Italian Language Films List
Media Room, Addlestone Library (October 2008)
(In addition, please see Italian Language film listings —Language Lab Collection notebook, in Media Room)

Alberto Moravia -- PQ4829.O62 Z54 1983
Documentary profile of the writer.

Federico Fellini satirizes his youth and turns daily life into a circus of social rituals in this portrait of provincial Italy during the Fascist period.

Andrei Roublev -- VIDEO 1694 Pt.1; VIDEO 1694 Pt.2
Describes the horrors of the Dante-like journey of 15th century monk and painter, Andrei Roublev, into medieval Russia.

The plot, based loosely on Stendhal's "The charterhouse of Parma," concerns a young man who flirts intellectually with communism and incestuously with his young aunt. He finally realizes that for him life will always be "before the revolution."

Brother sun, sister moon -- VIDEO 2664
The story focuses on the early years of St. Francis of Assisi.

Cabiria -- PN1995.75 .C32 2000
This story tells the personal adventures of a Roman girl, Cabiria, and her two benefactors in the third century B.C. during the Second Punic War. Includes scenes of the eruption of Mt. Etna, sea battles, and Hannibal crossing the Alps. Opens with a brief written description of the Italian genre of historical spectacular films and a history of the film Cabiria.

C'eravamo tanto amati (We all loved each other so much) -- PN 1995.9.C55 C472 2001
In a retrospective allegory, Ettore Scola examines the lives of three resistance fighters and their transformation over thirty years. Each of these friends falls in love with the beautiful Luciana, an aspiring actress, testing the friendship and idealism they all shared. Throughout the story Scola pays tribute to the masters of Italian cinema by weaving classic film clips and iconic personalities into the background, as the film reveals which of the three friends remains true to the spirit of liberation they had once fought to achieve.

Cinema paradiso -- VIDEO 2075
A young boy in a small Italian village is befriended by the projectionist at the movie theater, the Cinema Paradiso. As the boy grows up, he learns to love films, and is encouraged by his good friend to pursue his dream of one day making movies.

E la nave va (And the ship sails on) -- PN1995.9.F67 E43 1999
In 1914, a colorful mélange of celebrities embark on a funeral voyage for a dead opera star. An allegorical film blending spectacle, humor, poignancy and grotesquerie.

Edipo re -- VIDEO 2651
Sophocles' play, with added prologue and epilogue set in modern times, is extended into the present and points out that the motives of the ancient tragedy still exist today.
**Fellini: I'm a born liar -- PN1998.3.F45 F45 2003**
Biography of Italian filmmaker, Federico Fellini.

**Film d'amore e d'anarchia (Love and anarchy) -- PN1995.9.F67 F45 1997**
Tells the story of a shy country peasant who goes to the city with a plan to assassinate Benito Mussolini. Shows how his underground contact in the network of anarchists offers him a hideout in her brothel where he meets a young prostitute and falls in love.

**I fidanzati -- PN1995.9.M27 F333 2003**
A young Milanese couple's relationship is tested when the man accepts a new job in Sicily, causing them to be separated for long periods of time.

**I soliti ignoti (The big deal on Madonna Street) -- PN1995.9.C55 S65 2001**
Five men conspire to burglarize a small-time jeweler's safe. When the time comes to carry out the scheme, the men become hopelessly clumsy and have to eventually give up and go home.

Martin Scorsese directs and narrates this personal documentary about Italian film and select Italian filmmakers and the influence they had on him. It begins with an overview of Scorsese's family history including their Sicilian roots, life in Little Italy, and the filmmaker's recollections of watching neorealist and epic Italian films on television and how those movies acted as a lifeline for the older members of his family, maintaining their connection to the old country.

**Il posto -- PN1997.P678 2003**
When young Domenico ventures from the small village of Meda to Milan in search of employment, he finds himself on the bottom rung of the bureaucratic ladder in a huge, faceless company. The prospects are daunting, but Domenico finds reason for hope in the fetching Antonietta. A tender coming-of-age story and a sharp observation of dehumanizing corporate enterprise, Ermanno Olmi's film is a touching and hilarious tale of one young man's stumbling entrance into the perils of modern adulthood.

**Il Vangelo secondo (Matteo un film) -- VIDEO 3023**
The birth, life, teachings and death on the cross of Jesus Christ presented almost as a cinema-verité documentary. Pasolini's second feature ... is an attempt to take Christ out of the opulent church and present him as an outcast Italian peasant.

**Intervista -- PN1998.3.F45 F45 2005**
A Japanese film crew interviews Fellini about his career as he films the memories of his life as a young journalist walking into his beloved studio Cinecitta for the first time.

