



ROME FILM FEST 18 | 29 October 2023

Previews screenings of documentaries, newly-restored films, tributes and encounters: at Casa del Cinema the line-up for the History of Cinema section

The guests will include, among others, Terence Hill, Dario Argento, Paolo Virzì, Sergio Rubini, Marian Lacombe, Luciano Tovoli, Dario Marani, Regina Orioli, Edoardo Gabbriellini, Marco Cocci, Maurizio Sciarra, Giuseppe Abbagnale, Frédéric Bonnaud, Luca Lancise and Marco Gentili

From October 17th to 29th, Casa del Cinema will be transformed into one of the most important venues of the eighteenth Rome Film Fest, hosting the line-up of the History of Cinema section, dedicated to previews of documentaries exploring the seventh art, to films in their newly-restored versions, to tributes and encounters with the protagonists of the big screen.

THE EMPIRE OF NATURE. A NIGHT AT THE COLOSSEUM PARK

The documentary that inaugurates the calendar of events at Casa del Cinema takes spectators on a journey inside an absolutely unique ecosystem.

On Tuesday October 17th at 6:30 pm in Sala Cinecittà at Casa del Cinema, there will be a preview screening of *L'impero della Natura. Una notte al Parco del Colosseo* by Luca Lancise and Marco Gentili, part of the programme of the Special Screenings section. The Archaeological Park of the Colosseum is a natural habitat for the wild animals that have transformed it into an ecosystem unlike any in the world. The hill on which Rome was founded and the valley below represent an ecological niche of birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, insects, rodents and invertebrates. They bring us a possible vision of the relationship between Humanity and Nature. The film will be introduced by Gian Luca Farinelli, president of the Fondazione Cinema per Roma, Alfonsina Russo, director of the Archeological Park of the Colosseum, with the two directors and producers Dino Vannini and Matteo Urbinati.

DOCUMENTARIES

There will be previews of twelve films to discover the protagonists and stories that make the seventh art immortal. The guests invited to introduce the screenings will include Paolo Virzì and Sergio Rubini.

The line-up of documentaries will open on Wednesday October 18th at 7:30 pm in Sala Cinecittà with *Il ritorno di Maciste* by Maurizio Sciarra: the film explores the period in time when Italy led the world in filmmaking, through the story of the dockworker from Genoa Bartolomeo Pagano, whose life was transformed as a result of his fortunate encounter with

the director Giovanni Pastrone. The film will be introduced by the director Maurizio Sciarra, the producer Alessandro Borrelli and the cast member Giuseppe Abbagnale.

The following day at 7:15 pm, Sala Cinecittà will host the screening of *Lui era Trinità* by Dario Marani, a portrait of the film producer Italo Zingarelli who in the 1970s brought two blockbuster hits to the screen: *They Call Me Trinity* and *Trinity is Still My Name*, films that brought international fame to the duo of stars Bud Spencer and Terence Hill. Introducing the film will be the famous actor along with Dario Marani, Clarissa Guerrini, Alessio Guerrini and Italo Zingarelli's children.

Friday October 20th at 7:30 pm, the feature will be *Quel maledetto film su Virzì* by Stefano Petti. After accumulating hundreds of interviews to make the definitive film about Paolo Virzì, three documentary filmmakers argue about how to conclude the project: while the three debate their obsessions about the filmmaker, he himself surprises them with a proposal that allows them to finish the film and move on to the next chapter.

Sunday October 22nd at 7:30 pm *Une chronique américaine* by Alexandre Gouzou and Jean-Claude Taki is a documentary about a film that Antonioni wrote but never made, an investigation into a project by the great Italian director that remained bereft of images.

The following day the programme moves over to the Auditorium Parco della Musica (3 pm at Sala Sinopoli) for the screening of *American Badass: A Michael Madsen Retrospective* by Dominique Milano, which reviews the actor's career through his films (more than 170) and the accounts of those who have worked with him.

