



**TORONTO  
MAY 2-4  
COLUMBUS  
CENTRE**

**CELEBRATING  
ITALIAN  
CANADIAN  
WRITING  
AND  
CULTURE**



Toronto Italian Book Festival

**20  
25**



## **Giose Rimanelli Centenary Committee**

### **TORONTO**

Happie Testa  
Roberto Bandiera  
Annamarie Castrilli  
Carmela Sisto  
Giuliana Colalillo  
Pal Di Iulio  
Roberta  
Iannacito Provenzano

### **MONTREAL**

Cassandra Marsillo  
Jon Carlo Santangelo

## **CELEBRATING MOLISE AND GIOSE RIMANELLI**

This year Librissimi is honoured to host the launch of *Molise My Home - Lino Rufo canta Giose Rimanelli*, a collection of 11 songs adapted from poems in Italian and dialect by Giose Rimanelli. This album is a tribute to one of one of Molise's most distinguished literary and cultural figures in North America. Imagined and brought to life by Remo Di Giandomenico and Lino Rufo, this album is a testament not only to Rimanelli but to the region of Molise and its dialect.

On the occasion of the centenary year of his birth, in addition to the special Opening Night Music and Poetry Event, Librissimi explores Giose Rimanelli's oeuvre. Moderated by Prof. Roberta Iannacito-Provenzano, the panel features distinguished speakers and presenters who will take us on a journey to rediscover this illustrious author.

The Festival also features an exhibition, curated by Giuliana Colalillo, showcasing artifacts related to Rimanelli's work, as well as cultural, literary and historical artifacts from Molisan diasporic heritage in Toronto.

We also welcome the Azienda Autonoma Turismo e Soggiorno del Molise joining us for this special celebration and to highlight the cultural and historical riches of the region.

## **GIOSE RIMANELLI AND HIS CANADIAN CONNECTION**

Born in 1925 in Italy (Casacalenda, Molise) where he lived until the 1950s, author, poet and playwright Giose Rimanelli, has important Canadian ties.

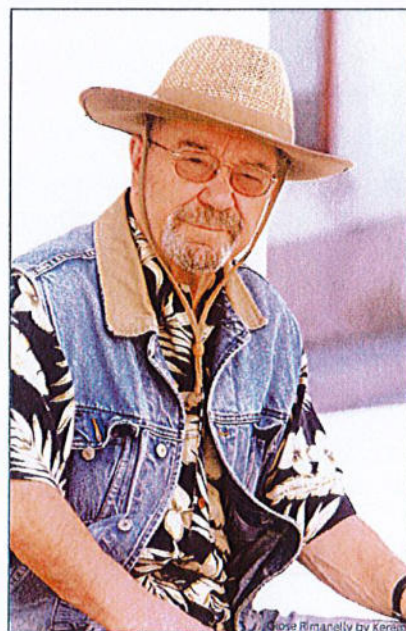
His mother was born in Canada, her maiden name was Minicucci, and at least one older brother (Rimanelli's uncle) remained his entire life in Canada. Her father (Rimanelli's grandfather) was a jazz musician who was born in New Orleans. He moved to Canada after the horrific New Orleans massacre to which he was a witness.

Rimanelli himself lived in Canada for a time before settling in the US. He was editor of *Il Cittadino Canadese*, and his first English language novel, *Benedetta in Guysterland*, was published in Canada by Antonio D'Alfonso, founder of Guernica Editions.

After his time in Canada, he returned to Italy and remained there for over 6 years before going to the States as a guest of the Library of Congress. He was the first Italian to speak at the LOC. After this lecture he was offered several university teaching positions.

Rimanelli was also a lecturer at University of British Columbia, and was often in Canada for talks and presentations with other institutions.

Notably, Rimanelli's first novel *Tiro al Piccione* was translated into eight languages, and later made into a highly acclaimed movie by Giuliano Montaldo, although Rimanelli himself was not involved in the production of the movie and the story was somewhat altered for the big screen.





