



KARAWAN FEST 2026 PROGRAMME

Friday, July 10

8:30 PM – Short Film Competition

MY FRIEND KARL

by Nikola Brunelli – Italy | 2026 | 9'

Original version with English subtitles

Lucia is a middle-school student. Beneath the routine of her everyday life, however, lies an extraordinary discovery: her imaginary friend looks and thinks exactly like Karl Marx. Guided by this unlikely companion, Lucia begins to question the dynamics within her classroom, sparking a small yet contagious revolution.

9:00 PM – Feature Film Competition

DELUPI

by Mohammad Touqir Islam – Bangladesh | 2026 | 96'

Original version with Italian and English subtitles

Italian Premiere – Director in attendance

Followed by a Q&A with Mohammed Touqir Islam, Phaim Bhuyian (director) and Matteo Miavaldi (Journalist and writer)

In the aftermath of a devastating flood, a remote Bangladeshi village struggles to rebuild its future. The love between Partha and Nupur becomes the target of the community when Zakir, an opportunistic political leader, orchestrates a conspiracy to discredit the young activist Mihir. Torn between staying and leaving, Mihir is ultimately persuaded by Partha to lead the community. Renewed in his determination, he unites the villagers in their fight for the construction of a sustainable dam to protect their homes. Echoing the July 2024 Revolution, Delupi is a powerful tribute to collective resistance, freedom of expression and the enduring force of love.

Saturday, July 11

7:30 PM – Filipino Picnic

Curated by **Manila Restaurant**

Settle into the relaxed atmosphere of Giordano Sangalli Park with a sunset picnic and a special menu inspired by Filipino cuisine, available by advance reservation.

8:30 PM – STAND UP!

Comedy performance by **Daniele Fabbri**

A stand-up comedian long before stand-up became mainstream, Daniele Fabbri blends sharp wit with the expressive flair of a modern-day jester.

Short Film Competition

TAMAGO

by *Benjamin, Orso & Peter Miyakawa* – Italy, Japan | 2025 | 18'

Original version with English subtitles

Kazu and Tatsu are two Japanese office workers in their thirties. One evening, after getting drunk together, they decide to reveal their deepest secrets. Tatsu confesses that he is still a virgin, while Kazu admits that every time he eats a *tamago sando*—the famous Japanese egg sandwich—he transforms into a beautiful woman. Tatsu refuses to believe him and demands proof...

Feature Film Competition

FLOWER GIRL

by *Fatrick Tabada* – Philippines | 2025 | 74'

Original version with Italian and English subtitles

Italian Premiere – Not recommended for audiences under 14

Ena is a shallow model who promotes sanitary pads, calls her vagina “Poochy,” and dreams only of success and passionate adventures with her boyfriend. One evening, after forcing a trans woman to use the men’s restroom at a gas station, she discovers that the person she insulted is a *babaylan*, a powerful queer spirit. The curse is immediate: overnight, Poochy disappears, taking Ena’s sex life, her boyfriend, and her advertising contracts with it. To get her vagina back before a magical flower withers, Ena has just one mission: find true love. Bold, irreverent and wildly entertaining, Flower Girl is a fearless queer comedy about prejudice, desire and karmic justice.

Sunday, July 12

7:00 PM – Karawan KIDS | Create Your Own Manifesto

Workshop for children aged 4 and up
At **Spazio BLU**, Via di Tor Pignattara 142
Curated by Gisella Persio (APS RAABE CCEP UNLA)

Great filmmakers have always had something to say to the world. But what about children? Inspired by the language of cinema, each child creates a personal manifesto: a large collage made of cut-out images, colours, symbols and words expressing who they are, what they love and what their inner film looks like. Like true filmmakers, participants choose their own theme, style and colour palette, creating a collection of unique visual manifestos.

No writing or drawing skills are required—just a story waiting to be told.

Free admission with reservation:
lalberodellefarfalle2020@gmail.com

8:00 PM – Chinese Picnic

Curated by **BBQ Ken**

A sunset picnic in the welcoming atmosphere of Giordano Sangalli Park, featuring a special menu inspired by Chinese cuisine, available by advance reservation.

Short Film Competition

I HATE HORSES

(*Odio i cavalli*)

by Chiara Zilioli – Italy | 2026 | 3'

Original version with English subtitles

In a world obsessed with order and pretty little bows, a young girl spends her days glued to her phone screen. But an unexpected encounter with a rebellious horse suddenly shatters every rule. Through chases, transformations and rediscovered freedom, she embarks on a journey beyond conventions—and perhaps beyond herself.

