



Drama Queens: When Melodrama meets Film



MARCH 8th-15th, 2024

Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò and the Department of Italian Studies at NYU invite you to a festival of rare and restored films from the Cineteca of Bologna featuring Francesca Bertini and Lyda Borelli. If you still think that early cinema was silent and in black and white, think again and join us in the discovery of these masterpieces. You'll realize that some of the films were tinted frame by frame, others came with original scores by some of the great composers such as Mascagni and Pizzetti.



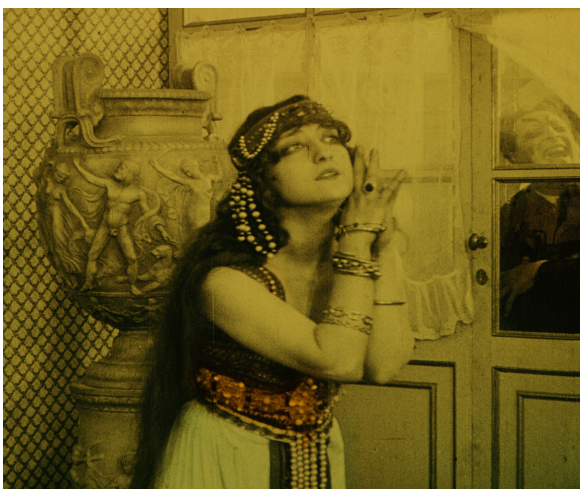
Friday, March 8th at 6:30pm

L'ultima Diva: Francesca Bertini. ITA, 1982, 80', documentary

Directed by Gianfranco Mingozzi, starring Francesca Bertini.

Francesca Bertini was, and now is again, one of the most arresting, smouldering-eyed presences of Italian cinema. One of the great talents of Italy's silent film era, recounts her life in a feisty style interspersed with footage from her career.

Introduction to the Festival by Stefano Albertini and Mila Tenaglia



Tuesday, March 12th at 6:30pm

Rapsodia Satanica - ITA, 1917, 55'

Directed by Nino Oxilia, starring Lyda Borelli, recorded score composed by Pietro Mascagni, performed by the Teatro Comunale of Bologna, directed by Timothy Brock.

A Faustian tale about an old woman who makes a pact with Mephisto to regain her youth, in return she must stay away from love. After the deal she meets two brothers who fall in love with her.

Professor Eugenio Refini (NYU, Italian Studies) in conversation with Assistant Professor of Experimental Film and Media Tisch School of the Arts Vito Adriaensens on the occasion of its latest publication "Early cinema, Velvet Curtains and Gilded Frames: The Art of Early European Cinema"



Wednesday, March 13th at 6:30pm

Ma l'amor mio non muore! - ITA, 1913, 80'

Directed by Mario Caserini, Starring Lyda Borelli.

Set in the Grand Duchy of Wallenstein, it is the story of Elsa Holbein, the young beautiful daughter of General Julius. After a spy steals military documents, Julius is accused of betrayal and he kills himself. Elsa is forced to leave and she begins wandering the streets until she starts her performing career.

Live Piano accompaniment by Levi Pugh

The screening is followed by a special commentary by Professor Jane Gaines, founder of Women Film Pioneers Project in conversation with Professor Eugenio Refini (NYU, Italian Studies)



Friday, March 15th at 6:30pm

Sangue Bleu - ITA, 1914, 64'

Directed by Nino Oxilia, starring Francesca Bertini

In this historical melodrama, Francesca Bertini stars as a recently divorced princess who suffers humiliation at the hands of her ex-husband's mistress and a corrupt actor.

Live Piano accompaniment by Ben Model

The screening is followed by a special commentary by Professor Angela Dalle Vacche, Georgia Institute of Technology. Author of "Diva: Defiance and Passion in Early Italian Cinema", Texas Press, 2008 and Director Stefano Albertini

This program was curated by Mila Tenaglia in collaboration with the Cineteca di Bologna

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