



# NEWSLETTER MAY 2020

## CULTURE DOESN'T STOP

Dear Readers, our activities are still on hold due to the epidemic. While we wait for the end of the lockdown, we invite you to follow some online initiatives.

*Cari lettori, nell'attesa di un prossimo allentamento delle misure di contenimento e della ripresa delle nostre iniziative culturali, in questa edizione delle Newsletter vi presentiamo alcune iniziative cui è possibile accedere online.*

## WE ARE ITALY - L'ITALIA A PORTATA DI CLIC



The initiative #WeAreItaly continues. Launched by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism, it brings to you many interesting initiatives in the field of arts, literature, music and cinema. This month, our suggestions go in the field of arts and cinema. Choose among the many proposals of this month!

*Si ricorda che continua l'iniziativa WeAreItaly, promossa da MiBACT e MAECI. Tra le numerose proposte, per il mese di maggio vi proponiamo in particolare delle iniziative nell'ambito dell'arte del cinema. Non vi rimane che scegliere tra le tante proposte!*





## THIS YEAR WE CELEBRATE...

### RAFFAELLO OLTRE LA MOSTRA



This year we celebrate the 500th anniversary of Raffaello birth (1520-1483).

Do you want to learn more about Raffaello? While waiting for the reopening on May 18th of Raffaello exhibition at the Scuderie del Quirinale in Rome, a lot of information has been made available on the webpage of the Scuderie under the title “#RaffaelloOltreLaMostra” [here](#).

You can also explore the initiative “Raffaello 500: Maestro Universale” on the [YouTube channel](#) of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

*Le Scuderie del Quirinale riaprono virtualmente le porte della mostra “Raffaello 1520-1483” con video-racconti, approfondimenti e incursioni nel backstage. Con l’hashtag #RaffaelloOltreLaMostra, attraverso i canali social, sarà possibile ascoltare il racconto dei curatori, ammirare alcune tra le più belle opere esposte con dettagli e curiosità sull’arte del pittore rinascimentale e sull’allestimento della più grande rassegna mai dedicata finora all’opera di Raffaello [qui](#).*



*Vuoi saperne ancora di più? Scopri il [canale YouTube](#) del Ministero degli Esteri in cui potrai trovare l’iniziativa “Raffaello 500: Maestro Universale”.*

### FELLINI 100



This year marks the 100th anniversary of Federico Fellini birth (1920-2020).

To celebrate this anniversary, the Comune di Rimini has opened the doors of Castel Sismondo for a “virtual walk” around the exhibition “Federico Fellini. Immortal genius” with English subtitles. Available [here](#).

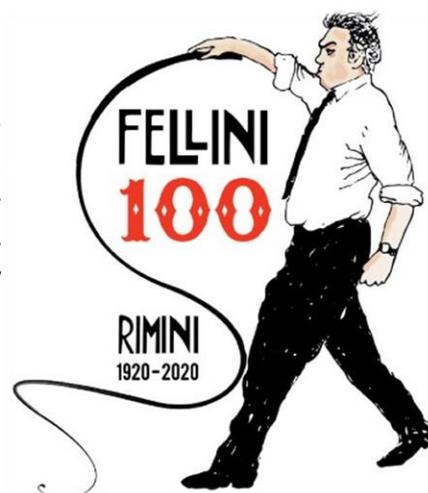
We hope to be able to organise other initiatives to celebrate Federico Fellini in Cyprus. Follow us on our social media for information on events to come!





*Nel 2020 ricorrono 100 anni dalla nascita del grande cineasta Federico Fellini (1920-2020).*

*Per celebrare questa importante ricorrenza, il Comune di Rimini ha aperto virtualmente le porte di Castel Sismondo per una video passeggiata all'interno della mostra dedicata a Federico Fellini [qui](#). Speriamo anche di potervi offrire presto delle proposte cinematografiche in streaming. Seguiteci sui nostri profili social per rimanere aggiornati sulle ultime novità!*



## GIORNATA DELLA RICERCA ITALIANA NEL MONDO



### THE UNPRECEDENTED IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON OUR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE - ONLINE WORKSHOP

To mark the Italian Research Day in the world, the Embassy in collaboration with the Cyprus Institute and its Italian researchers invites you to an online workshop, **'Back home. How global crisis will change the places where we live.'**

Professor Federico Butera, emeritus at Politecnico di Milano and one of the most prominent scholars in the field of sustainable urban design, will deliver the opening address. Italian scientists affiliated at The Cyprus Institute will then present their research activities. You will also be able to submit your question and interact with the speakers online.

