

## Document Citation

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This first blockbuster in the history of cinema, Cabiria inspired many future filmmakers, including America's cinema great D.W. Griffith in the making of "Birth of a Nation" one year later.

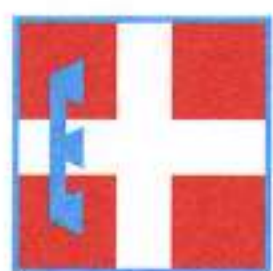
The story set in the third century B.C. during the Second Punic War between Carthage and Rome finds Cabiria (Carolina Catena), a young Roman beauty, abducted by pirates during the confusion caused by the eruption of Mount Etna. What follows are scenes of savage human sacrifice, grandiose sea battles, Hannibal's triumphant crossing of the Alps, and powerful demonstrations of Herculean strength by Roman slave Maciste (Bartolomeo Pagano).

Produced by Itala-Film of Torino on a record-high budget, the film was an immediate success due to its massive realistic sets, cast of thousands, spectacular costumes, and sweeping narrative. Notorious Italian poet Gabriele D'Annunzio wrote the intertitles in his typical sublime, decadent tone.

Director Giovanni Pastrone employed cinematic innovations long thought to be American such as three-dimensional scenery of monumental proportions, the "carrello" or mounted camera on a trolley, and diffused lighting.

In one of the crowning achievements of film conservatorship, the National Museum of Cinema through the benefits of advanced technology and newly available historical documentation has fully restored Cabiria with all the brilliance of its first screening. Long regarded as lost, Pastrone's original silent version of the film makes its West Coast debut at Cinema Piemonte.

The screening will be accompanied by an original score written and performed by Maestro Stefano Maccagno from Torino on the piano. (180 minutes)



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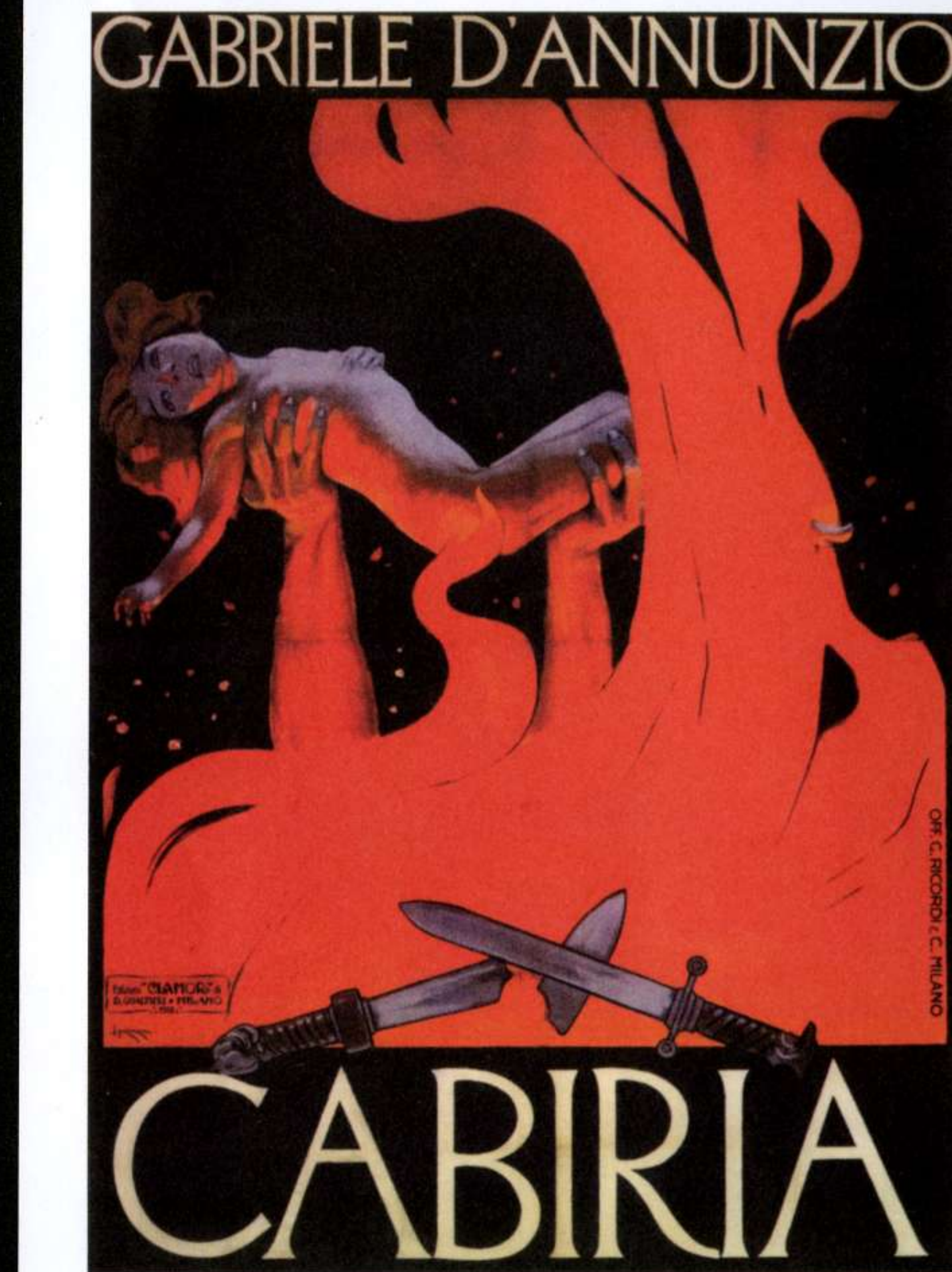
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CINEMA PIEMONTE