The same day, at 9:30 pm in Sala Cinecittà at Casa del Cinema, the screening will feature *La voce senza volto* by Filippo Soldi, a film that guides the spectator through the practice of dubbing and its influence on the creativity of our cinema, the language we speak and our culture.

Tuesday October 24th at 7 pm in Sala Cinecittà there will be a screening of *Io, il tubo e le pizze*, Ugo Gregoretti's last film which has never been released, in which the great director, documentary filmmaker and journalist reviews his own work with light-hearted irony and intelligence.

Wednesday October 25th at 5 pm (Sala Cinecittà) the audience is invited to see *John Kennedy Night Moves*: on the big screen the original footage of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy's visit to Italy in 1963, organized and edited by Ciro Giorgini following a research study in the Rai film archives.

At 7:30 pm the screening will feature *La nostra Monument Valley* by Alberto Crespi and Steve Della Casa. The rich and varied territory of the Lazio region has always endowed Italian cinema with surprising locations for auteur films, for peplum, western and fantasy movies: the film will highlight the presence of these locations in our cinema.

Thursday October 26th at 7:45 pm (Sala Cinecittà), there will be a preview screening of *Joseph Losey, l'outsider* by Dante Desarthe, which follows the artistic parabola of the American director and screenwriter Joseph Losey in a surprise-filled documentary supported by remarkable material from the archives.

Saturday October 28th at 7:30 pm there will be a screening of *Chambre 999* by Lubna Playoust: forty years after the film *Room 666* by Wim Wenders, a new generation of directors, including James Gray, Olivier Assayas, Alice Rohrwacher and Asghar Farhadi, answers the question posed at the time: is cinema an art destined to die out?

Sunday October 29th at 4 pm, Sala Cinecittà will host *Fellini, confidences retrouvées* by Jean-Christophe Rosé. October 31st 2023 marks the thirtieth anniversary of the death of Federico Fellini and this film offers an intimate first-hand portrait: the screening will be introduced by the director and by Sergio Rubini.

RESTORED FILMS

In the line-up nine great films restored to their original splendour

The line-up of Restored films of the eighteenth Rome Film Fest is wide-ranging, and will be inaugurated at Casa del Cinema with the screening, for the one-hundred-and-twentieth anniversary of the birth of Maestro Yasujiro Ozu, of the film *The Flavour of Green Tea Over Rice* (October 18th at 9:30 pm Sala Cinecittà): rich in memorable sequences, the film touches on many of the themes that were important to the great Japanese director, from the relationship between men and women, for which he takes a comic approach, to the hard pragmatism of young people, to arranged marriages. The screening announces the Ozu retrospective made possible by Tucker Film, which will take the restored films by the Japanese master across Italy. *Restoration: Shochiku Co., Ltd.*

The following day, at the same time and in the same theatre, the screening will present *Underground*, one of Emir Kusturica's masterpieces, between forced lyricism and Baroque poeticism, between violence in images and metaphorical vistas. *Restoration: TF1 Studio.*

Friday October 20th (at 9:30 pm, Sala Cinecittà), spectators are invited to see *Ovosodo*, the brilliant and bitter social comedy directed by Paolo Virzì, which over the years has become a cult film of Italian cinema: the director will introduce the screening together with the actors Regina Orioli, Edoardo Gabbriellini and Marco Cocci. *Restoration: Infinity +*

Sunday October 22nd (at 9:15 pm, Sala Cinecittà), *L'odore della notte* by Claudio Caligari, a film that digs deep into the miseries of the brutal and degraded Roman suburbs, a no-holds barred account of a desperate and violent reality, an anguished living that affects not only the marginalised. *Restoration: CSC – Cineteca Nazionale in collaboration with Minerva Pictures Group s.r.l.*

Tuesday October 24th, the line-up for the History of Cinema section moves to the Auditorium Parco della Musica for the restored version of *Ciao Nì* by Paolo Poeti, to be screened at 9:30 pm in Sala Sinopoli: in the intervals between concerts on one of his tours, Renato Zero looks for the author of a mysterious intimidatory note. *Restoration: Fondazione Cineteca di Bologna with the collaboration of Mediaset and the supervision of Renato Zero.*

