

The Department of French & Italian presents
a PhD Dissertation Defense

Leonardo Cabrini **Tele-Cinefilia RAI (1975-2005)**

10:00 am, Tuesday, June 13, 2023, on Zoom.

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After the liberalization of Italian broadcasting in 1976, and thus the consequent birth of new private channels, the state-owned television (RAI) was faced with a new competitive market. The audience became more demanding and needed diversified content. Along with broadcasting mainstream movies, the cinephile niche placed itself within the TV schedule. From the late 1970s, some film critics and movie club organizers

became managers and authors for RAI. These critics, such as Claudio G. Fava and Vieri Razzini, organized retrospectives dedicated to auteurs, movie rarities, and unreleased products, providing introductions and commentaries. In 1985, for the ninetieth anniversary of the birth of cinema, Enrico Ghezzi, Marco Melani, and Irene Bignardi produced *La Magnifica Ossessione*, a forty-hour, non-stop marathon of cult movies, art films, trailers, music videos, and interviews. The influence of Enrico Ghezzi distinguished him from other Italian film critics; his program

Fuori Orario - Cose (mai) viste (RAI 3, 1989), a nocturnal container of rare movies, video experiments and esoteric film comments, is still running today. The relationship between film, television, and critics occurred in tandem with the widespread diffusion of the VCR. The cinephiles telespectators could build up their video archives and, therefore, their own edited copies with peculiar paratexts. This dissertation focuses on how RAI, with the abovementioned broadcasting and audiovisual experiments, embraced a tele-cinephilic approach. Critics, film scholars, and specialists working in RAI aimed at engaging the spectator by dealing with the pleasure of cinema per se and the experience of films as television programs or as fragments of the TV flow.



Committee:

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