

ROOTS IN THE FUTURE



ITALY

GUEST OF HONOUR 2024
FRANKFURTER BUCHMESSE
16-20 OCTOBER 2024

ITALY GUEST OF HONOUR 2024 FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR

GUESTS AT THE WEEK OF MEETINGS IN FRANKFURT 16–20 OCTOBER 2024

This list is not final and may be subject to change.

PUPI AVATI

Director Pupi Avati was born in Bologna in 1938. His long filming career took off in 1974 with the movie *La mazurka del Barone, della Santa e del fico fiorone* [*The Mazurka of the Baron, the Saint, and the Flowering Fig*] followed by the cult film *La casa dalle finestre che ridono* [*The House with Laughing Windows*]. Avati has directed more than 50 films and participated in many international film festivals including Berlin, Cannes and Venice with films such as: *Una gita scolastica, Noi tre, Regalo di Natale, Bix, Magnificat, Festival, Il Testimone dello Sposo, Il cuore altrove, La seconda notte di nozze, and Il papà di Giovanna*. In 2021 his film *Dante* was projected at a unique event in the presence of the President of the Italian Republic. Avati has won countless awards, including seven Silver Ribbons and three David di Donatello. In his living reality cinema, he has told of dreams and hopes as well as weaknesses, defeats and disappointments. It is the sympathetic, conscious, though not justifying, acceptance of human fragility and imperfection, the narrative and reflection on existence. In his continuous fathoming of the human soul, through his ability to cross between genres, he gives us his vision and love for life and all of humanity.

SCIALOM BAHBOUT

Scialom Bahbout, born in Tripoli in 1944, of a Libyan mother and a father born in Jerusalem, whose family was forced to leave the city in 1948 due to the invasion of the Arab countries. He graduated in 1966 from the Collegio Rabbिनico with Rabbi Elio Toaff. Bahbout graduated in Physics from La Sapienza University of Rome in 1970 with a thesis on the physical aspects of blood circulation. He continued to work in the field of medical physics as a confirmed researcher until 2009. He has been Head Rabbi in Naples (and south), Bologna and Venice. He completed an internship in medical physics at the Hadassa School of Medicine in Jerusalem. He headed the Department of Culture of the Union of Jewish Communities, particularly

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following small communities in Italy. Bahbout has published articles on medicine, Judaism and medical ethics. He is a senior Jerusalem fellow of Amitè Yerushalaim. He has published Hebrew books in Italy with Editori Adelphi e Giunti.

STEFANO BOERI

Stefano Boeri was born in Milan in 1956 and is an architect and full professor of urban planning at the Politecnico di Milano. In Shanghai, he leads the Future City Lab at Tongji University. He is chairman of the Futuro delle Città Foundation and the Scientific Committee of Forestami, an urban forestry project in the metropolitan area of Milan. As President of Triennale Milano (since 2018), he is Commissioner of the 24th International Exhibition, titled 'Inequalities', scheduled for 2025. In addition to his role as a designer, Boeri is known for his research, visions and master plans regarding the future of the urban condition. He has worked on regeneration and development projects for metropolises and major cities, including Shanghai, St. Paul, Moscow, Geneva, Tirana, Eindhoven, Utrecht, Cancun, Riyadh, Cairo, and in Italy, Milan, Genoa, Cagliari, Padova, Taranto and many more. Thanks to its 'Green Obsession' design approach, Stefano Boeri Architetti was awarded the UN SDG's Action Award in the Inspire category in 2023.

FRIDA BOLLANI MAGONI

Frida Bollani Magoni was born in Versilia in 2004. She started studying classical piano regularly at the age of seven under the guidance of master Paolo Razzuoli, who taught her braille musical notation. She has collaborated several times with the Massimo Nunzi Operaia Orchestra (jazz big band) as both a singer and pianist, performing at the Auditorium Parco della Musica in Rome. Bollani Magoni has often performed as a surprise guest at concerts of her parents (Petra Magoni and Stefano Bollani), both in Italy and abroad. On 23 April 2021, she was a special guest of the television broadcast *Rai Via dei Matti numero 0*, led by her father, Stefano Bollani, and Valentina Cenni. She performed at the Quirinale Palace in front of the President of the Republic during the Italian Republic Day celebrations of 2 June 2021. In addition to her touching interpretation of the national anthem, the very young musician performed a moving version of Lucio Dalla's masterpiece 'Caruso' in music and voice and honoured Franco Battiato with an interpretation of the song 'La Cura'. In 2021, she played in Milan to accompany Roberto Bolle in *L'Opera Meravigliosa: Roberto Bolle for the Cathedral of Milan*. On 20 June 2022, she released her first album, *First Tour*.

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MASSIMO BRAY

Massimo Bray, born in Lecce in 1959, has been Managing Director of the *Enciclopedia Italiana*, founded by Giovanni Treccani, since 2015. Previously, he was the Encyclopedia's editorial director (1994–2013) and head of the Modern History section (1991–1994). He was also Chairman of the La Notte della Taranta Foundation, which organises Europe's largest folk music festival. In 2013 elections, Bray was elected Deputy of the Democratic Party ticket, and on 28 April 2013 he was appointed Minister for Heritage, Cultural Activities and Tourism of the government headed by Enrico Letta. In March 2015 he resigned from Parliament and returned to Treccani. As President of the Fondazione per il Libro, la Musica e la Cultura, he was responsible for the 2017 and 2018 editions of the Turin International Book Fair. He published the book *Alla voce Cultura: Diario sospeso della mia esperienza di Ministro [Under the Heading of 'Culture': A Suspended Diary of My Experience as Minister]* (Manni, 2019).