On the same day, at 9:30 pm in Sala Cinecittà at Casa del Cinema, the line-up will feature *Force of Evil* by Abraham Polonsky, a legendary, anomalous and scathing noir that does not hinge on seduction by a dark lady, but on money. *Restoration UCLA Film & Television Archive, The Film Foundation with the support of The Hobson/Lucas Family Foundation.*

On Thursday October 26th at 9:15 pm (Sala Cinecittà) the screening will feature *Peeping Tom* by Michael Powell (*The Red Shoes, A Matter of Life and Death*), which lays bare his visionary soul and the perverse relationship we all have with cinema. *Restoration: StudioCanal.*

On Friday October 27th at 9:30 pm, Sala Cinecittà will host the screening of *Divisione Folgore* by Duilio Coletti, a war story about the epic battle of El-Alamein: in the restored version, the life, the states of mind, the humanity of trench warfare. *Restoration: Cinecittà.*

The programme of Film Restorations closes on Sunday October 29th at 11 am in Sala Cinecittà with the screening of *The Way of the Dragon* by Bruce Lee, a dazzling and naïf film,

one of the finest martial arts films in the history of cinema. It features the memorable duel between Bruce Lee and Chuck Norris, shot in the Colosseum. *Restoration: Fortune Star / Golden Harvest.*

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2023: A TRIBUTE TO ISABELLA ROSSELLINI

The Fest celebrates the creative talent of Isabella Rossellini with a Masterclass and a retrospective of works which highlight her remarkable talent as a filmmaker, screenwriter and actress.

Isabella Rossellini is a multitalented nonconformist artist, the daughter of Ingrid Bergman and Roberto Rossellini: the Fest will celebrate her creative talent in a Masterclass with the audience (Friday October 20th at 4 pm in Sala Sinopoli Auditorium Parco della Musica) and a retrospective of works which highlight her remarkable talent as a filmmaker, screenwriter and actress.

Of her works as a filmmaker, the History of Cinema section will present, on Thursday October 19th at 5 pm in Sala Cinecittà at Casa del Cinema, *Seduce me* (ep. 10), *Green Porno* (ep.18) with Jody Shapiro, and *Fox Film*. Isabella Rossellini explains: “It was the start of Youtube and Robert Redford had the intuition to produce short films, like in the early days 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 *Seduce 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”.

On Tuesday October 24th at 5 pm (Sala Cinecittà) the screenings will feature *Animals Distract Me*, *Mammas* (ep. 10) and *Darwin, What?* (ep. 2). Isabella Rossellini states: “*Animals Distract Me* is about a typical day in my life: it is my day with animals, who distract me, because they interest me. *Mammas* is a scientific-comic series about the maternal instinct”. In *Darwin, What?* a British scientist appears to Isabella Rossellini in a dream, and because she is an actress, speaks to her about the facial expressions of humans and animals.

As part of the tribute to Isabella Rossellini, the Rome Film Fest has given Carte Blanche to the artist to make up a series of titles she has selected to present to the public. Among the films in the line-up some of her best films as an actress: *Left Luggage* by Jeroen Krabbé (20 October at 5 pm in Sala Cinecittà), *Blue Velvet* by David Lynch (21 October at 11 am in Sala Cinecittà), *Death Becomes Her* by Robert Zemeckis (22 October at 11 am in Sala Cinecittà), and two films by Guy Maddin, *The Saddest Music in the World* (25 October at 3 pm in Sala Cinecittà) and *My Dad Is 100 Years Old* (26 October at 5 pm in Sala Cinecittà). Furthermore, among the films she has starred in, the Best of 2023 section of the Rome Film Fest will present *La chimera* by Alice Rohrwacher, scheduled for Wednesday October 25th at 7 pm in Sala Sinopoli Auditorium Parco della Musica. The public is also invited to view, courtesy of the Teche Rai archives, her reports from New York for the television show “L'altra domenica” (22 October at 5:15 pm Sala Cinecittà). The Carte Blanche films also include *Stromboli (Terra di Dio)* by Roberto Rossellini, the first film by the director with Ingrid Bergman (26 October at 5 pm in Sala Cinecittà), and *Autumn Sonata* by Ingmar Bergman, the last film in which Ingrid Bergman acted (27 October at 4:45 pm in Sala Cinecittà). The History of Cinema section will also present *A Season with Isabella Rossellini* by Mariam Lacombe (18 October at 5:30 pm in Sala Cinecittà), a documentary shot on the set of *La*

