

Film Schedule

Friday	9 June	Monday	13 June
7.00 / L'immensità		7.00 / Chiara	
9.15 / 8½		9.30 / Nights of Cabiria	
			Homage to Federico Fellini
Saturday	10 June	Tuesday	14 June
4.45 / Italia, Fire, Ashes		7.00 / 8½	
7.00 / The Eight Mountains			Homage to Federico Fellini
10.00 / La Strada		10.00 / Italia, Fire, Ashes	
			Homage to Federico Fellini
Sunday	11 June	Tuesday	15 June
4.45 / L'immensità		7.00 / La Strada	
7.00 / Nights of Cabiria			Homage to Federico Fellini
9.30 / Chiara		9.30 / The Eight Mountains	



Partners

The Italian Cultural Institute Abu Dhabi

A body of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI), the Italian Cultural Institute Abu Dhabi is responsible for spreading and promoting the Italian language, culture and arts to the wider world. As the cultural arm to the Italian Embassy in the UAE, the body strives to organize cultural, artistic and scientific initiatives to UAE's richly diverse population - with Italy as their central theme. The Italian Cultural Institute Abu Dhabi is one of 83 Italian Cultural Institutes in the (IIC) around the world which, together, promote the image of Italy and its rich culture abroad.

Cinema Akil

Cinema Akil is the UAE's first and only independent cinema platform that brings quality films from across the world to the audiences in the UAE. Showcasing directors and filmmakers across decades, Cinema Akil aims to create awareness and interest in film and the cinematic arts while amplifying the exposure of international films to a regional audience. Launched in 2014 as a nomadic cinema, Cinema Akil has held over 75 pop-up cinemas attracting over 85,000 attendees in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah. In September 2018, Cinema Akil opened its first permanent location in Al Quoz, Dubai making its flagship home the GCC's first arthouse cinema which has

been brought to you in partnership with Alserkal. The independent cinema has grown to launch the UAE's first-ever Arab Cinema Week in 2022 to celebrate Arab Cinema and has also hosted global film festivals to bring innovative cinematic artworks from the lands of Hong Kong and Italy here in the GCC region. In 2022, Cinema Akil also held its first-ever regional pop-up in Doha during the World Cup. Cinema Akil is a member of the Network of Arab Alternative Screens (NAAS) which includes members from the MENA region such as Metropolis in Beirut, Zawya in Cairo and Cinematheque du Tangier in Morocco.

cinemaakil.com / Facebook - Cinema Akil / Instagram - @CinemaAkil



ITALIAN Film Week

This June at Cinema Akil, the long-awaited Italian Film Week returns to Cinema Akil for its third edition with a program presenting four awarded contemporary Italian productions along with an homage to the enigmatic Federico Fellini. "The Enigmatic World of Federico Fellini" introduces the mesmerizing cinematic universe of acclaimed Italian director Federico Fellini through three iconic works: *La Strada* (1954), *Nights of Cabiria* (1957), and *8½* (1963). Fellini's exploration of the human condition, existential contemplations, and the pursuit of identity are central to these three remarkable films.

Presented in collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute Abu Dhabi; the Italian Film Week 2023 showcases four captivating Italian productions. The enchanting drama *L'immensità*, opening this year's edition with the mesmerizing Penelope Cruz, is a tale of love, passion and freedom. *The Eight Mountains*, directed by Felix Van Groeningen and Charlotte Vandermeersch, was awarded the Jury Prize in Cannes Film Festival 2022. This is an introspective exploration of friendship, family, and the power of nature in the majestic beauty of the Italian Alps. In *Chiara*, from renowned director Susanna Nicchiarelli, a young woman embraces poverty following in her own way St. Francis' footsteps. Finally, witness the breathtaking spectacle of *Italia, Fire and Ashes*, a visually stunning documentary that delves into the soul of Italian cinema, revealing its history, art, and resilience.

THE PROGRAM WILL RUN FROM 9-15 JUNE AT CINEMA AKIL.
TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT WWW.CINEMAASIL.COM



ITALIAN Film Week

9-15 JUNE



THE EIGHT MOUNTAINS • ITALIA, FIRE, ASHES • CHIARA
L'IMMENSITÀ • 8½ • LA STRADA • NIGHTS OF CABIRIA



The Eight Mountains

Directed By:
Felix van Groeningen
Charlotte Vandermeersch
2022 / Italy, France, Belgium / 147'
Official Competition Cannes 2022 Jury Prize

The Eight Mountains is the story of a friendship. Of children becoming men who try to erase the footprints of their fathers, but who, through the twists and turns they take, always end up returning home. Pietro is a boy from the city, Bruno is the last child of a forgotten mountain village. Over the years Bruno remains faithful to his mountain, while Pietro is the one who comes and goes. Their encounters introduce them to love and loss, reminding them of their origins, letting their destinies unfold, as Pietro and Bruno discover what it means to be true friends for life.



