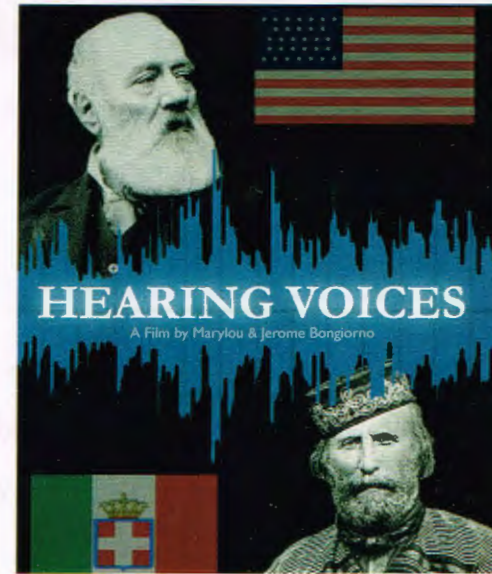


VIDEO REVIEW:

HEARING VOICES

The Perfect 22 minute film for a Heritage Meeting:
By Italians, about Italians, and for EVERYONE

Review by Diane Beni, Livingston Chapter



Marylou and Jerome Bongiorno are Emmy-nominated and award-winning filmmakers based in Newark, NJ.

In their latest project, *Hearing Voices*, the “ghosts” of General Giuseppe Garibaldi and Inventor Antonio Meucci reunite at the home they shared in 1850’s Staten Island to hash out their legacies of Italian Unification and the invention of the telephone while debating the bigger question of: why do we fight?

The film was an eye-opener for me in the sense that I didn’t realize that Garibaldi lived and worked with Meucci for a time and nor did I know all the heart-breaking series of events that allowed Alexander Graham Bell to patent the telephone, with the recognition and wealth that should have been Meucci’s. The entire conversation between the “ghosts” highlighted many details about Garibaldi and Meucci that may have been forgotten (or not commonly known) and which the film articulately and entertainingly reminds the viewer. It offers a concise history of two men who changed the world in their own way.

The why do we fight exchanges between the characters fuel thought and discussion even after the credits roll.

Hearing Voices was filmed at the men’s actual home on Staten Island; which is now the site of the Garibaldi-Meucci museum. It was produced with the support of the Francesco and Mary Giambelli Foundation, Inc., the Garibaldi-Meucci museum and the Staten Island Foundation.

The length of this film (22) minutes is well suited to be shown at a UNICO meeting. It will certainly spark conversation afterward. A trailer can be viewed on the website: bongiornoproductions.com

The Bongiorno’s offer the *Hearing Voices* DVD for \$25 plus shipping. This is a discounted price for Italian-American organizations, like UNICO, that Marylou and Jerome ardently support. They are available to be speakers at a meeting to present the film either in person or via SKYPE.

Other Italian-centric films in the Bongiorno Productions library include:

- *Mother Tongue*, which explores the special relationship Italian-American men have with their mothers. Martin Scorsese, Rudy Giuliani and John Turturro are among those interviewed. (43 minutes)
- *Little Kings*, a zesty family comedy with variety of ingredients: love, adultery, sibling rivalry, the occult, incest, union troubles, and much more. (99 minutes)

Marylou and Jerome Bongiorno can be contacted at:
email@bongiornoproductions.com
Films can be purchased at:
Bongiornoproductions.com