

## Linking the Diaspora Cinematically

Joey Skee (May 23, 2008)



The screenshot shows the website for the 'The Weird Mob 2: The Italian Invasion' Film Festival 2007. The header features a colorful, pixelated background with the text 'FILEF PRESENTS THE WEIRD MOB 2 FILM FESTIVAL 2007 THE ITALIAN INVASION' and the dates 'JUNE 4-9'. A navigation bar includes links: 'the festival', 'the program', 'more info', 'the films', 'forum', 'contact us', 'media room', 'archive', 'sponsors', and 'FILEF'. The main content area is split into two columns. The left column features a large image of a man in profile, looking towards the right, with a colorful, abstract background. The right column contains text: 'Following the success of The Word Mob Film Festival 2005, FILEF (Federation of Italian Migrant Workers and their Families) is proud to announce: The Weird Mob 2, The Italian Invasion screening from 4-9 June 2007. This year The Word Mob has evolved with a new international flavour and continues to embrace the Italian diaspora around the world'. To the right of this text is a small, stylized graphic of a person's head. At the bottom right, there is a red logo for 'SYDNEY ITALIAN FESTIVAL 07'.

Australia's Federation of Italian Migrant Workers and their Families holds its "The Weird Mob 2: The Italian Invasion" Film Festival.



"Italian migration is a weird phenomenon." With that understatement, artistic director Massimiliano Civili sets the stage for Sydney's "The Weird Mob 2: The Italian Invasion" Film Festival, June 4th-9th. The festival explores and links Italian diasporic experiences in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Switzerland, and the United States, with the screening of shorts, documentaries, and feature length films.

Films include older works like Francesco Rosi's *The Magliari* and Franco Brusati's *Bread and Chocolate* (1974) to recent films like Fatih Akin's *Solino* (2002) and Giuseppe Gagliardi's musical road-movie mockumentary *La vera leggenda di Tony Vilar* (2006). As Civili writes, "This film festival demonstrates that in order to invade the world, the only weapons needed are a strong sense of community and a flexible and receptive culture." Seems like we Americans can learn a thing or two from this event!

The festival sponsor is the Federation of Italian Migrant Workers and Families (FILEF) is a non-profit, progressive community organization established in Australia in 1972. It's worth quote the organization's description:

Its key objective is to promote a multicultural Australia which values the heritage and culture of all Australians. It's a voluntary organization and to achieve its aims it organizes a variety of activities for all those who are interested in Italian language and culture, and in social issues, whether they are of Italian background or not.

FILEF also provides a forum for those who strive for a more just and ecologically sustainable society. A society that is democratic and inclusive. We also organize cultural and social evenings, public meetings and campaigns focused on current social issues. [. . .]

One off shoot of FILEF is **Movimento Città Verde**, who (sic) deals specifically with information on ecological issues [and] maintains contacts with the Australian environmental organizations . . .

We do have a lot to learn from our paesani down under.

**Related Links:** <http://www.theweirdmob.com> [2]

**Source URL:** <http://www.iitaly.org/magazine/focus/art-culture/article/linking-diaspora-cinematically>

### Links

[1] <http://www.iitaly.org/files/1969weirdmobfilmfestival20081211581260.jpg>

[2] <http://www.theweirdmob.com>