

**ROME FILM FEST
18 | 29 October 2023**

THE PROGRAMME FOR THURSDAY OCTOBER 19TH

The Rome Film Fest this year will award two Progressive Lifetime Achievement Awards: the first will be conferred to Haley Bennett during the preview screening of *Widow Clicquot* by Thomas Napper in the Grand Public section

The Grand Public section will also present *Diabolik chi sei?*, the final chapter in the trilogy by the Manetti bros., *The End We Start From*, Mahalia Belo's first film for the big screen, and *Saltburn*, the new film by Emerald Fennell, between noir and grotesque with an all-star cast

Among the films in the Competition, *Mi fanno male i capelli* by Roberta Torre, who elegantly, emotionally and discreetly sketches out a tribute to Monica Vitti, and *Fremont* by Babak Jalali, a refined description of a world of lonely and marginalised people

At Casa del Cinema, Isabella Rossellini introduces the program of shorts *Seduce me*, *Green Porno* and *FOX Film*, while Terence Hill is the featured guest at the presentation of *Lui era Trinità*.

The programme at the Palladium Theatre kicks off with the world premiere of Giorgio Testi's *Who To Love* presented to the audiences with an exclusive live show by Dave Stewart, Mokadelic and Greta Scarano

Tomorrow, Thursday October 19th, will open the programme of Grand Public, the non-competitive section dedicated to cinema for the wider public.

At 6 pm, in Sala Sinopoli at the Auditorium Parco della Musica Ennio Morricone, there will be a presentation of *Widow Clicquot* by Thomas Napper who has made a film, produced by Joe Wright, set in Napoleonic France but reminiscent of the atmospheres of the Brontë sisters. In 1805, Barbe-Nicole Ponsardin, at the early age of 27, lost her husband François Clicquot. They were in love, even though theirs was an arranged marriage, and had worked together to develop innovative methods for the family business' wine production. Despite the Napoleonic code's ostracism of female entrepreneurship (with a slight exception for widows) and the patronizing scepticism of her father-in-law, Barbe-Nicole stubbornly continued to pursue her work, at 360 degrees, from the cultivation to the sales. And created Veuve Clicquot, the most famous champagne in the world. Haley Bennett (Roxanne in Wright's *Cyrano*) imposes her own luminous power to create an avant-garde female character, driven by passion not only for love but also for creativity. Before the screening, the actress will come to the stage to receive the Progressive Cinema Lifetime Achievement Award of the eighteenth Rome Film Fest.

At 9 pm, in the same theatre for the same section, there will be the preview screening of *Diabolik chi sei?*, the final chapter of the trilogy by the Manetti Bros., written with Mario Gomboli, the actual author of one of the most long-running and fascinating of Italian comic art. Also starring Giacomo Gianniotti (Diabolik), Miriam Leone (Eva Kant), Valerio Mastandrea (Inspector Ginko) and Monica Bellucci (Altea9), the film is inspired by one of the most iconic books in the series, written by the legendary sisters Angela and Luciana Giussani in March 1968, which reveals the criminal's past and the origin of his name: when Diabolik and Inspector Ginko find themselves locked in a cell with no way out, certain they will die, they decide to share their pasts and, in particular, that of the King of Terror. Through a long choreography alternating flashbacks and tight action, the film reveals a perfectly-oiled process of writing, directing and editing.

At 4 pm, there will be a presentation of *The End We Start From*, produced by Benedict Cumberbatch (who also stars in it), Mahalia Belo's first film for the big screen, adapted from the prophetic novel by Megan Hunter written in 2017. The director expertly and with great originality mixes road movie, survival movie and (slightly) dystopian fantasy, a parable of female empowerment and a thriller of sentiments. In the film, London is semi-submerged by catastrophic climate events: a woman, her partner and their new-born baby seek to save their lives by going North, in a world where civilisation is falling apart.

At 9:15 pm in Sala Petrassi, the featured film is *Saltburn*, the second film directed by Emerald Fennell, the British actress (Camilla Parker-Bowles in *The Crown*) and author of *Promising Young Woman* (Oscar® 2020 for Best Screenplay). English-style social classes and class struggle, with a bit of Ealing Comedies and lots of blue blood: sulphureous, between noir and grotesque, with Rosamund Pike, Richard E. Grant, Carey Mulligan and the two stars, Jacob Elordi (*Euphoria*, *Priscilla*) and Barry Keoghan (nominated for an Oscar® and a Golden Globe for *The Banshees of Inisherin*).

Two of the films in the Progressive Cinema Competition will be presented tomorrow, Thursday October 19th, at Sala Petrassi.

The first, at 4:30 pm, is *Fremont* by Babak Jalali who shoots a refined black and white film to describe a world of marginalised and solitary people, frayed but also capable of compassion and change. Fremont is a city in the Bay Area, also known as Little Kabul because it is the site of one of the largest enclaves of Afghans in the United States. The British-Iranian director captures Donya's existential dimension with a light contemplative touch and, together with co-author Carolina Cavalli, underscores the dynamics that can make rigid bureaucracy and ruthless capitalism paralyzing.