chimera and at the Mama Farm, the regenerative agriculture project that Isabella Rossellini founded in 2013 in the state of New York and which she has led for ten years with passionate determination. The director will introduce the screening to the public.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2023: SHIGERU UMEBAYASHI

A Masterclass and three films will celebrate the art of one of the greatest composers in the history of cinema.

The Japanese composer Shigeru Umebayashi is the author of some of the most iconic film scores in the history of world cinema. His work, which is situated at the confluence of eastern and western music, is unique, vibrant and intense. The artist will talk about his career during a Masterclass to be held on Wednesday October 18th at 3:30 pm in Sala Petrassi. On the same day, there will be a screening of three films in which he collaborated with important productions. At 10 am in Sala Cinecittà at Casa del Cinema, the featured film will be *Come il vento* by Marco Simon Puccioni, the tragic true story of Armida Miserere, one of the first women to be appointed director of a prison, forced to live in a world of pressure and violence. At 10:30 am in Sala Petrassi at the Auditorium Parco della Musica, the screening will feature *House of Flying Daggers* by Zhang Yimou, who directs a cloak and dagger film with spectacular choreography, bamboo forests, fields of grain and snow-covered plains, over which his fighting heroines and heroes glide effortlessly. At 12:30 pm Sala Cinecittà will host *A Single Man* by Tom Ford, a film with impeccable lines, colours and moods, permeated by the pain of living and supported by the perfect calibrated performance of Colin Firth. Finally, at 5 pm in the Teatro Studio at the Auditorium Parco della Musica, the screening will feature *In the Mood for Love* by Wong Kar-wai, starring Maggie Cheung and Tony Leung, the impossible lovers in one of the most beautiful love stories in the history of cinema.

TRIBUTE TO MARIA CALLAS

Three screenings in the line-up celebrate Maria Callas on the hundredth anniversary of her birth. The restored version of Medea by Pier Paolo Pasolini brings the true voice of the great artist back to light.

Three screenings in the line-up celebrate Maria Callas on the hundredth anniversary of her birth. They start on Friday October 20th at 9:30 pm at the Teatro Studio Gianni Borgna with the screening of *Maria: lettere e memorie*, by Tom Volf and Yannis Dimolitsas. The film is about the international tour, from November 2019 to January 2023, of the play "Maria Callas: lettere e memorie", starring Monica Bellucci and directed in this case by Tom Volf. A comparison of two eras, today and yesterday, and the syntony between two women, who though they come from different backgrounds, share the same love for art. The materials from the archives merge with the music and Bellucci's impassioned performance.

The following day at 5 pm in Sala Cinecittà, the featured screening is *Medea* by Pier Paolo Pasolini. In the film, like in the opera, Maria Callas is Medea's body and soul, she lives, she is illuded, she suffers, she even carries out the most horrid of homicides. But she does not sing, she speaks: this restoration will allow us to hear Maria Callas' real voice, in the performance she gave for Pasolini in Italian. The film was initially released with the voice of Rita Savagnone: the producer Franco Rossellini pressured the director to dub Callas for the Italian theatre circuit, fearing that her "foreign" accent would bother audiences. Pasolini

acquiesced, but insisted and obtained that the soprano's original voice be retained for the editions released abroad.