**Italiensk for begyndere -- PN1997.I83 2002**
Several Danish students of an Italian language class find romance in their studies of the language of love.
**Juliet of the spirits (Giulietta degli spiriti) -- PN1997 .G534 2002**

When she suspects her husband of infidelity, a housewife unleashes an unconscious ripe with erotic fantasies. In this film, Fellini's first feature-length color film, his examination of the sexual psyche unfolds via the surrealistic use of abrupt cut-aways to illustrate the woman' sexual fantasies.

**La mariée était en noir (The bride wore black) – PN1997 .M373 2001**

After a bridegroom is shot on the steps of the church on his wedding day, his widow traces the group of men responsible and eliminates them one by one.

**La meglio gioventù (The best of youth) – PN1995.9.H5 B478 2006**

Divided by politics but bonded by blood, Italian brothers Nicola and Matteo find their paths intersecting through some of the most tumultuous events in recent history. Produced for Italian television, but never broadcast; released theatrically instead.

**La sconosciuta -- PN1995.9.F67 S366 2006**

Irena is a young Ukranian woman living in a unidentified Italian city. Soon we discover she has a horrible past of violence and humiliation. To pursue a mysterious aim she manages, by any means legal and illegal, to get the job as an house servant for a wealthy couple with a little girl. She grows closer to the family, especially to the girl, who suffers from a rare neurological disease. But someone will come back from her past, bringing new horrors and violence.

**La strada (The road) -- PN1997 .S774 2003**

Directed by Federico Fellini, the story of a fragile girl who falls in love with a brutal circus performer she was sold to by her mother.

**L'Avventura -- VIDEO 1464**

Story about the search for a girl lost on an island; gradually the searchers become preoccupied with their own problems, and the girl is never found.


A deceptively simple tale of a small community of peasants in Italy at the turn of the century. It follows four families through the seasons, and shows the seemingly small events that influence their lives and the love they feel for the land and their families.

**Laviamoci il cervello (ROGOPAG) – PN 1997 .L38**

A collection of four short films which take a satirical and darkly humorous look at society and the conditions and circumstances of specific individuals in it. *Ilibatezza* depicts a man's attempts at and obsession with finding a womb to which to return. *La ricotta* is a film about a man involved in a film about the crucifixion, and how religion betrays him just as it did Jesus. *Il nuovo mondo* looks through the eyes of the only man unaffected by an atmospheric nuclear blast over Paris and how those around him have responded and changed. And *Il pollo rusponte* concerns a typical, quietly suffering family man brainwashed by the television advertising coordinated by a group of experts.

**Le mépris (Contempt) -- PN1995.9.M27 M46 2002**
On Capri, an Italian crew makes a German film of Homer's *Odyssey*; Fritz Lang directs with American money. Prokosch, the producer, holds art films in contempt and hires writer Javal to help Lang commercialize the picture. Against this backdrop, Javal's marriage to Camille, a young former typist, disintegrates.

**Life is beautiful -- D743.23 .L574 2002**
In 1930s Italy a bumbling Jewish waiter who's gifted with a colorful imagination and an irresistible sense of humor has won the heart of the woman he loves and has created a beautiful life for his young family. But that life is threatened by World War II.

A middle-aged prostitute attempts to extricate herself from her sordid past for the sake of her son. Mamma Roma offers an unflinching look at the struggle for survival in postwar Italy.

The story of the ill-fated love between Gino, a virile young drifter, who arrives by chance at a roadside restaurant and filling station, and Giovanna, the beautiful young wife of the fat old man who owns the place. Gino leaves, only to return because he can't get her out of his blood. They kill her husband but his death haunts the guilt-ridden Gino.

**Miracolo a Milano (Miracle in Milan) -- PN1997.M567 D48 1990**
Comedy, satire, and realism are combined in a fantasy about the social conceits of man. An Italian orphan, with the aid of a miraculous dove, combats power and wealth and succeeds in bringing happiness to the inhabitants of a Milanese hobo camp.

**The Marriage of Figaro: a comic opera in 4 acts -- VIDEO 1753 pt.1; VIDEO 1753 pt.2**
Opera based on Beaumarchais' sequel to his Barber of Seville.

**Otello -- PR2829 .A23 1986**
Otello, a Moor appointed governor of Cyprus on behalf of the 15th century Venetian Republic, loves and is loved by his young bride, Desdemona. Soon, however, he is deceived by the evil Iago, his ensign, into believing that Desdemona is unfaithful to him. Otello's jealousy overwhelms him and he murders Desdemona. Upon learning the truth, he kills Iago and himself.

