



Allison Rowat

[Herald Cinema: Cinema Paradiso](#)

“Better and busier every year ... a thrilling mix”

I know it can sometimes seem that film festivals are up there with hot dinners for their ubiquitousness, but one that starts next week is definitely worth a visit. The Italian Film Festival, coming on the back of box office hits and prize winners Gomorrah and Il Divo, gets better and busier each year.

In charge of selecting this year’s films are Richard Mowe and Allan Hunter. They’ve gone for a thrilling mix of the famous and the not so well known, adding in a tribute to Alida Valli of The Third Man fame.

The Silvio Soldini-directed Days and Clouds, a moving family drama about a husband adrift without a job, opens the festival on Friday, April 17. Other picks: another family drama, Giovanni’s Father (Pupi Avati), psychological thriller The Past is a Foreign Land (Daniele Vicari), Wild Blood, starring Monica Bellucci, and Ferzan Ozpetek’s A Perfect Day.

The festival runs till May 27 at the Glasgow Film Theatre, Edinburgh Filmhouse/Dominion, Dundee DCA, St Andrews New Picture House, and Eden Court in Inverness.

For more information, see www.italianfilmfestival.org.uk