It will be followed at 7 pm by *Mi fanno male i capelli* by Roberta Torre. After her many stories of the South and her Shakespearean Richard and his fabulous women, the director elegantly, emotionally and discreetly sketches out a tribute to Monica Vitti and the power of dreams. Alba Rohrwacher spins between memories and illusions, while a pained Filippo Timi seeks to anchor her down in our world. The two stars will be on the red carpet of the Fest.

The Teatro Studio Gianni Borgna will host three films from the Special Screenings section. At 3:30 pm, the feature will be *The Eternal Memory* by Maite Alberdi, starring August Góngora and Paulina Urrutia, the famous couple in Chilean culture. In 2014 Góngora was diagnosed with Alzheimer's and since then they have both been committed to fight the disease. The filmmaker follows them in their daily battle, made of tenderness, commitment and a sense of humour, editing materials from the archives, old private videos and recent footage.

At 6 pm, there will be a preview screening of *Mur* by Kasia Smutniak who, in her debut as a director, goes to the prohibited red zone in Poland. With lightweight technical equipment and the help of local activists she reaches the border with Belorussia to document, with the tempo of a thriller, the 186-km long steel barrier built to keep out the migrants trying to enter the EU as refugees. A courageous investigation about the hypocrisy of modern Europe.

At 20:45 there will be a screening of *Enigma Rol* by Anselma Dell'Olio. Following her documentaries about Marco Ferreri, Federico Fellini and Franco Zeffirelli, the director turns her camera on the famous psychic from Turin Gustavo Rol, a friend and consultant to many Italian filmmakers, intellectuals and businessmen. She reconstructs his life through the accounts of people who knew him and have seen his experiments, keeping us on the edge between doubt and wonder, reason and illusion.

For the second year in a row, the “Dialogues on the future of cinema” will be held during the Rome Film Fest, promoted by the Fondazione Cinema per Roma and ANICA, in collaboration with Cinecittà Spa and SIAE. The series of Dialogues in seven episodes, with free admission, is scheduled to take place between October 19th and 26th at the MAXXI Auditorium: a daily event, except for Sunday, open to the public and to the media, which consolidates the lean and linear format tested in 2022. The inauguration will be entrusted to the voices of the Institutions competent for cinema and the audio-visual industry: at 2:45 pm tomorrow Tuesday October 19th, the proceedings will be opened by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture with the portfolio for Cinema and Audio-visual Lucia Borgonzoni, the Presidents of the Culture Committees of the Chamber of Representatives, Federico Mollicone, and of the Senate of the Republic, Roberto Marti. They will be followed by the first debate, on the theme “The new frontiers of the audio-visual and creativity between technology and content”, with the protagonists Manuela Cacciamani (One More Pictures), Valeria Falcone (Urban Vision), Francesco Grisi della Pié (EDI Effetti Digitali Italiani), Davide Luchetti (Frame by Frame), Pepsy Romanoff (Except), Daniele Tomassetti (Blackstone). Coordinated by Francesca Medolago Albani.

Following at the MAXXI will be the presentation of two films from the Freestyle section.

At 5:30 pm, the screening will feature *Taking Venice* directed by the documentarist, art critic and journalist Amei Wallach, a surreal story of aggressiveness, ignorance, and above all, great art. In the mid-1960s, while for his revolutionary art Robert Rauschenberg assembles trash from the street and images from the mass market to reflect upon what is real and what is ignored in the world that surrounds him, in Washington the State Department chooses him as an oblivious secret weapon. The mission: to bring home the Grand Prize of the 1964 Biennale di Venezia.

At 8:30 pm, the screening will feature *Jeff Koons. A private portrait* by Pappi Corsicato who films a documentary about one of the most influential, popular and controversial artists of recent decades. The film is a unique opportunity to understand the man who has taken every-day mass-produced objects and transforms them into the highest form of art, raising their status from ordinary to sublime.

At 4:30 pm, Casa del Cinema inaugurates the exhibition “Sergio Zavoli and Cinema”, an exhibition dedicated to the relationship between the famous journalist, writer, politician and television host and the Seventh Art: Zavoli was in fact a great film buff and intimate friend of Federico Fellini. The exhibition, which will be held on the one hundredth anniversary of Zavoli’s birth, is curated by Alessandra Zavoli in collaboration with Rai Teche.

There are many events in the programme at Casa del Cinema. Sala Cinecittà, at 11 am, will host the Forum For Italy & China Film Cooperation for Future, a conference that will concentrate on

the current state of cooperation within the Italian-Chinese film industry. During the conference, professionals in the film industry from Italy and China will participate to review and delineate the concrete results obtained in recent years in the development of cinema between China and Italy. This event will help to root the friendship between China and Italy for the creation of films and to establish an international stage for further exchanges and collaborations in the markets of both of these countries. The event will be enhanced by a screening of *No More Bets* (at 2:30 pm), a film directed by Shen Ao, which addresses the issue of fighting scams, using the lives of two young people as a thread to look behind the scenes of a well planned online scam.

