



**The Italian
Cultural Society**
of Washington D.C.

Social Meeting

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20th, at 3:00

ICS headquarters – 4833 Rugby Ave. Suite 201, Bethesda, MD 20814

“The Grand Tour and the birth of the myth of Italy” by Gianni Cicali

Through the lens of travel and the Grand Tour, we will explore the interesting case of touristic dramaturgy that contributed to the birth of the Italian myth in the past centuries. European aristocrats, and intellectuals visited Italy as an essential part for their education. The Grand Tour to Italy also represented a necessary status symbol. By following the words of an English lady of the Grand Tour who witnessed shows, court rituals, and who visited museums and churches, we will see the dawn of a new phenomenon that saw the light of day in 18th-century and that involved Italian theater: theater for tourism. In the 18th-century a new public and a new way of producing and exporting theatre also led to an increasing migration of Italian theater and opera professionals (including architects and music composers) that export and disseminated the Italian tradition in Europe. The patterns of representation of Italy will travel to a new form of art, cinema, and will represent a bridge between the era of the Grand tour, and 20th- and 21st-century Italian cinema, with movies such as *La Dolce Vita* that can

be defined as a Grand Tour for contemporary times, modern Italy and the jet society of the Sixties.



Gianni Cicali (Florence, Italy) is associate professor of Italian Theater (Dept. of Italian, Georgetown University). Cicali is a specialist in History of Italian Theater (Renaissance, Baroque and 18th-century). He holds doctoral degrees from both Italy (Università di Firenze) and Canada (University of Toronto). He is author of a book on the Italian “Opera buffa” based on textual and archive research (*Attori e ruoli nell’opera buffa italiana del Settecento*, 2005). He is also author *L’Invento crucis nel teatro rinascimentale fiorentino* (2012). He edited a book in 2015 “*Teatro italiano fra testo performance e scena*”, special issue of *Quaderni d’Italianistica*. He has published several articles on International journals and was invited by De Paul University, Bryn Mawr College, Università di Firenze, Università di Bergamo, Università Federico II of Naples, Università di Bari, University of Toronto, Italian Embassy in the US, and other institutions for lectures. Gianni Cicali has been Editor of *Quaderni d’italianistica* (journal of the Canadian Society for Italian Studies –

CSIS) from 2011 to 2015, and he is a member of several Advisory and Editorial Boards of International academic journals.

RSVP to RSVP@italianculturalsociety.org

If you would like to support the ICS: Donation suggested for attending our events: \$5 for members and \$10 for Non Members. (This helps us to defray the costs of the event). With your donation you will receive a raffle ticket. You can click the *donate button* online at <http://www.italianculturalsociety.org/get-involved/social-meetings/>, or donate at the door. **Thank you!**



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Social Meeting starts at 1:00!

1:00 movie – The night of the Shooting Stars, by Paolo and Vittorio Taviani, 1983 (we continue with the theme started in September about the Fascism era.)

2:00pm - Arrigo Mongini will lead one hour of conversation, for those of you who would like to practice the language.

3:00pm, Prof. Gianni Cicali, Georgetown University will present “**The Grand Tour and the birth of the myth of Italy**” [Read more information online](#)

At the same time, in the adjacent room, we will screen a kids' movie in Italian: Thumbelina - Pollicina

4:00-5:00 Refreshments