



## Finding Joseph Tusiani

(September 24, 2012)



**CALANDRA  
ITALIAN  
AMERICAN  
INSTITUTE**

**Italian Heritage & Culture Committee  
of New York, Inc.**

**ATENA FILMS PRODUCTION**

You are cordially invited to a screening of the new documentary

**Finding Joseph Tusiani: The Poet of Two Lands**  
*directed by Sabrina Digregorio*

**Saturday, September 29, 1,30 PM**

*The screening will be preceded by a symposium*  
**Both events take place at Hunter College's Lang Recital Hall, North Building,  
68th Street, between Park Ave and Lexington Ave**

**Please call 212.642.2094 for reservations**

On September 29 Joseph Tusiani, one of most respected cultural figures not only among the Italian-American community, but indeed within the greater realm of American letters, will be celebrated at Hunter College's Lang Recital Hall.

Poet, fiction writer, essayist, translator, and professor, Joseph Tusiani has distinguished himself in so many ways. He was the first American ever to win England's prestigious Greenwood Prize; President Kennedy invited him to record his poetry (an hour-long tape) for the Archives of the Library of Congress; Joseph also held the position of vice president of the Poetry Society of America—great



accomplishments each in their own right, let alone all part of a most distinguished career of one individual, which includes further accolades still.

Joseph's books and essays are many; he published his creative work in four different languages (English, Italian, dialect, Latin), his critical work in two. His translations have, in turn, introduced the English-speaking world to the works of numerous Italian writers. Further still, he continues to create, as always, splendid work.

In the meantime, we leave you with one of Joseph's signature poems:

**ETHNICITY**

O new awareness of my ancient light,  
What's then so new about this earth of mine?  
Though everything you seem to redefine.  
'Tis but a tale of night excluding night  
So I discover what in me was bright  
Long before brightness was allowed to shine,  
Able at last to trace and underline  
Letter and spirit of my simple right.

Now, only now the truth I understand—  
That, born as mortal as a bird or bat,  
Man ever longs for some immortal land  
Brother, you came from Erin, I from Rome,  
And others started hence—but what of that?  
Today migration and tomorrow home.

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**September 29, 2012 \* 10AM to 4:30PM**  
**Lang Recital Hall, North Building**  
**Hunter College, East 68th St.**  
(between Park and Lexington Avenues)

This symposium takes its name from the documentary on Joseph Tusiani made in 2011 by

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Sabrina DiGregorio. A major voice in American and Italian letters, Tusiani has dedicated his professional life to the creation, promotion, and promulgation of Italian Studies in the United States. An international award-winning poet, he writes in four different languages (English, Gargano Dialect, Italian, Latin) and has published his work worldwide.

10,00 AM **Opening Comments**

Paolo Fasoli, Chair, Romance Languages, Hunter College  
Joseph Sciame, President, Italian Heritage & Culture Committee  
Riccardo Viale, Director, Italian Cultural Institute, New York  
Natalia Quintavalle, Consul General of Italy to New York

10,30 AM **Re-reading Joseph Tusiani**

Maria C. Pastore Passaro

"La poesia inesplorata di Joseph Tusiani"

John T. Kirby

"Tusiani and Neo-Latin"

Luigi Bonaffini

"Tusiani, Writer and Translator of Dialect Poetry"

Paolo Giordano

"Tusiani's American Odyssey"

Luigi Fontanella

"Joseph Tusiani and His Poetry in Gradiva"

12,30 PM **Lunch break** (Lunch provided)

1,30 PM Film Viewing

**Finding Joseph Tusiani: The Poet of Two Lands**

Dir. Sabrina Digregorio. Atena Films, 2011. (80 min.)

3,00 PM **Tavola Rotonda**

Conference Participants and Filmmaker

4,00 PM **Presentation of the Leonardo da Vinci Award**

**This symposium is co-sponsored by the Italian Heritage and Culture Committee NY, Inc. and Atena Films**

**Conference Coordinators**

**Giuliana Ridolfi & Anthony Julian Tamburri**

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**John D. Calandra Italian American Institute**

**25 West 43rd Street, 17th floor**

**New York, New York 10036**

**(Between 5th and 6th Avenues)**

Free and open to the public. RSVP by calling [\(212\) 642-2094](tel:2126422094) [2]. Please note that seating is limited and we cannot reserve seats.

For further information see our Web site at [www.qc.edu/calandra](http://www.qc.edu/calandra) [3].



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[1] <http://newsite.iitaly.org/files/jsptusiani1348517771.jpg>

[2] <tel:%28212%29%20642-2094>

[3] [http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=001ocToAj9xE11\\_XbUPTCnfrDtYKFUipdSqi89Y5bjSuANDkTgAE-l3dKKtRuerJlxKDjZPL8INlhr2Ownsh1ZVafnykRIMlplsg2-4CVdLDWFAsLJR9K8Zg==](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=001ocToAj9xE11_XbUPTCnfrDtYKFUipdSqi89Y5bjSuANDkTgAE-l3dKKtRuerJlxKDjZPL8INlhr2Ownsh1ZVafnykRIMlplsg2-4CVdLDWFAsLJR9K8Zg==)