SIMONA ERCOLANI

Born in Rome in 1963, award-winning producer, author and director Simona Ercolani turned her passion for storytelling into a job, and her experience into a company, founding in 2010, Stand By Me – an audiovisual production company of which she is CEO and Creative Director. Her first big success came in 1998, when she created and directed the TV format *Sfide [Challenges]* (RAI 3), one of the longest-running RAI programmes, which ran until 2016. She has designed and produced over 40 original programme formats and written more than ten series, collaborating with all major broadcasters (RAI, Mediaset, La7, Sky, WB Discovery, Netflix and PrimeVideo). In 2021 Ercolani directed and produced for Netflix the *Stories of a Generation—with Pope Francis*, an international docuseries inspired by the book written by Pope Francis and edited by Antonio Spadaro, *Sharing the Wisdom of Time*. One of her latest productions is the mini-series *Marconi, l'uomo che ha connesso il mondo [Marconi, the Man Who Networked the World]* (RAI1, 2024).

ROBERTO GENOVESI

Journalist, writer, scriptwriter and TV author Roberto Genovesi was born in Rome in 1965. Director of the publishing house *RAI Libri*, he has worked with major Italian periodicals and newspapers. He teaches

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'The theory and technology of interactive and cross-media languages' at various universities. With Newton Compton Editori he has published, in addition to the volumes of the Hidden Legion saga (*The Hidden Legion of the Roman Empire, The Commander of the Hidden Legion, The Return of the Hidden Legion, The King of the Jews, The Two Emperors and The Guardians of Rome*), he published *The Left Hand of Satan, The Black Templar, The Swabian Lion*, The Cursed Legion trilogy (*The General of the Damned, The Fortress of the Damned and The Invasion of the Damned*), *The Boy who Liberated Auschwitz* (finalist for the Acqui Storia award) and *The Angel Reaper*. His novels have also been published in Spain, Portugal and England. *Vigiles in Tenebris* is the official Facebook page dedicated to his novels.

RICCARDO GIUMELLI

Riccardo Giumelli was born in Carrara in 1978. An aphorism that more than others speaks to him is one that Machiavelli credits to Boccaccio: 'It is better to do and regret, than not to do and regret'. Like them, he is Tuscan, a restless soul looking for harbours to dock in and set off from again. He is a sociologist, teaching Communication Theories and Techniques at the University of Verona and Research Methodology in the Digital Society at Unimercuratorum University. He has been a visiting professor at the University of Mar del Plata, in the Italian Culture and Globalization studies programme. He is a journalist for *La Voce di New York*. He is Chairman of the Italy-United States Association of Verona. He is a member of the Board of Directors of APS Radici Venete, a winning project for Veneto with regard to roots tourism. He is the author of several monographs, including: *Post-Made in Italy: New Meanings, New Challenges in Global Society*; and in *Discovering Themselves as Italians: Roots Journeys in Italy*.

MATTEO LORITO

Professor Matteo Lorito, born in Salerno in 1961, is the rector of the University of Naples Federico II. He has held the positions of Director of the Department of Arboriculture, Botanicals and Plant Pathology; Erasmus Delegate, Faculty of Agriculture; Director of the Doctorate in Agrobiology and Agrochemistry; Chairman of the Doctorate Programme in Agricultural and Agricultural Sciences; Chairman of the Bachelor's Degrees in Agricultural, Forestry and Environmental Sciences; Coordinator of the Biology and Protection of Agricultural and Forestry Systems Section of the Agriculture Department; Designated Chairman of the School of Agriculture and Veterinary Science; elected member of the Academic Senate (Representative of

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Full Professors, then Representative of the Department Heads); Member of the Scientific Committee of the Quality Presidium; Deputy Coordinator of the Statutes and Regulations Committee; Elected Member of the Board and Vice-President of the Italian Society of Plant Pathology; and President of the Italian Society of Plant Pathology (2020-today). Since 2020, he has been the Rector of the University of Naples Federico II. He has been Chairman of the Agritech Foundation since 2022.

FRANCESCO MORAGLIA

The Patriarch of Venice, Mons. Francesco Moraglia, was born in Genoa in 1953. He was ordained as a priest on 29 June 1977 and obtained his doctorate in Dogmatic Theology. He held the position of professor of theology at the Faculty of Theology of Northern Italy and, from December 1994 to 2007, was Dean of the Ligurian Higher Institute of Religious Sciences. On 6 December 2007 he was elected to the bishopric of Spezia-Sarzana-Brugnato and received the episcopal order on 3 February 2008 in the Cathedral of Genoa from Cardinal Angelo Bagnasco. On 31 January 2012, Pope Benedict XVI appointed him Patriarch of Venice and on 25 March 2012 he commenced his episcopal ministry in the Patriarchate. In the same year, he was elected President of the Episcopal Conference of Triveneto, a position he still holds. In 2012, as a synodal father, he participated in the XIII Ordinary General Assembly of the Bishops' Synod on New Evangelising. He is currently a member of the International Council for Catechesis and the Permanent Council of the Italian Episcopal Conference. In February 2023, Pope Francis appointed him a member of the Dicastery for Culture and Education.

UMBERTO VATTANI

Born in Skopje in 1938, Ambassador Umberto Vattani graduated in Law and Political Science from the Luiss University in Rome. In 1965, we was member of the Italian Delegation to the UN General Assembly, later he acted as Minister Counsellor at the Italian Embassy in London and Personal Representative of the Prime Minister for the Summits of the Seven Most Industrialised Countries. In April 1989, he was appointed Ambassador and held his post in the Federal Republic of Germany until 1996. Back in Rome, Vattani held the position of Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs until 2001, the most important post for a diplomat at the Ministry. From 25 September 2001, he was Italy's Permanent Representative to the European Union in Brussels.