The event is scheduled to take place in the last week of May, and will last about 90 min.



THE CYPRUS  
INSTITUTE

RESEARCH • TECHNOLOGY • INNOVATION

*In occasione della Giornata della ricerca italiana nel mondo, l'Ambasciata d'Italia a Nicosia, in collaborazione con i ricercatori italiani del Cyprus Institute, vi invita a partecipare a una conferenza online dal titolo "Back home. How global crisis will change the places where we live". Sarà Federico Butera, professore emerito al Politecnico di Milano e uno degli accademici più prominenti nel campo dello sviluppo urbano sostenibile, a tenere il discorso di apertura. I ricercatori italiani del Cyprus Institute esporranno in seguito le loro attività di ricerca. Sarà, infine, possibile porgli delle domande in diretta.*

*L'evento è programmato per l'ultima settimana di maggio e durerà circa 90 minuti.*





## LA RICERCA ITALIANA NEL MONDO RACCONTATA DAGLI ADDETTI SCIENTIFICI

On the occasion of the Italian Research Day in the World, the network of the Italian scientific and space attachés participated in the campaign with a [short web message](#) stressing the importance of the diplomatic cooperation to enhance Italian research and innovation in the world.

*In occasione della Giornata della Ricerca Italiana nel Mondo, celebrata il 15 aprile 2020, gli Addetti Scientifici italiani accreditati all'estero hanno trasmesso un [breve messaggio](#) sull'importanza della rete diplomatica per sostenere la ricerca e l'innovazione italiana nei diversi Paesi del mondo.*



## CLIMATE CHANGE - EARTH

### DAY 2020



UN CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
CONFERENCE  
UK 2020

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

The COP26 UN Climate Change Conference, to be organised by the UK in partnership with Italy and set to take place in Glasgow in November, has been postponed due to COVID-19. Sergio Costa, the Italian Minister for Environment, Land and Sea Protection, commented in the following way: “Whilst we have decided to postpone COP26, including the Pre-COP and ‘Youth for the Climate’ event, we remain fully committed to meeting the challenge of climate change. Tackling climate change requires strong, global and ambitious action. Participation from the younger generations is imperative, and we are determined to host the ‘Youth for the Climate’ event, together with the Pre-COP and outreach events. We will continue to work with our British partners to deliver a successful COP26.”

Read the following [statements](#) delivered on April 22nd on the occasion of the Earth Day 2020 by the Italian Minister of the Environment Sergio Costa and the President of COP26 Alok Sharma.

On the same topic watch also the [video statement](#) by Minister of Environment Sergio Costa.



22 APRILE 2020  
#OnePeopleOnePlanet





## PAST EVENTS

### UNA FAVOLA AL GIORNO - 100 GIANNI RODARI



Our initiative “A Fairy Tale a Day”, in collaboration with the Italian actor Cesare Capitani and the Fairytale Museum of Nicosia, has now come to an end. Many thanks to all of you for having followed us during these two-week initiative and for making it a huge success!

All the children who took part in the drawing competition will receive a book by Gianni Rodari, courtesy of the Embassy of Italy. The tales and the drawings will remain available on our [Facebook page](#) and on our [YouTube channel](#).

*L'iniziativa “Una favola al giorno”, a cui hanno contribuito l'attore Cesare Capitani e il Fairytale Museum, giunge al termine ottenendo un gran successo! Un grazie va a tutti voi per averci seguito durante le due settimane di iniziativa generando migliaia di visualizzazioni.*

*Tutti i bambini che hanno partecipato sulla pagina Facebook del Museo disegnando o costruendo un luogo dell'Italia che vorrebbero visitare riceveranno una copia di un testo di Gianni Rodari, offerta dall'Ambasciata d'Italia. Le favole lette da Capitani saranno raccolte sul sito dell'Ambasciata e rimangono sempre disponibili sulla nostra [pagina Facebook](#) e sul nostro [canale YouTube](#).*



## BEFORE CLOSING

The acclaimed Italian novelist Francesca Melandri has written a letter to fellow Europeans “from your future”, laying out the range of emotions people are likely to go through over the lockdown due to the Covid-19 outbreak. The English version of the letter has been published by The Guardian on March 27th and translated in many other languages. Very quickly, it has become very popular and received great attention from all over the world.

Because it describes at best the feelings that we, at the Embassy of Italy, have truly felt, we have chosen to share Francesca Melandri's text on our Newsletter. We hope you will like it as much as we did!





