

## CHELMSFORD FILM CLUB

An Independent film society based in Chelmsford

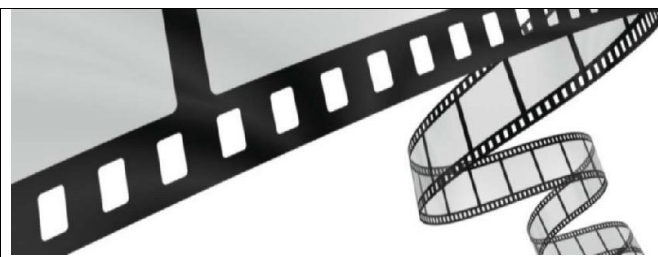
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**IO CAPITANO** - Wednesday 26 March 2025

*Dir Matteo Garonne*    *Italy/Belgium/France*    2023    121 mins

Cast: Seydou Sarr (Seydou); Moustapha Fall (Moussa); Issaka Sawadogo (Martin); Affifa Ben Badra (Autista pick-up); Bamar Kane (Bouba).

Director Garonne's (*Gomorra/2008*, *Tale of Tales/2015*, *Dogman/2018*) original idea for this film led him to collaborate with Massimo Gaudiosa, Massimo Cecherini and Andrea Tagliaferri to write the script.

Seydou and Moussa, played by nonprofessional acting newcomers, are two teenage cousins living in Dakar, Senegal, who dream of escaping poverty, and so make plans to get to Italy. Although this is fiercely opposed by the local community, especially Seydou's mother, they steal away in the night and find themselves facing a number of challenging obstacles, to say the least. As refugees in the fabled land of the EU, they hope to 'go viral' and make a fortune as music stars, like the people they're watching on TikTok.

Hope and fantasy coexist closely in the film, despite the gruesome, horrific and graphic experiences the two teenagers face. The better future that tempts them to undergo the perilous journey across the Sahara and the Mediterranean may be no more substantial than the mirage of a floating woman of Seydou's hallucination in the desert.

Part adventure story, part slavery drama, this film ably illustrates the pervasive presence, still, of slavery in the globalised modern world, driven by the age-old forces of geopolitics, the market and greed.

An enjoyable discussion took place after our last film, 'The Commandant's Shadow' as we completed our Holocaust event, including 'The Zone of Interest'. Thanks to those who took part. There are just two films left of the current season after 'Io Capitano'. Before the final film, 'Monster', we will be holding a third raffle. Any contributions toward prizes would be most gratefully received.

Our next screening: **The Dead Don't Hurt** on Thursday 10 April.