**Otto e mezzo (8 ½) -- PN1997.O77 2001**
Fellini's autobiographical film about a famous film director who loses his inspiration in the midst of making a film.

**Padre, padrone (My father, my master) -- VIDEO 1840**
A powerful story of a son's development under an oppressive father. Gavino Ledda lives in solitude as an illiterate Sardinian shepherd. His father is the brutal instrument of that solitude. Year after year Gavino is isolated alone with his flock in the mountains; separated from family, schools and the collectivity of his town. Finally, he rebels against his father and his own illiteracy. Studying by himself, Gavino earns his degree and writes a book about himself.
Paisan – *D743.2 .P336 1987*
Six stories dealing with Italian and American soldiers meeting under battle conditions during World War II.

*Pasqualino settebellezze (Seven beauties)* – *1995.9.C55 P3762 1998*
A small-time casanova with no political convictions and fewer brains shoots his sister's pimp to save the family honor. He is caught, tried, sent to an insane asylum, volunteers for the Italian army and ends up in a Nazi concentration camp, where he learns to survive at any cost.

*Prova d'orchestra (Orchestra rehearsal)* -- *PN1995.9.F67 P76 1997*
A controversial yet comical film, it depicts the turmoil of Italian society through events that take place during a rehearsal gathering set in a 13th century chapel, as the musicians rebel against their conductor.

*Rocco e i suoi fratelli* -- *PN1997.R57533 R641 2001*
The story of four poor Italian brothers and their mother who leave their country home and move to bustling Milan with hopes of improving their bitter fortune. The family is thrown into chaos when two of the brothers are torn apart by their love for the same woman and their struggles to succeed in a viciously competitive world.

*Sotto, sotto strapazzato da anomala passione* -- *VIDEO 1940*
Oscar's wife Ester says she's in love with someone else and Oscar brawls his way up one side of the Coliseum and down the other to find out who has stolen his wife's heart.

*Storia dell 'arte Italiana* -- *PN1997 .S767*
*Note:* Other title on container: *Storia dell 'arte Italiana per immagini*

*The conformist (Il conformista)* -- *PN1995.9.F67 C664676 2006*
A weak-willed Italian man becomes a fascist flunky who goes to Paris to arrange the assassination of his old teacher, now a political dissident.

*The garden of the Finzi-Continis* -- *VIDEO 1022*
The drama is set in Italy in 1938, when Mussolini's anti-Semitic edicts began to isolate the Jews from their communities. Among them were the Finzi-Continis, an aristocratic Jewish family forced for the first time to acknowledge the world beyond its fenced garden.

*The night of the shooting stars (La Notte di San Lorenzo)* -- *D743.23 .N54 1991*
Depicts the final days of World War II in Italy, seen mostly through the eyes of a six-year-old girl. It is a mythic recollection by the protagonist of life on the run when a group of Italian villagers flee from brutal Nazi occupiers in the summer of 1944.

*The son's room* -- *PN1995.9.F67 S66 2002*
A family struggles to go on after a devastating loss. Giovanni is a psychiatrist with a successful practice. He has a warm relationship with his wife, Paola, and they have a daughter, Irene, and a son, Andrea. The family's calm is shattered when Andrea is unexpectedly killed in an accident.
The Story of boys & girls – VIDEO 2160
An intoxicating mix of friends and families meet to celebrate an engagement over a banquet that fondly recalls the endless meal in Babette’s Feast..

A young girl is seduced by her sister's fiance, setting in motion a chain of events which explore the Sicilian code of honor.

Portrays the experiences of a young man who is mysteriously arrested by agents of the police for an unspecific crime and is prepared for questioning and trial. Written and directed by Orson Welles.

A story about the lives and dreams of three brothers reunited in their small home town on the occasion of the funeral of their mother. Here, in the sunlight of the Italian countryside, they face their connection to each other and to themselves, in a film that is at once beautiful, full of humanity, and emotionally shattering.

Realistic drama of an Italian widow who, along with her young daughter, are brutally raped by Allied soldiers in World War

Vita è bella (Life is beautiful) – PN 1997 .L574 1999
A charming but bumbling waiter who's gifted with a colorful imagination and an irresistible sense of humor has won the heart of the woman he loves and has created a beautiful life for his young family. Then that life is threatened by World War II.

Yesterday, today and tomorrow (ieri, oggi, domain) – PN 1995.9.F67 Y47 2004
Three tales of women who use sex to get what they want out of the self-centered men in their lives.