Feature Film Competition

THE SNOWBALL ON A SUNNY DAY

by Philip Yung – Hong Kong | 2026 | 131'

Original version with Italian and English subtitles

Rome Premiere – In collaboration with the Far East Film Festival (Udine)

Introduced by **Luigi Coluccio** (*MyMovies*, *Film TV*)

Sunnie works in the film industry as a production assistant. As Lunar New Year approaches, her grandmother asks her to buy a lottery ticket. The New Year “Snowball” jackpot has reached an astonishing HK\$88 million. But after an unpleasant encounter with an extra on set prevents her from entering the lottery shop, Sunnie never buys the ticket. That very evening, all of her grandmother’s numbers are drawn, and it is announced that there is only one winning ticket. Determined not to disappoint the elderly woman, Sunnie, her father Lam Heng and her colleague Jay Lai devise an elaborate plan to convince her that the winning ticket had indeed been purchased. A charming family comedy that balances humour and emotion while celebrating the unpredictable ways in which luck—and love—can change our lives.

Monday, July 13

7:00 PM – Karawan KIDS | The Meadow Becomes a Movie

In the heart of the park, surrounded by grass and a gentle summer breeze, children discover that cinema can be created anywhere. Inspired by the book *Cinema Explained to Children*, they will transform the meadow into a miniature film set while exploring three key filmmaking roles: director, actor and sound technician. All it takes is a clapperboard—and the magic begins!

Workshop for children aged 6 and up, curated by **Tempesta in Testa**, at Giordano Sangalli Park.

Free admission with reservation:

+39 392 326 3437

tempestaintesta.libreria@gmail.com

8:30 PM – STAND UP!

Comedy performance by **Gioia Salvatori**

Poet, writer and actress, Gioia Salvatori has developed a uniquely original comic voice, blending ancient myths, contemporary anxieties, heartfelt lyricism and inventive neologisms.

Short Film Competition

FICK MICH!

by *Fabiana Russo* – Italy | 2026 | 18'

Original version with English subtitles

Director in attendance

During the endless summers Eva and Maria spend by the lake, there is only one thing they never tire of: watching boys. Maria can't take her eyes off them. Eva is more discreet. She is the bolder of the two and claims to have already slept with more than one boy. Maria, on the other hand, had never really thought about boys until she saw the German. He is the most beautiful boy she has ever seen. She's certain she's in love, even though they've never spoken—and she doesn't even know his name. During the hottest summer of her life, at sixteen, Maria will discover the difference between.

Feature Film Competition

EXTRAURST

by *Marcus H. Rosenmüller* – Germany | 2026 | 98'

Original version with Italian and English subtitles

Italian Premiere – In collaboration with the Goethe-Institut Rome

It should be little more than a formality: Heribert, president of the Lengenheide tennis club, and his ambitious deputy Matthias have called a vote on purchasing a new barbecue for the club's summer cookouts. But when Torsten, a witty copywriter who has recently moved from Berlin to the countryside, cracks a joke to liven up the increasingly tedious meeting, everything spirals out of control. His wife Melanie suggests buying a second barbecue for Erol, her doubles partner and the club's only Muslim member, and what begins as a joke quickly escalates into a heated clash between believers and atheists, Turks and Germans, liberals and conservatives, tolerance and prejudice. Based on the acclaimed stage play by Dietmar Jacobs and Moritz Netenjakob, *Extrawurst* is a hilarious, razor-sharp comedy that hilariously exposes the fragile boundaries between tolerance, prejudice and political correctness.

Tuesday, July 14

7:00 PM – Karawan KIDS | The Sun Returns

Inspired by *The Sun Thief*, this simple outdoor activity invites children to observe the light around them and transform it into their own little sun. After a short reading, participants search the park for signs of light before creating a personal sun that will become part of a collective installation.

Workshop for children aged 3 and up, curated by **Tempesta in Testa**, at Giordano Sangalli Park.

Free admission with reservation:

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7:30 PM – EXTRA | MARJANE SATRAPI: TELLING STORIES, BUILDING BRIDGES

Talk with **Gianluca Costantini**

Curated by **Collettivo Magville**

With her instantly recognisable black-and-white style, Marjane Satrapi has woven together personal memory and political commitment, humour and dissent, female identity and the history of Iran, transforming her own experience into stories capable of speaking to readers everywhere. Page after page, she has built bridges between distant worlds. Her masterpiece, *Persepolis*, redefined autobiographical graphic novels, bringing the genre to an unprecedented international audience.

We celebrate her work together with Gianluca Costantini, artist and activist who uses drawing as a tool for social action and collective memory. The conversation will be moderated by Valentina Griner from Collettivo Magville, the Rome-based collective that combines comics with social engagement.

