

## ITALIAN NEO-REALISM AND WORLD CINEMA

**‘The most precious moment of cinema history’ (Martin Scorsese)**



*Rome Open City 1945*

*Bicycle Thieves 1948*

*Umberto D 1952*

### ***Talk for the Friends of Ravenna***

Chichester Cinema at New Park : *Tuesday June 17th 2025 : 18.30-20.30*

#### **Summary**

The period of around fifteen years in Italy during and after the Second World War produced one of the key movements in the history of world cinema, known ever since as Neo-Realism. Beginning in the context of 1930s Fascism and Mussolini, and then continuing through the experience of WW2, the resistance movement and eventual victory for the Allied forces and the Partisans, an extraordinary group of directors, writers and actors made some quite wonderful films that still impress, engage and move us today, and have had an influence on filmmakers all over the world.

Roberto Rossellini's War Trilogy of '*Rome Open City*', '*Paisan*' and '*Germany Year Zero*', Vittorio De Sica's '*Bicycle Thieves*' and Luchino Visconti's '*La Terra Trema*', for example, are masterpieces of cinema, both as rich stories of ordinary people's hardships, struggles and determination to work together to overcome them, and as exemplifying the art of cinema, and can be watched over and over again and still enthral us

This talk, by Mike Jennings of the cinema's Education Team, will explore Neo-Realism's principal features, directors and films, with many extracts from films of the time and later, and discuss the influences they have had on world cinema since

- It will be followed by a showing of one of the Neo-Realist films (tbc) in the Auditorium at 20.45, open to both the Friends of Ravenna and the public