The tribute will close at 7:30 pm (Sala Cinecittà) with an extraordinary event, the world premiere of *Callas, Paris, 1958* by Tom Volf. In December 1958 Maria Callas made her debut at the Opéra de Paris in a concert that was destined to be legendary and turned out to be one of the musical events of the century. That concert was filmed and broadcast live across Europe. Thanks to the discovery of the original footage, the film takes its audiences straight into the heart of that event, offering images restored in 4K HD and colorised by Composite Films, which has worked with the original reels of the Callas Foundation, relying on colour photos of the event. The sound was restored tapping directly into Maria Callas' personal archives. The sound mixing and mastering were entrusted to the expert hands of Miraval Studios.

A TRIBUTE TO LORENZA MAZZETTI

Four films to celebrate the only woman to underwrite the Free Cinema manifesto: in the programme a previously unreleased documentary and three films selected from her filmography

Lorenza Mazzetti was the only woman to underwrite the manifesto of Free Cinema, the movement that revolutionised English cinema and captured post-war society at the apex of change. The Fest celebrates the director with four screenings. It begins on Monday October 23rd at 7:30 pm in Sala Cinecittà with the documentary *Together with Lorenza Mazzetti* by Brigid Lowe, a portrait of the artist at ninety, composed of interviews and excerpts from her films. At 9 pm in Sala Fellini, there will be a screening of her most famous film, *Together*, a Cannes award-winner, in which the director uses areas of post-war London in ruins to give life to a poetic representation of a city populated by children with no more rules, miserable one-room flats and harsh realities. The screening will be preceded by two shorts made by Mazzetti, *The Country Doctor* and *K (Metamorphosis)*.

TRIBUTE TO MARIA GRAZIA BUCCELLA

The History of Cinema section, thanks to the collaboration with CSC - Cineteca Nazionale, celebrates the talent and beauty of a great Italian-style comedy actress

The programme of the tribute includes her most successful film, *Basta guardarla* by Luciano Salce, which will be screened on Sunday October 29th at 6 pm in Sala Cinecittà: the film tells the eternal story of the country girl seduced by the entertainment world, an *A Star is Born* in a rude snickering pop version. On the same day and in the same space, at 8:30 pm, the screening will feature *Sissignore* by Ugo Tognazzi. Released at the height of the 1968 protest movement, it was an experiment that was courageous in its own way, starring Tognazzi humbly at his own service as a director, a dazzlingly splendid Maria Grazia Buccella and Gastone Moschin in a Duce-like version.

TRIBUTE TO JEAN-LUC GODARD

The tribute to a filmmaker who never looked back at his own past: in the programme the last project on which the director was working and a self-portrait from the archives that follows his unique and prodigious career.

Jean-Luc Godard, who passed away in September 2022, is considered one of the most important filmmakers in the history of the seventh art. The History of Cinema section pays tribute to him with two films released in 2023, which premiered at the Cannes Film Festival. On Friday October 27th at 7:30 pm in Sala Cinecittà, there will be a screening of *Film annonce du film qui n'existera jamais: "Drôles de guerres"*, Jean-Luc Godard's definitive act of cinema, a special film Godard was working on before he died at the age of 93. Formally unconventional, the short project presents the ideas, references and images that Godard had conceived for a film that was never made, offering the spectator a rare look into the mind and method of a genius. It will be followed by *Godard par Godard* by Florence Patarets, a self-portrait from the archives of Jean-Luc Godard, written by Frédéric Bonnaud (director of the Cinemathèque française) who will introduce the screening, The film follows the unique and prodigious career, with its sudden detours and dramatic turns, of a filmmaker who never looked back to review his past.

