



Bethesda, MD - For immediate release: Italian Cultural Society Hosting Prestigious Fundraising Awards Dinner on October 14

The Italian Cultural Society of Washington, D.C. will host a prestigious awards dinner on Thursday, October 14 at 6:30 pm at Trattoria Al Volo. The exclusive outdoor fundraising event will celebrate Italian culture and Italian contributions to theater, as well as the recipients of the organization's Scholarship Awards.

Beneath the grapevines and stars, the exclusive event will honor the career of **Laura Caparrotti**, the Founder and Artistic Director of Kairos Italy Theater, and will feature **Rocco Sisto**, an Obie Award Winner and renowned stage, film, and TV actor.

A limited number of tickets are available for those who have been vaccinated against COVID-19, and masks will be required in indoor spaces of the Trattoria.

The event will take place in lieu of the organization's annual Gala, usually hosted at the Italian Embassy, and will include a theatrical performance, music, cocktails, silent auction, dinner, and the awards ceremony.

The ICS Gala highlights a specific aspect of the excellence of Italian culture, and includes an Italian honorary guest of international acclaim, recognized for his/her successful career in the world. Past guests have included Washington Ballet choreographer Mimmo Miccolis, actress and screenwriter Francesca Marciano, and filmmaker and entrepreneur Francesco Carrozzini. The Gala is a main source of fundraising for the Italian Cultural Society and promotes their incredible work in celebrating and strengthening Italian culture in the U.S. as well as supporting scholarship students in their study of Italian.

Please contact the Italian Cultural Society for more information on becoming a sponsor of this incredible celebration of Italian culture.

About the Italian Cultural Society of Washington, D.C.:

The Italian Cultural Society of Washington D.C. (ICS) is the home for cultural and social events in the Washington metropolitan area and online, and for courses to learn or improve your Italian both in person and online.

Our mission is to enhance the appreciation and knowledge of Italian language and culture. We create opportunities to explore the many facets of Italian culture, and to strengthen bonds between the Italian and American people.

We do this primarily through the Italian Language Program, founded in 1974, thanks to contributions from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Today, our school counts over 2,000 enrollments per year. We work in collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute and with the Education Office of the Italian Embassy.

*The ICS organizes **cultural events** every month, and special events for Christmas, Carnival and an **annual Gala**. We finally offer a **scholarships** program to award students who excel in Italian, classics, art, science and music.*

ICS members include Italians, Italian-Americans and Italian sympathizers. We welcome everyone, regardless of race, national origin, or religion. The only requirements for membership are an interest in Italian culture and a desire to share that interest with others. The Italian Cultural Society of Washington D.C. is a 501c non-profit organization.

About Laura Caparrotti:

Laura Caparrotti is the Founder and Artistic Director of Kairos Italy Theater. An international theater icon and student of Nobel Prize winner Dario Fo, she is widely recognized for her distinctive acting and directing work, both in Italy and the US. Laura is also a member of the Director's Lab at Lincoln Center and co-founder of the international directors' collective World Wide Lab. She also is a co-founder of In Scena!, an Italian theater festival taking place in all five NYC Boroughs, and On Stage!, the first American Theater Festival in Rome.

About Rocco Sisto:

Rocco Sisto is an Italian stage, film, and television actor (Donnie Brasco, Carlito's Way, After Hours, Far and Away, The Sopranos). In 1996 he received a Drama Desk Award nomination for his acting in the play *Quills*.