## “A LETTER FROM YOUR FUTURE” BY FRANCESCA MELANDRI

I am writing to you from Italy, which means I am writing from your future. We are now where you will be in a few days. The epidemic's charts show us all entwined in a parallel dance.

We are but a few steps ahead of you in the path of time, just like Wuhan was a few weeks ahead of us. We watch you as you behave just as we did. You hold the same arguments we did until a short time ago, between those who still say “it's only a flu, why all the fuss?” and those who have already understood.

As we watch you from here, from your future, we know that many of you, as you were told to lock yourselves up into your homes, quoted Orwell, some even Hobbes. But soon you'll be too busy for that. First of all, you'll eat. Not just because it will be one of the few last things that you can still do. You'll find dozens of social networking groups with tutorials on how to spend your free time in fruitful ways. You will join them all, then ignore them completely after a few days.

You'll pull apocalyptic literature out of your bookshelves, but will soon find you don't really feel like reading any of it.

You'll eat again. You will not sleep well. You will ask yourselves what is happening to democracy. You'll have an unstoppable online social life – on Messenger, WhatsApp, Skype, Zoom...

You will miss your adult children like you never have before; the realisation that you have no idea when you will ever see them again will hit you like a punch in the chest.

Old resentments and fallingouts will seem irrelevant. You will call people you had sworn never to talk to ever again, so as to ask them: “How are you doing?” Many women will be beaten in their homes.

You will wonder what is happening to all those who can't stay home because they don't have one. You will feel vulnerable when going out shopping in the deserted streets, especially if you are a woman. You will ask yourselves if this is how societies collapse. Does it really happen so fast? You'll block out these thoughts and when you get back home you'll eat again.

You will put on weight. You'll look for online fitness training.

You'll laugh. You'll laugh a lot. You'll flaunt a gallows humour you never had before. Even people who've always taken everything dead seriously will contemplate the absurdity of life, of the universe and of it all.

You will make appointments in the supermarket queues with your friends and lovers, so as to briefly see them in person, all the while abiding by the social distancing rules.

You will count all the things you do not need.

The true nature of the people around you will be revealed with total clarity. You will have confirmations and surprises.

Literati who had been omnipresent in the news will disappear, their opinions suddenly irrelevant; some will take refuge in rationalisations which will be so totally lacking in empathy that people will stop listening to them. People whom you had overlooked, instead, will turn out to be reassuring, generous, reliable, pragmatic and clairvoyant.

Those who invite you to see all this mess as an opportunity for planetary renewal will help you to put things in a larger perspective. You will also find them terribly annoying: nice, the planet is breathing better because of the halved CO2 emissions, but how will you pay your bills next month? You will not understand if witnessing the birth of a new world is more a grandiose or a miserable affair.





You will play music from your windows and lawns. When you saw us singing opera from our balconies, you thought “ah, those Italians”. But we know you will sing uplifting songs to each other too. And when you blast I Will Survive from your windows, we’ll watch you and nod just like the people of Wuhan, who sung from their windows in February, nodded while watching us.

Many of you will fall asleep vowing that the very first thing you’ll do as soon as lockdown is over is file for divorce.

Many children will be conceived.

Your children will be schooled online. They’ll be horrible nuisances; they’ll give you joy.

Elderly people will disobey you like rowdy teenagers: you’ll have to fight with them in order to forbid them from going out, to get infected and die.

You will try not to think about the lonely deaths inside the ICU. You’ll want to cover with rose petals all medical workers’ steps.

You will be told that society is united in a communal effort, that you are all in the same boat. It will be true. This experience will change for good how you perceive yourself as an individual part of a larger whole.

Class, however, will make all the difference. Being locked up in a house with a pretty garden or in an overcrowded housing project will not be the same. Nor is being able to keep on working from home or seeing your job disappear. That boat in which you’ll be sailing in order to defeat the epidemic will not look the same to everyone nor is it actually the same for everyone: it never was.

At some point, you will realise it’s tough. You will be afraid. You will share your fear with your dear ones, or you will keep it to yourselves so as not to burden them with it too.

You will eat again.

We’re in Italy, and this is what we know about your future. But it’s just small-scale fortune-telling. We are very low-key seers.

If we turn our gaze to the more distant future, the future which is unknown both to you and to us too, we can only tell you this: when all of this is over, the world won’t be the same.

© *Francesca Melandri* 2020

© *The Guardian*

*Potete leggere il testo in italiano della lettera sulla [pagina Facebook](#) di Francesca Melandri.*

*[Το κείμενο](#) στα ελληνικά από την σελίδα [ilialive.gr](#).*