TRIBUTE TO DARIO ARGENTO

An unreleased documentary and a watershed work in his filmography celebrate one of the most internationally acclaimed Italian directors

Dario Argento is one of the most highly acclaimed Italian directors at a global level, and an essential reference point for filmmakers around the world. Throughout his career, he has shown great originality in rethinking film genres that were rarely undertaken by Italian filmmakers, such as detective stories, thrillers and horror films, in works such as *Deep Red (Profondo Rosso)* which will be screened on Saturday October 21st at 11:15 pm in Sala Cinecittà. The film will be preceded at 9:30 pm by the documentary *Profondo Argento* by Giancarlo Rolandi and Steve Della Casa, a new in-depth portrait of the great director, filled with photos and documents from his jealously guarded personal archives. Dario Argento and cinematographer Luciano Tovoli will be in attendance.

TRIBUTE TO MICHEL GONDRY

The Fest pays tribute to a modern, eclectic and volcanic artist

The eighteenth Rome Film Fest dedicates a tribute to Michel Gondry, the brilliant director and Oscar®-winning screenwriter of *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, a modern, eclectic and volcanic artist, author of videos for Björk, Daft Punk, Lenny Kravitz and many others. The programme will be inaugurated by the French filmmaker's new work, *Le Livre des solutions (The Book of Solutions)* on Sunday October 22nd at the Teatro Palladium. The film, which is Gondry's return to the big screen after eight years, is a wild and unpredictable comedy. On Monday October 23rd at 3 pm in Sala Cinecittà at Casa del Cinema, audiences are invited to see the screening of *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*. Gondry's cult movie that won him the Oscar® for Best Original Screenplay together with Charlie Kaufman and Pierre Bismuth is a reflection on the fleeting nature and utopia of love, suspended between comedy and melodrama. On Tuesday October 24th at 4 pm, Sala Sinopoli will host the world premiere of *In Bed with Gondry* by François Nemeta, an intimate and personal portrait of the great filmmaker: during a sleepless night, Michel Gondry discusses his influences, his dreams and his nightmares and reveals the secrets of his original and unequalled creative process. The director François Nemeta will be there to meet the viewers. The tribute to the filmmaker will close on Sunday October 29th at 11:30 pm, when Michel Gondry will be on

the stage of Sala Petrassi for a Masterclass with the Fest audiences, moderated by author Manlio Castagna.

TRIBUTE TO ARMANDO TROVAJOLI

The eighteenth Rome Film Fest, which has reserved a particularly significant space for film music, opens with a tribute to Shigeru Umebayashi and closes with a tribute to Armando Trovajoli

Sunday October 29th, on the closing day of the event and on the tenth anniversary of his passing, a special tribute will be dedicated to Armando Trovajoli, a pianist, conductor and multifaceted composer of chamber, symphonic and jazz music, musical theatre and film scores for cinema. At 4 pm in Sala Sinopoli, the public is invited to see the restored version of *Marriage Italian Style* by Vittorio De Sica (by kind concession of Surf Film), a masterpiece in the history of cinema scored by Trovajoli himself. The screening, which will be attended by Mariapaola Sapienza Trovajoli, will be preceded by a musical tribute by Maestro Stefano Bollani and the actress and director Valentina Cenni.

ENCOUNTER "DEODATO, NOT JUST HORROR"

An encounter in collaboration with ANAC and the Ruggero Deodato's children will take place on Saturday October 28th at 3:30 pm in Sala Cinecittà at Casa del Cinema: materials, trailers, interviews, advertising and guests will commemorate a different Deodato, the realist, for his comedies, crime films and television series. Film critic Marco Giusti will moderate the encounter.

ENCOUNTER TO REMEMBER GIULIANO MONTALDO

Giuliano Montaldo, to whom the eighteenth Rome Film Fest is dedicated, will be remembered in an encounter to be held on Saturday October 21st at 3 pm in Sala Cinecittà, organized in collaboration with the Montaldo family. The director and actor, who left us during the month of September, was not only a great auteur of Italian cinema, he was one of its protagonists, and above all, the husband of Vera Pescarolo. *Un grande amore* (La nave di Teseo, 2021) is the title of her autobiographical book: the love between Vera and Giuliano was certainly a great one, as was the love that everyone who had the good fortune to know him felt for Giuliano.