L'immensità

Directed By:
Emanuele Crialese
2022 / Italy, France / 94'
Official Competition - Venice Film Festival 2022

Rome, 1970s: a world suspended between neighbourhoods under construction, tv shows still in black and white, and social achievements and family models that are now outdated.

Clara and Felice have just moved into a new apartment. Their marriage is over: they no longer love each other but can't break up. Only their children, on whom Clara pours all her desire for freedom, keep them together. Adriana, her eldest, has just turned 12 and is the most attentive witness to Clara's moods and the growing tensions between her parents. Adriana rejects her name and identity and wants to convince everyone that she is a boy. Her obstinacy brings the already fragile family balance to breaking point.

While the children are waiting for a sign that might guide them—a voice from above or a song on the tv maybe—everything changes both around and inside them.

Chiara

Directed By:
Susanna Nicchiarelli
2022 / Italy, Belgium / 106'
Venice Film Festival 2022

Assisi, 1211. Chiara is eighteen years old and one night she runs away from home to join her friend Francesco: from that moment on her life changes forever. With charisma and conviction, she breaks free from her family's constraints and stands up to the Pope himself. She fights for herself, for the women who join her and for her dream of freedom. The story of a Saint. The story of a girl and her revolution.



Italia, Fire, Ashes

Directed By:
Céline Gaillard
Olivier Bohler
2022 / France, Italy / 94'
Torino Film Festival

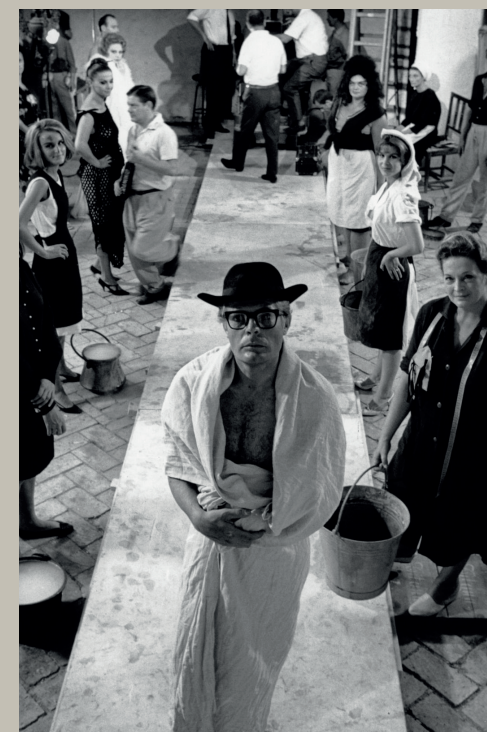
A documented, lyrical and visionary journey into a universe too often unknown: the origins of Italian silent cinema. An art and a dazzling industry that gave birth to the first international stars, gave life to peplum, melo and adventure films, and launched the first filmmakers. In its world of fasts and romantic deliriums, between Verdi's symbolism and D'Annunzio's decadentism, this cinema enjoyed international fame, fascinating crowds, intellectuals and artists from all over Europe, to the United States and South America. The protagonists of ITALIA - FIRE AND ASHES are male and female directors, actors and actresses, technicians and critics who contributed to the exuberant originality of that cinema. The documentary is narrated by the voices of Isabella Rossellini for the Italian and English versions, and by Fanny Ardant for the French one: they interpret the exceptional archive footage - most of it rare and unpublished - through the original words of those who contributed to and witnessed that aesthetic and cultural revolution. An art dedicated to the sublime, to sophistication and to death; an era of splendor and the history of a country that would soon have fallen into the abyss of Fascism, from the ashes of which will be reborn one of the greatest cinematographies in the world.