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**CABIRIA**—Italy 1914—Silent Film—Directed by Giovanni Pastrone  
 Cast: Bartolomeo Pagano, Carolina Catena, Lidia Quaranta, Umberto Mozzato

Riso Amaro (“Bitter Rice”) is one of the landmark films of the postwar Italian neorealist movement and is noted for its realistic portrayal of the working conditions of the female rice workers or “mondine.”

This lusty masterpiece is set in the Piedmont rice fields of Vercelli and brilliantly pairs the social condemnation of the harsh working conditions with the flaming passions of a Hollywood melodrama.

Nominated for an Academy Award for Best Screenplay, the film follows two thieves Walter and Francesca (Vittorio Gassman and Doris Dowling), who after stealing a necklace hide themselves among the hordes of rice workers arriving for the harvest. Here they meet Silvana (Silvana Mangano), who is irresistibly attracted by the fascinating and evil Vittorio Gassman, and Marco (Raf Vallone), the respectable army sergeant, who falls hopelessly for Silvana. The relationships between the four create strong dramatic tensions that lead to a tragic finale. (100 minutes)



**RISO AMARO**—Italy 1949  
 Directed by Giuseppe De Santis  
 Cast: Vittorio Gassman, Silvana Mangano, Doris Dowling, Raf Vallone



**I COMPAGNI**—Italy 1963  
 Directed by Mario Monicelli  
 Cast: Marcello Mastroianni, Annie Girardot, Renato Salvatori, Raffaella Carra

Nominated for an Academy Award for Best Screenplay, I Compagni (“The Organizer”) is liberal, anti-conformist, and a bit anarchical like its protagonist. In one of his most powerful and extraordinary performances, Marcello Mastroianni portrays the disheveled yet charismatic Professor Sinigaglia who organizes a group of workers to rally for better working conditions. Set in a textile factory in turn-of-the-century Torino, this film documents one of the first attempts by the working class to organize. Its splendid cast presents both sides of the argument.

Torino is the perfect setting for this docu-drama due to its important role in the history of industrial development and the working class movement in Italy. The evocative cinematography of Giuseppe Rotunno creates a city emerging from frail daguerreotypes. (128 minutes)

Director Davide Ferrario declared Dopo Mezzanotte (“After Midnight”) “a shameless act of love for cinema.” Set in the beautiful Mole Antonelliana, the 550 foot-tall edifice that is the symbol of Torino and which houses the National Museum of Cinema, the film is a tale of love between Martino, a timid night watchman at the Museum, Amanda, an enchanting young woman hiding from the police, and Angelo, a soft-hearted car thief.



**DOPO MEZZANOTTE**—Italy 2003  
 Directed by Davide Ferrario  
 Cast: Giorgio Pasotti, Francesca Inaudi, Fabio Troiano

However, the real protagonist is the National Museum of Cinema that envelops this love triangle in a dreamy atmosphere of silent movies, shadowy illuminations, and magical moving walls. (90 minutes)

**ADMISSION IS FREE AND FILMS ARE PRESENTED TO YOU BY ASSOCIAZIONE PIEMONTESE NEL MONDO OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COWELL THEATER, FORT MASON CENTER, SAN FRANCISCO**

**Event accessible by public transportation  
 All films are subtitled in English**

**FRIDAY**

February 29, 2008

**7:00 PM**

Introduction to National Museum of Cinema—Torino  
 First Italian Movie Capital

**7:30 PM**

Introduction and discussion of film

**8:00 PM**

**Dopo Mezzanotte**

Reception following film

**SATURDAY**

March 1, 2008

**4:00 PM**

Introduction and discussion of film

**4:30 PM**

**Riso Amaro**

**7:30 PM**

Introduction and discussion of film

**8:00 PM**

**I Compagni**

Reception following film

**SUNDAY**

March 2, 2008

**4:00 PM**

Introduction and discussion of film

**4:30 PM**

**Cabiria**

Reception following film

**SEATING LIMITED—DOORS OPEN 1 HOUR BEFORE THE EVENT**

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