# Festival Schedule

**SATURDAY MAY 3, 2025**

Time	Description	Presenters
10:00	<b>NEW TRENDS IN ITALIAN CANADIAN LITERATURE</b> This panel explores emerging themes, voices, and genres shaping contemporary Italian-Canadian literature. From hybrid identities to experimental narratives, panelists will discuss how writers navigate heritage, language, and evolving cultural landscapes.	Terri Favro Nicole Haldoupis Daniel Scarcello Renée M. Sgroi  MODERATOR Christine Sansalone Organized by AICW
11:00	<b>MOLISE MIO</b> Rediscovering the life and the rich writing of Giose Rimanelli, one of North America's foremost representatives of the Molisan literary diaspora	Fred Gardaphé Anna Maria Milone Sheryl Postman  MODERATOR Roberta Iannacito Provenzano
12:15	<b>WOMEN ON THE MOVE</b> Italian Migration in the Feminine. Reflecting on the experience of women, those who left Italy with their families and those who more recently seek new paths on their own.	Loredana Cornero Gina Valle Michela Valmori  MODERATOR Lisa Ariemma
1:15	Lunch Break	
1:45	<b>SALOTTO DEL ROMANZO</b> Showcasing new releases in Italian Canadian fiction	John Calabrò Carmela Circelli Genni Gunn Michael Mirolla  MODERATOR Rosaria Moretti-Lawrie

# Festival Schedule

**SATURDAY MAY 3, 2025**

Time	Description	Presenters
3:00	<b>SALOTTO DELLA POESIA</b> Showcasing new releases in Italian Canadian Poetry	Josie Di Sciascio Andrews Josephine LoRe Silvia Falsaperla Pietro Sostegno  MODERATOR Domenico Capilongo
4:00	<b>WORKER TO SENATOR   Book Launch</b> A conversation about Peter Bosa, a towering figure in the Italian Canadian community, based on the book, From Factory Worker to Senator: A Biography of Peter Bosa, by Vincenzo Pietropaolo. The panel will follow a presentation of the book and reading by the author. Peter Bosa emigrated to Canada at the age of 21 with only grade 5 education. He worked in a factory for nine years, studied at night, and became a highly-respected community leader and one of the first Italian-Canadian members of the Senate.	Annamarie Castrilli Konrad Eisenbichler Vincenzo Pietropaolo  MODERATOR Happie Testa

**SUNDAY MAY 4, 2025**

Time	Description	Presenters
10:30	<b>PREMIO ITALIA RADICI NEL MONDO</b> A new Italian literary award connects with the diaspora and selects an Italian Canadian writer as one of its inaugural winners!	Domenico Capilongo Giovanna Di Lello  MODERATOR Daniela Sanzone
11:00	<b>A LITERARY HARVEST</b> Presenting a new anthology of Canadian Writing About Wine and Other Libations	Rosanna Micelotta Battigelli Damiano Pietropaolo Giovanna Riccio  MODERATOR George-Elliott Clarke



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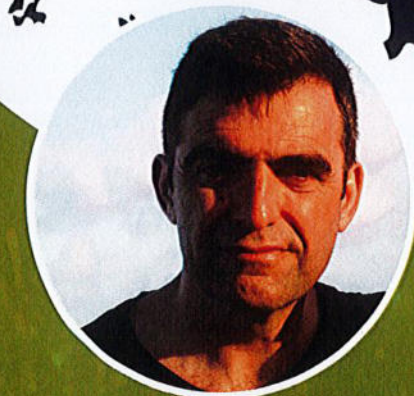
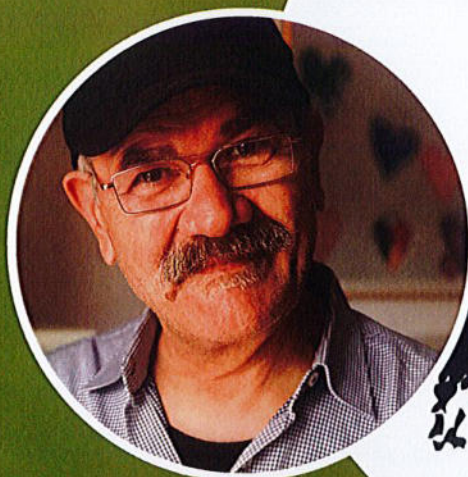
Time	Description	Presenters
12:00	<b>WE ARE WHAT WE EAT?</b> The importance of regional cuisine in shaping, preserving and sharing cultural identity	Paolo Granata Cassandra Marsillo Luciano Schipano  MODERATOR Jenny Arena
3:00	<b>PREMIAZIONI CONCORSO LIBRISSIMI SCUOLA</b> The Consulate General of Italy - Ufficio Scuola e Promozione della lingua italiana, in collaboration of Librissimi presents the Awards for this special Italian writing competition for children. Presentation followed by a light reception offered by the Consulate General.	Organizing Committee: Luca Buiani Michela Di Marco Laura Innocenti Happie Testa