8½

Directed By:
Federico Fellini
1963 / Italy, France / 138'



One of the greatest films about film ever made, Federico Fellini's 8½ marks the moment when the director's always-personal approach to filmmaking fully embraced self-reflexivity, pioneering a stream-of-consciousness style that darts exuberantly among flashbacks, dream sequences, and carnivalesque reality, and turning one man's artistic crisis into a grand epic of the cinema. Marcello Mastroianni plays Guido Anselmi, a director whose new project is collapsing around him, along with his life, as he struggles against creative block and helplessly juggles the women in his life—including Anouk Aimée, Sandra Milo, and Claudia Cardinale. An early working title for 8½ was The Beautiful Confusion, and Fellini's masterpiece is exactly that: a shimmering dream, a circus, and a magic act.



La Strada

Directed By:
Federico Fellini
1954 / Italy / 108'



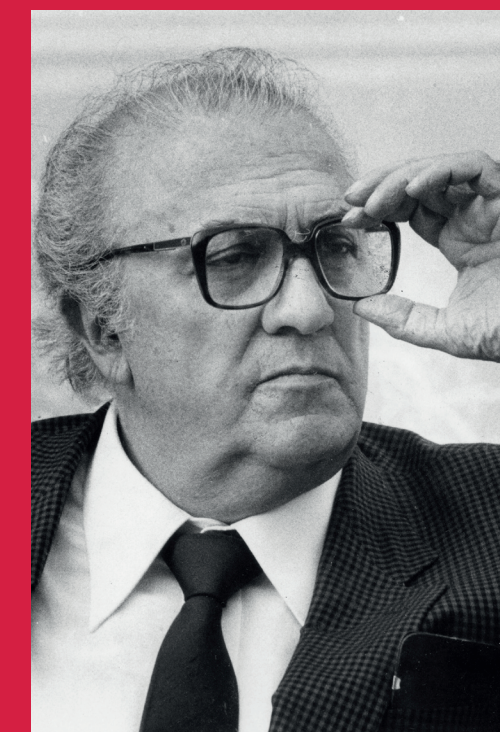
With this breakthrough film, Federico Fellini launched both himself and his wife and collaborator Giulietta Masina to international stardom, breaking with the neorealism of his early career in favor of a personal, poetic vision of life as a bittersweet carnival. The infinitely expressive Masina registers both childlike wonder and heartbreaking despair as Gelsomina, loyal companion to the traveling strongman Zampanò (Anthony Quinn, in a toweringly physical performance), whose callousness and brutality gradually wear down her gentle spirit. Winner of the very first Academy Award for Best Foreign-Language Film, *La Strada* possesses the purity and timeless resonance of a fable and remains one of cinema's most exquisitely moving visions of humanity struggling to survive in the face of life's cruelties.

Nights of Cabiria

Directed By:
Federico Fellini
1957 / Italy, France / 110'



In the fifth of their immortal collaborations, Federico Fellini and the exquisitely expressive Giulietta Masina completed the creation of one of the most indelible characters in all of cinema: Cabiria, an irrepressible, fiercely independent sex worker who, as she moves through the sea of Rome's humanity, through adversity and heartbreak, must rely on herself—and her own indomitable spirit—to stay standing. Winner of the best actress prize at Cannes for Masina and the Academy Award for best foreign-language film, *Nights of Cabiria* brought the early, neorealist-influenced phase of Fellini's career to a transcendent close with its sublimely heartbreaking yet hopeful final image, which embodies, perhaps more than any other in the director's body of work, the blend of the bitter and the sweet that define his vision of the world.



Federico Fellini

Federico Fellini (1920-1993) was an Italian film director and screenwriter known for his distinct and imaginative cinematic style. Born on January 20, 1920, in Rimini, Italy, Fellini began his career as a scriptwriter and then transitioned to directing in the late 1940s. His works often showcased dreamlike and surreal elements, blurring the lines between reality and fantasy.

Fellini gained international recognition with films such as "La Strada" (1954), "La Dolce Vita" (1960), and "8½" (1963), which solidified his reputation as a master filmmaker. His movies were marked by extravagant visuals, rich symbolism, and deeply personal narratives. Fellini's unique storytelling and visual style greatly influenced the world of cinema, and his works continue to inspire filmmakers to this day. He received numerous accolades throughout his career, including four Academy Awards for Best Foreign Language Film. Federico Fellini remains an iconic figure in the history of cinema, celebrated for his creativity and the profound impact he left on the art form.

ITALIAN

Film Week

9-15 JUNE



HOMAGE TO FEDERICO FELLINI



ISTITUTO
italiano
DI CULTURA
ABU DHABI



FARE **CINEMA**



Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale

سينما عقيل
CINEMA AKIL