At 5 pm, Isabella Rossellini, Lifetime Achievement Award of the eighteenth Film Fest, will introduce the screening of a programme of short films she made, which include *Seducer me*, *Green porno* and *FOX Film*. As Isabella Rossellini explains: “It was the start of Youtube and Robert Redford had an intuition to produce short films, like at the beginning of cinema. He proposed that we make a series of films no longer than two minutes each, on an environmentalist theme. That was how I made *Green Porno*. The series was a hit and I continued later with *Seducer me*, about the various courtship strategies of animals. *Fox* is the little film I made during the COVID lockdown. It addresses a scientific issue that fascinates me: taming animals”.

At 7:15 pm, simultaneously in Sala Cinecittà and in Sala Fellini, Terence Hill, the director Dario Mariani with the producers Clarissa and Alessio Guerrini, Gaia Gorrini and Sandra Zingarelli, will introduce the documentary *Lui era Trinità*, which will illustrate to the public the life and career of Italo Zingarelli: in the 1970s, the famous film producer brought two blockbuster films to the screen, *They Call Me Trinity* and *Trinity is Still My Name*, which decreed the international success of the duo Bud Spencer and Terence Hill.

At 9:30 pm, there will be a screening of the restored version of *Underground* by Emir Kusturica curated by TF 1 Studio. It is one of Emir Kusturica’s masterpieces, between forced lyricism and Baroque poeticism, between the violence in images and metaphorical vistas.

The repeat screenings at Casa del Cinema will offer two films from the History of Cinema: in Sala Fellini at 5:30 pm, viewers are invited to see *Il ritorno di Maciste* by Maurizio Sciarra and at 9:30 pm *A Season with Isabella Rossellini* by Marian Lacombe.

The Teatro Palladium, the historic Roman movie theatre owned by the Università Roma Tre, returns as a venue of the eighteenth Film Fest with a series of five films. Tomorrow, Thursday October 19th at 9 pm, there will be world premiere screening of *Who To Love*. After making videos, shows and live footage of concerts for Blur, Oasis, Sting, the Rolling Stones and London Grammar, Giorgio Testi directs the thirty-minute fiction video *Who To Love*, created by Dave Stewart along with the soon-to-be released album of the same name. The film will be presented to the public with an exclusive live show that will feature Dave Stewart with the Mokadelic and Greta Scarano.

Starting tomorrow, Thursday October 19th, the Film Fest will extend into the centre of Rome, along the axis of Porta Pinciana, Via Veneto and Piazza Barberini. At Porta Pinciana, between Casa del Cinema and Via Veneto, a Film Fest-themed photocall installation will be positioned and open to all. Located in a strategic spot symbolically tied to the seventh art, the installation aims to create a bond between the Fest and the heart of the city. Continuing along the axis, one reaches the iconic street that symbolizes La Dolce Vita, where the Associazione Via Veneto has created an exhibition route specifically for the duration of the Fest, starting from Largo Federico Fellini and stretching to Via Ludovisi. A red carpet

has been positioned along both sides of the street, with full-size silhouettes stationed along the way representing some of the great actors of the past, to bring the iconic street to life. The installation was curated by the Councillorship of Culture of Roma I Centro and co-designed with the Associazione Via Veneto under the patronage of Municipio Roma I Centro.

This “cinematic promenade” will end at the Cinema Barberini movie theatre, which through October 24th will host a retrospective dedicated to the great master Federico Fellini, thirty years after his death: the cycle will be inaugurated tomorrow, Thursday October 19th at 3 pm by *The White Sheik* (1952).

At 6 pm at the Libreria Notebook, the bookshop of the Auditorium Parco della Musica, there will be a presentation of the book “La storia e le storie. Il cinema (e non solo) di Pupi Avati” in the presence of Pupi Avati and the curators Claudia Bersani and Giancarlo Zappoli.

At the Cinema Giulio Cesare, the programme of repeat screenings of film from the eighteenth Rome Film Fest begins. In Sala 1 the screenings will include three films from the Special Screenings sections: *The Eternal Memory* by Maite Alberdi at 4 pm, *Mur* by Kasia Smutniak at 6:30 pm and *Enigma Rol* by Anselma Dell’Olio at 9 pm. In Sala 3 there will be three films from the Grand Public section: *The End We Start From* by Mahalia Belo (at 4:30 pm), *Widow Clicquot* by Thomas Napper (at 7 pm) and *Diabolik chi sei?* By the Manetti Bros. (at 10 pm). There are three films on the schedule for Sala 5: at 5 pm, *Fremont* by Babak Jalali, at 7:30 pm *Mi fanno male i capelli* by Roberta Torre and at 9:30 pm *Saltburn* by Emerald Fennell.