

The Italian Program

Presents:

XIX WEEK OF THE ITALIAN LANGUAGE IN THE WORLD

“L’italiano sul palcoscenico”- *Italian On Stage*

PROGRAM, DAY ONE

Wednesday, Oct. 16th 10:30-12:30-Manoogian Hall, Room 408

10:30-10:45 Opening and Inauguration: Consul of Italy, D.ssa Maria Manca

10:50-11:20 “Il teatro di Eduardo” / *De Filippo’s Theater*, presenters: Lia Adelfi and Tonino Corsetti

11:30-12:10 “Il teatro di Dario Fo” / *Dario Fo’s Theater*, presenter: James Michels

12:15-12:30 Wayne in Abruzzo 2020

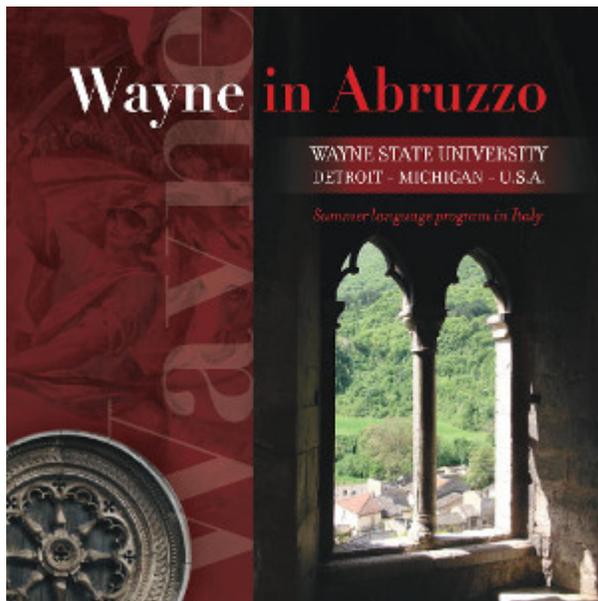
PROGRAM, DAY TWO

Thursday, Oct. 17th 10:30-12:00 - Greek Room, Room 171

10:30-11:00 “Le sfide traduttive di *Natale in Casa Cupiello*” / The Challenges of Translating De Filippo, presenters: Elena Past and ITA 6700 students

11:10-11:40 “La rivoluzione *pirandelliana*” / *Pirandello’s Theatrical Revolution*, presenters: Tonino Corsetti and Silvia Giorgini-Althoen

11:45-12:00 Wayne in Abruzzo 2020



BIOGRAPHIES

Consiglia "Lia" Adelfi is the president of the Dante Alighieri Society, Michigan Chapter. Born and raised in Napoli, Lia moved with her family to Michigan in 2003 and immediately joined the Dante Alighieri Society. At the DAS, Lia put her background in Community Leadership, social studies, and foreign languages to work. She is the editor of the DAS newsletter and is working hard to keep Italian AP in the schools.

She considers herself a "tech freak": she applies her love and knowledge of technology by designing, updating, and maintaining the Dante Alighieri Society's website and ensuring that all technology works properly.

In 2016, Lia was honored by Sergio Mattarella, the President of Italy, as Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia for her indefatigable work in promoting Italian language and culture. Her presentation with Tonino Corsetti will highlight the importance of the great "Eduardo" (De Filippo) in Italian theater, and they will discuss their upcoming performance on Dec. 17, 2019 at the Village Players of Birmingham, of one of Eduardo's most famous plays: "Natale in casa Cuppiello".

Tonino Corsetti was born in Italy, where he attended the "Liceo Classico Ovidio" in Sulmona and the University of Pisa. In 1962, he came to America with his family. He attended Wayne State University and Michigan State University. After obtaining Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees from WSU, he taught in various Catholic High Schools for several years. In 1968, he joined the Italian Faculty at WSU as a Lecturer until 2007, when he started working as a Tax Consultant.

Since his arrival in the United States, Tonino has been active in the cultural and social life of the Italian Community in the Detroit Area. He helped create the Italian Study Group of Troy; was one of the members that reopened the "Italian - American Cultural Society"; was a founder and long-time treasurer of the Federazione Abruzzese del Michigan; has been a member of the Dante Alighieri Society for at least 30 years; is a current member and treasurer of the NOI Foundation; and belongs to the Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan.

Tonino discovered Pirandello in junior high, when, against the advice of his teachers and his parish priest, he read *The Late Mattia Pascal*, one of the better-known novels by the writer. He rediscovered Pirandello while teaching Italian at WSU and taught several theater courses becoming a specialist in Pirandello's theater.

Silvia Giorgini-Althoen is currently the Director of Italian Language Courses and Senior Lecturer at Wayne State University, where she teaches courses in Italian Language, Literature and Culture.

Her research interests include Second Language Acquisition, and the integration of emerging technology in the language classroom. She is currently researching the development of literacy and multi-literacies through folktales and fairy tales.

She is an active member of the Dante Alighieri Society of Michigan where she serves as the Director of "Dante Scuola Arcobaleno" and "VoluntarItaly". She is also a certified PLIDA examiner. She serves as a question leader for the AP Italian Language and Culture Exam, and is part of the Development Committee for the SAT Italian Program. She is also the editor of the American Association Teachers of Italian's Newsletter.

Since reading Pirandello's book *One, None and A Hundred Thousand*, and watching a performance of *Six Characters in Search of an Author* at 16, she became a "pirandelliana". In her presentation with Tonino Corsetti she will talk about Pirandello's poetics and his revolutionary contribution to the world of theater.

James Michels has been teaching at Wayne for over 40 years, first in the Interdisciplinary Studies Program, where he taught writing, and currently in the Italian area of CMLLC (Classical and Modern Languages) where he teaches Italian Language, Italian Culture and Civilization and Existentialist Literature. His doctoral studies were in Linguistics and Literature, principally English and Irish literature. He wrote his doctoral thesis on James Joyce's great novel *Ulysses*. Joyce attracted him for many reasons, not least of which was his genius for Satire.

Satire lead him, almost inevitably, to the great Italian satirist, Dario Fo who, with his wife Franca Rame, wrote, produced and acted in a great many dramatic works, the most famous of which, perhaps, are *Mistero Buffo* (comic mysteries) and *La morte accidentale di un anarchico* (The Accidental Death of an Anarchist). He intends to discuss aspects of these two works for La settimana della lingua. Professor Michels has made several presentations on Fo's theater in the last decade: one at the Sonorités conference in Switzerland, another for the Dante Alighieri Society in Michigan and another as a Brown Bag talk at Wayne State University's Humanities Center.

Elena Past is Associate Professor of Italian at Wayne State University, where she teaches a wide range of courses in Italian literature, culture, and cinema. Her research includes work on the toxic waste crisis in Naples, Mediterranean cinema and ecocinema, and Italian crime fiction and film. Her recent publications include the book *Italian Ecocinema Beyond the Human* (2019), and the co-edited volume *Italy and the Environmental Humanities: Landscapes, Natures, Ecologies* with Serenella Iovino and Enrico Cesaretti (2018).

She currently serves as co-editor of the Italianist Film Issue in collaboration with Danielle Hipkins and Monica Seger, as a member of the Modern Language Association's Executive Committee Forum on 20th and 21st Century Italian Literature, and as Chair of Wayne State's President's Standing Committee on Environmental Initiatives. A committed advocate of experiential learning, Professor Past and her students will discuss the collaborative work they are doing to translate the dialogues of De Filippo's play for the Dante Alighieri performance.