

FILM SCREENINGS & CONVERSATIONS

Organized as part of Black History Month

05 OCTOBER 2026

THE BLACK ITALIAN RENAISSANCE



In the halls of the Uffizi Gallery, the great Venetian Palaces, or among the naves of the most important churches in Rome, Renaissance artworks conceal countless faces, hidden in plain sight: those of African and afro-descendant characters. Who were they? Where did they come from? Why were they portrayed, and why did they remain unobserved until these days? For more info see: <https://www.tiwi.it/en/project/the-black-italian-renaissance/>



FRANCESCA PRIORI CREATOR

Francesca Priori is an Italian journalist, showrunner, screenwriter and director of documentary films, cultural and entertainment series and television programs. Since 1990, she has explored literature, art, design, music, social issues and the environment. Her empathetic yet clear-eyed observation of the world, developed through her work with Mediaset, Tele+ and Sky, combined with her rigorous commitment to source research, has enabled her to meet, document and narrate the lives of leading figures in contemporary culture, including writers, artists, musicians, directors, actors, scientists, historians and thinkers.

CRISTIAN DI MATTIA DIRECTOR

Cristian Di Mattia is a director and filmmaker with over 20 years of experience in documentaries, television programs, commercials and audiovisual content. He has a narrative vision deeply focused on the human, social and emotional dimensions of storytelling. A graduate of the New York Film Academy, he has written and directed short films, music videos and advertising campaigns, and his work has been presented at international festivals and cultural events. For Rai Cinema and major Italian television networks, he has directed docu-films dedicated to key moments in contemporary history, from the Aldo Moro case to the fall of the Berlin Wall, from the history of the Italian left to the end of Fascism.



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Future Humanities

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IL MORO (THE MOOR)



Il Moro - The Moor is a short film about the untold story of Alessandro de' Medici, the first Duke of Florence in 1530 and the first man of African descent to become a head of state in Renaissance Europe. While unveiling a true story from the past, the film aims to speak loudly of the situations that Black Europeans are still experiencing today and to celebrate today's Afro-European community in the history of the continent.

For more info see: <https://www.ilmorofilm.com/>



DAPHNE DI CINTO DIRECTOR

Daphne Di Cinto is a Black Italian Filmmaker and a 2026 Sundance Episodic Intensive Lab Fellow, currently residing in London. She began her film and theatre studies in Rome, before moving to New York for her Master's in Fine Arts at the Actors Studio Drama School. While developing a series based on the life of Alessandro de' Medici, Daphne wrote, directed and produced the short film Il Moro - The Moor, her directorial debut, longlisted for Oscar qualification in 2024. Daphne received the Cultured Focus Visionary in Film Award during the 79th Venice Film Festival. She played Sarah Basset in the Netflix series Bridgerton.

DR ANGELICA PESARINI RESEARCH TALK

Dr Angelica Pesarini is a scholar of race and cultural studies, race and diaspora and Italian studies at the University of Toronto. Her research explores the field of Black Italia by examining the intersections of race, gender, identity and citizenship in (post-)colonial Italy. She is co-editor of Black Italia for California Italian Studies and a founding member of the Black Mediterranean Collective, which published The Black Mediterranean: Bodies, Borders, and Citizenship (2021). As a scholar-activist, she is involved in the Italian anti-racist movement and is interested in the impact of Black Lives Matter in Italy.



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University College Cork, Ireland

Organized by the Department of Italian and the Department of Film & Screen Media