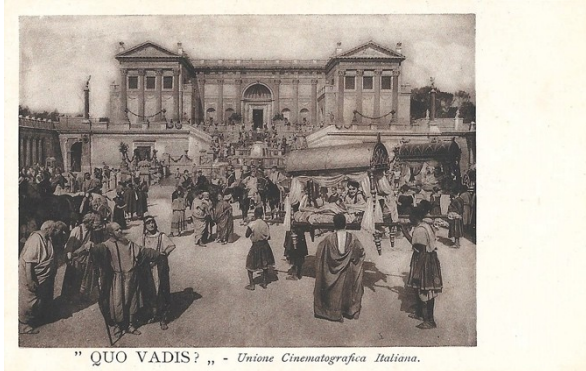


Workshop: Ancient Rome as cinescape

Aula Seminari, DAMSLab, Piazzetta P. P. Pasolini 5/b, 40122 Bologna

Chairs: Prof. Paolo Noto (Università di Bologna)
& Dr. Ivo Blom (Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam),

Workshop 1 Tuesday June 25 17:00-19:00
Reconstructing Ancient Rome



This workshop takes its lead from the presence of *Quo vadis* (1924) in the Cinema Ritrovato programme. Aylin Atacan (University College London) will explore the visionary style of the architect Armando Brasini whose designs for the film's sets and costumes are influenced by a rich amalgam of inspirations, including ancient Roman and Italian Baroque architecture, and the works of Giovanni Battista Piranesi. She will consider the emergence of this influential monumental style, its ideological underpinnings, and its consequences

for spectators as an aesthetic that enabled them to traverse time and enter ancient Rome.

Stella Dagna (Università degli Studi di Milano) will reflect on the relationship between monumental space and the human figure in the ancient Rome of Italian silent cinema, with particular attention to female characters. The domination of space by characters such as the Empresses Agrippina and Messalina contrasts with the passivity of the films' fictional Christian heroines. In Italian pepla, the huge public spaces of ancient Rome and the people who inhabit them also take on a strong symbolic value that changes over time. Both talks will include clips and there will be plenty of time for discussion (using both English and Italian).



Workshop 2 Wednesday 26 June 17:00-19:00
Situating Ancient Rome in the Modern City



This workshop takes its lead from the presence of *Rome moderne et antique* (1904) in the Cinema Ritrovato programme. Maria Assunta Pimpinelli (Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia, Rome) will compare its strategies for representing the ancient sites of Rome with another Pathé actuality from 1911, *Roma Antica*. She will frame both films aesthetically within the tradition of the picturesque and consider how that tradition is now brought into relation with the modern Italian city. She will contrast two Cines comedies that show ancient Romans coming to life in the present.

Maria Wyke (University College London) will consider how different nations - French, Italian, British - document ancient Rome on film by comparing an elegant and equally picturesque Italian *dal vero, Città eterna* (1911), and a light-hearted amateur production *Road to Rome* (1926), in which British students of architecture clearly contrast the modernity of Liverpool with the perceived antiquity of Rome. Both talks will include clips and there will be plenty of time for discussion (using both English and Italian).



Museum of Dreamworlds :
Silent Antiquity Films
in the BFI National Archive

This is an initiative developed by the members of the research project *Museum of Dreamworlds*: Prof. Maria Wyke (UCL), Dr. Ivo Blom (Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam), Dr. Aylin Atacan (UCL) and Bryony Dixon (silent film curator, British Film Institute), in collaboration with Eye Filmmuseum and other partner archives. The project (2023-2026) focuses on the paradoxically close relationship between the modern medium of silent cinema and the distant worlds of ancient Greece

and Rome, using film prints and film-related materials from the collection of the British Film Institute as its point of departure and comparing them with relevant films surviving in other archives. For more info on Museum of Dreamworlds, see <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/classics/research/research-projects/museum-dream-worlds>



We are very grateful to Professor Paolo Noto and the University of Bologna Dipartimento delle Arti for hosting these two workshops in the university's DAMSLab.

