

To learn more, follow this link: <http://www.withgoodreasonradio.org/episode/the-golden-age-of-flattery/?t=00:00:00>

-Sarah Annunziato



*TalkAbroad* was adopted in Advanced Italian I this fall.

## Go Abroad, From Your Couch

Have you always wanted to travel abroad to improve your language skills but never had the time, money, or ability to find a good pet-sitter? Well, if so, then Prof.ssa Ward may have found a creative solution to your problem.

This fall in Advanced Italian I, Prof.ssa Ward adopted *TalkAbroad* for her course. *TalkAbroad* is an online platform that pairs students of foreign language with conversation partners who are native speakers of the language being studied. Language learners can schedule appointments to converse with partners via the web.

Students of Advanced Italian I spoke four times over the course of the semester, each conversation lasting 30 minutes. They conversed with native speakers from various locations around Italy. Both students and Prof.ssa Ward were then able to listen to audio recordings of their conversations. Students had short writing assignments connected to the spoken exchanges, which included short reflections about their experiences.

She presented the results of this project at The Institute of World Languages's Spring Roundtable Series on 16 February.

While nothing can truly take the place of actually studying abroad, *TalkAbroad* provides a decent alternative for those who cannot travel overseas or who plan to in the future but want to prepare a little more before they go.

The platform will no doubt make appearances in other Italian Studies courses in the near future. Stay tuned!

-Sarah Annunziato

## Don't Forget!

Don't forget that registration for fall courses is fast approaching. Students will be able to view all available courses in SIS by 16 March, and then enrollment begins not long after.

Italian will offer the usual rich assortment of classes taught in both the target language and in English translation. However, next semester will see some new choices as well.

Look for *Italian Book Club* with Prof.ssa Ward and *Italy on Screen: Sex, Gender, and Racial Identities in the Glocal Context* with Prof.ssa Calamita. Last but not least, Prof. Cesaretti will also be offering a new course on Environmental Humanities in Italy and beyond.

So, let the learning commence!

-The Editors



Prof. Cesaretti is our Lorax.

## Did You Know?

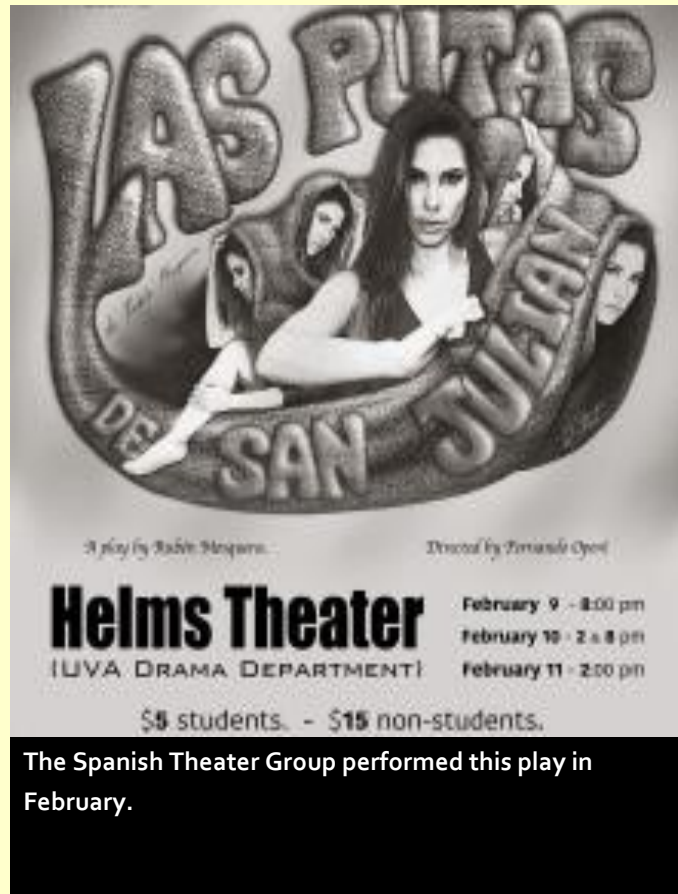
Did you know that the UVA program in Valencia, Spain also has a newsletter?

*A la luna de Valencia* recounts all the latest events in Spain and is published regularly. If you are interested in learning more about it, follow the link below:

<http://spanital-port.as.virginia.edu/news>

Meanwhile, you can also receive a weekly calendar of Spanish Program events via e-mail. To subscribe, please contact Ms. Sara Gaston Echeverria. ([sg2ck@virginia.edu](mailto:sg2ck@virginia.edu)).

-The Editors



## Congratulations!

From 9-11 February, the Spanish Theater Group at UVA performed *Las Putas de San Julián* at the Helms Theater on grounds.

The play is adapted from a chapter of Osvaldo Bayer's book, *Patagonia Rebelde*, which recounts the real-life events surrounding a farm workers' strike in 1920s Argentina. It takes place in February of 1922 and focuses on five prostitutes who live and work together in the same brothel.

Prof. Fernando Operé directed and staged the play with the help of the Spanish Program's faculty and graduate students. Prof. Operé founded the Spanish Theater Group 36 years ago to enrich the UVA community and educate students and residents of Charlottesville about the Spanish-speaking world through the dramatic arts. *Las Putas de San Julián* was only the latest in a series of thought-provoking plays that the group has performed over the years.

This year, the event was especially remarkable, since the playwright attended and spoke with the audience.

The Italian Studies Program says, "Congratulaciones!"

-The Editors

The Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese offers two kinds of specialization in Italian Studies: a major in Italian Studies leading to the B.A. or B.A. with distinction; and a minor in Italian Studies.

For information on becoming a major or a minor in Italian Studies, please contact Professor Enrico Cesaretti (efc4p@virginia.edu).



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