Short Film Competition

ESAGERATA (*Over the Top*)

by *Giuseppe Cacace & Daniele Stocchi* – Italy | 2026 | 17'

Original version with English subtitles

Directors in attendance

In a desperate attempt to save her boutique from closing down, sixty-year-old Patrizia follows the advice of her young sales assistant Sara and, without her husband Carlo's knowledge, reinvents herself as an outrageous social media influencer. A witty short film about the power of social media, the tension between appearance and reality, intergenerational dialogue, and a love capable of standing the test of time.

Feature Film Competition

PORTE BAGAGE

by *Abdelkarim El-Fassi* – Netherlands, Morocco | 2025 | 100'

Original version with Italian and English subtitles

Rome Premiere – In collaboration with Bergamo Film Meeting
Introduced by **Sentieri Selvaggi**

Following their mother's death, the Idrissi family, long settled in the Netherlands, begins to fall apart. Noor, the daughter who has always held the family together, receives an important job offer in Paris, while her father Musa, in the early stages of dementia, longs to return to Morocco. Noor persuades her brothers Farid and Hamza to accompany him home on a long road trip across Europe, together with Musa's grandson Rayan. In his feature debut, Abdelkarim El-Fassi crafts a deeply moving story of homecoming and a deeply humane debut that turns a family road trip into a moving meditation on memory, belonging and home.

Wednesday, July 15

7:00 PM – Karawan KIDS | Literary Treasure Hunt

A fun literary-themed treasure hunt through Giordano Sangalli Park, curated by **Tempesta in Testa**, for children aged 6 and up.

Free admission with reservation:

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7:30 PM – EXTRA | GHOST SCHOOL: LET NO ONE REMAIN INVISIBLE

Panel discussion on school dropout and educational inequality, curated by **ÀP – Antimafia Pop Academy**, featuring **Stefania Mancini** (President, Fondazione Charlemagne), **Cecilia Fannunza** (Councillor for Education, Municipio V), **Eleonora De Piro** (teacher, IC Laparelli) and **Samuel Stroveglia** (CSK Student Collective, I. Kant High School).

Short Film Competition

LEMON YELLOW (*Giallo Limone*)

by *Olga Sargenti* – Italy | 2026 | 15'

Original version with Italian & English subtitles

Director in attendance

Anna is picking lemons in her garden when, all of a sudden, the world around her falls silent. Just for a moment—then everything returns to normal. That fleeting instant marks the death of her grandmother on an ordinary summer afternoon, and nothing will ever be the same again. From then on, there are two Annas: the girl she was while her grandmother was alive, and the new Anna, who must learn to live with loss while holding on to the memory of her grandmother's voice.

Feature Film Competition

GHOST SCHOOL

by Seemab Gul – Pakistan, Germany, Saudi Arabia | 2025 | 88'

Original version with Italian & English subtitles

Rome Premiere – Director in attendance

Followed by a Q&A with Ejaz Ahmad (journalist and cultural mediator) and Chiara Zuccari (*Sentieri Selvaggi*)

In a remote Pakistani village, ten-year-old Rabia refuses to believe that the local school has been shut down because it is haunted by jinn, the supernatural spirits of Islamic folklore. Her search for the truth gradually exposes a world shaped by superstition, corruption and systemic injustice. In her remarkable debut feature, Seemab Gul weaves together coming-of-age drama, road movie and social realism into a moving plea for the right to education.

Thursday, July 16

8:00 PM – Award Ceremony

8:30 PM – *The School Is...*

Short film by the students of Villaggio Prenestino middle-school (12')

Followed by the screening of the closing video of the European project **YOREC**.

9:00 PM – New Citizens Award

QUO VADO?

by Gennaro Nunziante – Italy | 2016 | 83'

Original version with Bangla subtitles

Actor Emmanuel Dabone in attendance

Checco has achieved everything he has ever wanted. He still lives with his parents, avoiding the costs and responsibilities of independence; he has managed to remain perpetually engaged without ever facing marriage; and, above all, he has secured the ultimate Italian dream—a permanent job in the provincial Hunting and Fishing Office. But when the government decides to abolish the provinces, Checco is summoned by the uncompromising ministry official Sironi and given a choice: resign or accept a transfer far from home.

Quo Vado? was selected by participants in the Italian-language workshops organised by **Bianco e Nero** at three adult education centres in Rome (CPIA1 Via Policastro, AltraMente – Scuola per tutte e tutti, and CPIA2 Via Togliatti).

The **New Citizens Award** is presented to the film, among the three finalists, that best embodies a renewed idea of citizenship—not as a legal status, but as a shared space founded on rights, participation and inclusion.