



Stony Brook University  
College of Arts and Sciences

The Center for Italian Studies

The Joseph Tromba Lecture Series



# DACIA MARAINI

## Stories Help Us Survive

Dacia Maraini was born in Florence to Topazia Alliata, a famous artist, and Fosco Maraini, an anthropologist specializing in Asian cultures. Because of Fosco's interest and work in the Far East, the Marainis moved to Japan in 1938; there they were later interned in a concentration camp for two years as they refused to swear allegiance to Mussolini's Republic of Salò.

Dacia has written numerous works regarding important social causes such as femicide and child abuse (*L'amore rubato* [The Stolen Love] (2009)). She has won the Campiello Prize and several international awards with *La lunga vita di Marianna Ucria* [The Silent Duchess] (1990) and the Strega Prize with *Buio* [Darkness] (1999).

Traveling has been essential to Dacia's production. Her novel *La nave per Kobe* [The Ship to Kobe] (2003) is based on her mother's diaries, written during the long journey from Italy to Japan and testifies for Dacia's everlasting interest in reading and telling the stories of people and lands far away, including China, Korea, Japan, India, Pakistan, Tibet, Vietnam, and Yemen (***Sguardo a Oriente*** [Looking East], 2022).

Dacia continues to travel worldwide. Her latest book ***Caro Pier Paolo*** [Dear Pier Paolo] (2022) recounts her journey made of dialogues and cultural exchanges with enigmatic poet, filmmaker and intellectual Paolo Pasolini: a trusted and admired friend who walked with her the winding path of life before his premature and shocking death.

November 2, 2022

6:00 PM

The Center for Italian Studies

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