**ALL WEEKEND - MAY 2, 3, 4, 2025**

Time	Description	
ALL DAY	<b>EXHIBITION - RICHES OF MOLISAN MEMORY</b> Many objects brought by immigrants upon migration evoke memories and fragments of the lives of their ancestors and the places they left behind. In this display, treasured artifacts, borrowed from families of Molisan origin, are identified by their traditional names, place of origin and/or use. A signed manuscript by Giose Rimanelli is a central component of this exhibit, along with other literary texts. The exhibit also features a map of Molise, the newest and second smallest region of Italy, information on its immigration diaspora, its artisanal towns, its nature reserves and its historic transhumance paths. The exhibition also honours the work of Canadian molisani authors.	Produced by the Rimanelli Centenary Committee  Curated by Giuliana Colalillo



Present



# **MOLISE MY HOME**

**LINO RUFO CANTA  
GIOSE RIMANELLI**

## **LIBRISSIMI OPENING SHOW**

With Special Guests:

Dom Fiore | Andrea Ramolo | Nino Ricci



**Friday May 2, 2025 |** LITERARY PROGRAMMING  
May 3 + 4, 2025



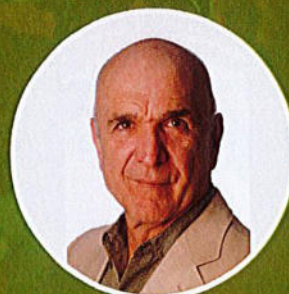
Doors Open At 7:00 pm  
Show starts at 7:30 pm



Columbus Centre  
901 Lawrence Avenue West | Toronto



[www.librissimi.ca](http://www.librissimi.ca)



**FREE ENTRY |** LIMITED SPACE  
reservations required



# PRIMAVERA MOLISANA

## MOLISE MY HOME

**Lino Rufo canta Giose Rimanelli**

**05.09.2025**

**19.00 - 21.00**

**Teatro Amelia & Lino Saputo**



**LEONARDO DA VINCI**

CENTRO | CENTRE





3 EVENTS TO DISCOVER  
MOLISE, THE REGION AT THE HEART OF ITALY

May 9 - June 9

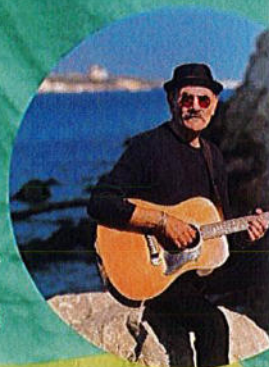
PRIMAVERA  
M O L I S A N A

MAY 9

7 to 9 p.m.

Molise My Home:

Lino Rufo sings Giosè Rimanelli



MAY 21

7 to 8:30 p.m.

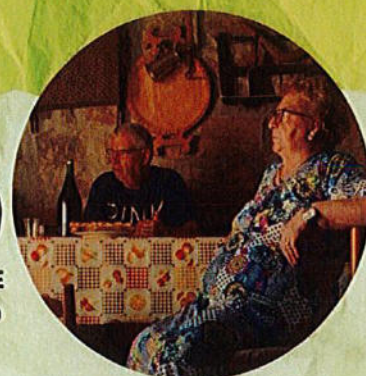
A vije du Molise: Molise's dialect through  
linguistics, history, and poetry



JUNE 9

TIME

Molise Tropico Felice by L. Grispello



BONUS!

MAY 26

TIME

Volevo nascondermi by G. Diritti,  
with Elio Germano, actor with  
Molisan roots



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