

## **ITALIAN LANGUAGE WEEK**

### **Monday, 19 October 2015 starting from 4 o'clock p.m**

***White as Milk, Red as Blood*** (Italian: *Bianca come il latte, rossa come il sangue*, also known as *White as Milk, as Red as Blood*, 102 minutes) is a 2013 Italian romantic comedy-drama film directed by **Giacomo Campiotti**. It is loosely based on the novel with the same name by Alessandro D'Avenia.

This time, the director tells the story of Leo, going through a delicate phase of transition from childhood to adulthood. Leo is played by rising star **Filippo Scicchitano** who confirms his talent playing a boisterous and rebellious sixteen year-old madly in love with a beautiful redhead called Beatrice (played by French **Gaia Weiss**), for whom he would do anything.

Leo's unconditional love is the motor for a story that quickly goes from being a light generational movie to a drama. Beatrice has leukaemia and only has a short time to live. Leo declares his love just in time, and will do everything to save her, with dear friend Silvia (**Aurora Ruffino**), a special and illuminating teacher (**Luca Argentero**) and his parents (**Flavio Insinna** e **Cecilia Dazzi**) by his side. The latter, baffled by their son's developments, give the film its most hilarious moments.

### **Tuesday, 20 October 2015 starting from 4 o'clock p.m**

***Human Capital*** (Italian: *Il capitale umano* 111 minutes), is a 2013 Italian film directed by **Paolo Virzì**. The film is based on the American novel *Human Capital* by Stephen Amidon. For her performance in the film Valeria Bruni Tedeschi was awarded Best Actress at the 2014 Tribeca Film Festival. It was selected as the Italian entry for the Best Foreign Language Film at the 87<sup>th</sup> Academy.

The film is set in a town in Brianza and in Milan. On Christmas eve, a waiter cycling home from working at a prestigious private school's gala is hit by a car. The driver flees, leaving the waiter lying in the street badly injured. The waiter is hospitalized and close to death. The next day, two well-known families' lives are connected by the incident. Awards, but was not nominated.

**Wednesday, 21 October 2015 starting from 4 o'clock p.m**

***The Solitude of Prime Numbers*** (Italian: ***La solitudine dei numeri primi***, 116 minutes) is a 2010 Italian drama film based on the novel of the same name by Paolo Giordano, and directed by **Saverio Costanzo**. The film was nominated for the Golden Lion at the 67th Venice International Film Festival.

The title is explained by arguing that Mattia and Alice are like twin primes: both lonely, close to each other but separated by an even number.

The film is set in Italy in 1984, 1991, 2001 and 2009 and jumps back and forth in time.

Mattia and Alice (children in 1984, teenagers in 1991) are both traumatized, and isolate themselves from the people around them.

When he was a child, Mattia's mentally disabled twin sister Michela goes missing whilst he was supposed to look after her. He is intelligent and becomes a successful scientist, but he sometimes cuts himself on purpose.

When Alice was a child she had a skiing accident; which results in her having a permanent limp and a significant scar on her thigh. As a teenager she is bullied by female classmates.

They meet while teenagers and become friends, but lose contact when Mattia goes to work in Germany. Eight years later Alice writes him a very brief request to come back to Italy, which he does, and they reunite.

**Thursday, 22 October 2015 starting from 4 o'clock p.m**

**Johnny Stecchino** 122 minutes is an Italian comedy film starring **Roberto Benigni** as the protagonist and director. This film is one of Benigni's many collaborations with co-star and wife, Nicoletta Braschi. During its release in 1991, it was the highest grossing film in Italy.

This film follows the life of Dante, a quirky school bus driver (Benigni) for students with Down syndrome, who bears a striking resemblance to Johnny Stecchino, an Italian mafioso who is wanted by Sicilian mobsters for treason and murder. The film's plot begins to unravel when Dante meets Maria, the wife of Stecchino's, who begins her plan into tricking mobsters to kill Dante thinking he is Stecchino. The film takes several unexpected twists when Maria begins to fall for Dante, and it becomes clear that Dante cannot possibly be the cold blooded killer, Johnny Stecchino.