

Desiring divas: the diva in modern Italian culture, 22 & 23 September 2011

Music Room and Annexe, Downing College, Cambridge

<http://www.dow.cam.ac.uk/>

Thursday 22 September

10.30 – 11.00 Registration & welcome

11.00 – 12.00 **Keynote speaker:** Susan Rutherford (Manchester), 'Divining the 'Diva', or a Myth and its Legacy: Italian Opera and Female Singers'
Chair: Kate Mitchell

12.00 – 13.30 Parallel sessions 1

1A The First Divas (Music Room)

Chair: Catherine Ramsey-Portolano

Anne-Marie Sorrenti (University of Toronto) 'Mad-Hot Madrigals: Selections from the *Rime* (1601) of Late Sixteenth-Century Diva Isabella Andreini (1562-1604)'

Clorinda Donato (California State University, Long Beach) 'The Emergence of the Diva in Grand Tour Italy: Antonia Cavallucci and the Politics of Fame'

Julie Dashwood (University of Cambridge) 'Early divas: playwrights, roles and images'

1B Divas in the 1950s I (Annexe)

Chair: Catherine O'Rawe

Danielle Hipkins (University of Exeter) 'Un fiore nel fango': Alida Valli's prostitute films'

Reka Buckley (University of Portsmouth) 'Loving La Lollo: the Enduring Fandom of Gina Lollobrigida'

Emma Van Ness (University of California, Los Angeles) '*Io la conosco bene... or did I?*

Antonio Pietrangeli, Authorship and the Actress'

13.30 – 15.00 Buffet lunch

15.00 – 16.00 Parallel sessions 2

2A Ottocento Divas (Music Room)

Chair: George Biddlecombe

Armando Rotondi (University of Strathclyde) 'Images of divas from the articles of Roberto Bracco'

Catherine Ramsey-Portolano (American University of Rome) 'The Sick Woman: Cultural and Artistic Models of Femininity and Sexuality in *fin de siècle* Italian Literature and Early Italian Cinema'

2B Contemporary Divas (Annexe)

Chair: Danielle Hipkins

Rebecca Bauman (Columbia University) '*Divi ambigui*: Masculinity and Stardom in the Films of Ferzan Özpetek'

Mattia Marino (Bangor University) 'Italian-American *Femmes Fatales* and the Americanized Italian Anti-Velina: Satanic Imagery and Italian Patriarchy in the Diva Cultures of the Author Isabella Santacroce and the Pop-stars Madonna and Lady Gaga'

16.00 – 16.30 Tea break

16.30 – 18.00 Parallel sessions 3

3A Opera Divas (Music Room)

Chair: Susan Rutherford

George Biddlecombe (Royal Academy of Music, London) 'Femininity, Culture and Commerce: Sheet Music Illustration and Popular Song as Promotional vehicles for Nineteenth-Century Female Opera Singers'

Catherine O'Rawe (University of Bristol) 'E lucevan le stelle: Tosca, the Resistance, and the Divo'

Anne-Laetitia Garcia (Institut d'Etudes Théâtrales de Paris 3 Sorbonne Nouvelle) 'Maria Callas: Iconography of a Diva'

3B 1950s Divas II (Annexe)

Chair: Mattia Marino

Paolo Noto (Università di Bologna) 'Saints, prostitutes, stars. Divas' Performances between the 1940s and 1950s: Changes of Clothes, Dances, Stripteases, and Guest Appearances'

Sandra Frost (De Montfort University, Leicester) 'From English Rose to Italian Diva: the Tragic, Glamorous Trajectory of Belinda Lee'

Tina Chiappetta-Miller (Wesleyan University) 'Not Just a Pretty Face: Anna Magnani in Visconti's *Bellissima*'

19.00 Prosecco reception followed by a Silver Service dinner at Downing College

Friday 23 September

9.15 – 10.15 **Keynote speaker:** Lucia Re (University of California, Los Angeles), 'Eleonora Duse and Women: Performing Desire, Power and Knowledge'

Chair:

10.30 – 12.20 31st Cambridge Film Festival screenings of *Cenere* (1916) and *Diva Dolorosa* (1998) followed by discussion with Lucia Re, Mary Wood, Susan Rutherford and Catherine O'Rawe at the Cambridge Arts Picturehouse, 38-39 St Andrews Street (public event in Screen 3)

12.30 – 13.30 Buffet lunch

13.30 – 15.00 Parallel sessions 4

4A Duse (Music Room)

Chair: Kate Mitchell

Enza De Francisci (University College, London) '(E)Leonora, Addio! Pirandello's Tribute to Duse?'

Maria Coduri (University College, London) 'Eleonora Duse, Arrigo Boito and William Shakespeare'

Silvia Mei (Università di Pisa) 'Donne fragili per un'attrice divina. Prototipi femminili nell'arte di Eleonora Duse'

4B Music Artists of the 50s & 60s (Annexe)

Chair:

Rachel Haworth (University of Leeds) 'The Many Meanings of Mina, Italian Popular Music Diva'

Harriet Boyd (King's College, London) paper read by Kate Guthrie (KCL) 'Nino Rota and the (Anti-?)Fascist Star'

15.00 – 15.30 Tea break

15.30 – 16.30 Session 5

5A Performing Divas (Music Room)

Chair:

Erin Larkin (Southern Connecticut) 'Valentine de Saint Point and Benedetta Cappa: Divas of the postdomani'

Chloe Valenti (University of Cambridge) 'Ready for her closeup? Voice and camera in live cinema opera broadcasts'

16.30 – 17.30 **Keynote speaker:** Mary Wood (Birkbeck College, London), 'The Diva as Brand'

17.30 – 18.00 Concluding remarks