



**FESTA
DEL CINEMA
DI ROMA**
18/29 OTTOBRE 2023

ROME FILM FEST
18|29 October

THE PROGRAMME FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22nd

The premiere of *Nuovo Olimpo* by Ferzan Ozpetek: set in Rome, the new film by the multi-award-winning director is a love story that spans decades, from its start in the late 1970s

The story, the music, and the theatre of a great artist: the Fest premiere of *Io, noi e Gaber* by Riccardo Milani

The Best of 2023 section showcases *Past Lives* by Celine Song, one of the most acclaimed films at Sundance and the Berlinale, and *Anatomy of a Fall* by Justine Triet, Palme d'Or at Cannes

At the Casa del Cinema, Isabella Rossellini presents the reports from New York she made for Renzo Arbore's TV show "L'altra domenica", while directors Alexandre Gouzou and Jean-Claude Taki introduce the screening of *Une chronique americaine*, a documentary on an Antonioni film that never got made

Le Donne del Muro Alto celebrates its tenth anniversary with a performance of its new play, *Olympe de Gouges*: first showing tomorrow at the MAXXI

Nuovo Olimpo by Ferzan Ozpetek premieres tomorrow, Sunday, October 22nd, at the 18th edition of the Rome Film Fest. The new film by the multi-award-winning director of *The Ignorant Fairies*, *Facing Windows*, *Saturn in Opposition*, *Loose Cannons*, *Magnificent Presence*, and *The Goddess of Fortune* will bow in the Grand Public section, at 7 pm in the Sala Sinopoli at the Auditorium Parco della Musica Ennio Morricone. Ozpetek gives a Roman setting to his love story that spans three decades, starting in the late 1970s. Two twenty-five-year-olds, played by Damiano Gavino and Andrea Di Luigi, meet by chance and fall madly in love, until they are separated, only to spend the next thirty years trying to find each other again. The cast of *Nuovo Olimpo*, co-written by Ozpetek and Gianni Romoli, includes Luisa Ranieri, Aurora Giovinazzo, Greta Scarano, Alvisè Rigo, Giancarlo Commare, and Jasmine Trinca. The soundtrack features the powerful voice of Mina singing *Povero amore*, also found in her new album *Ti amo come un pazzo*: this partnership between the filmmaker and the iconic vocalist resumes after their recent work on *The Goddess of Fortune* and *The Ignorant Fairies – the Series*. At 6:15 pm tomorrow, the director and cast will walk the red carpet.

Earlier in the Sala Sinopoli, at 4 pm, the Special Screenings section features the film *Io, noi e Gaber* by Riccardo Milani. The documentary packs in the story of Giorgio Gaber, his music, and his stage career, from the tender and now melancholy "Non arrossire" of his early days, and the rock music in which he faced off with Celentano, to the surreal skits with Jannacci, the Milanese songs with Maria Monti, his immense popularity on television and his return to pure theatre, when Gaber chose to perform only on stage, giving voice to his political and cultural commitment. Twenty years after the artist's death, Riccardo Milani also interweaves reminiscences of his friends and family to retrace the

steps of his career and reconstruct Gaber's personality, underscoring the importance of his music as well as his unforgettable lyrics.

At 4:30 pm the Sala Petrassi will host another Special Screening title, the short film *Unfitting* by Giovanna Mezzogiorno. Giovanna, the main character in this story (Carolina Crescentini), puts up with constant harassment from the director (Ambra Angiolini), producer (Fabio Volo), and press rep (Marco Bonini) of the film she is making. Just business as usual, and only one person rises to her defense: a young actor (Massimiliano Caiazzo). Giovanna's agent is played by Moira Mazzantini. The song "Il paradiso dei bugiardi" is by Tiziano Ferro. *Unfitting* marks Giovanna Mezzogiorno's directorial debut, in a One More Pictures production, in collaboration with Grazie and Bulgari.

Two screenings from the Best of 2023 section are on the lineup tomorrow.

At 9:30 pm, the Sala Sinopoli hosts *Past Lives* by Celine Song, a smash hit with audiences at Sundance and the Berlin Film Festival. New York playwright Celine Song makes her debut on the big screen with the moving story of two lovers separated by fate, thousands of miles, and time. Drawing on her personal experience, Song wonders: how do our romantic choices influence our lives? What sacrifices are required for us to become the people we are?

At 6:30 pm in the Sala Petrassi, *Anatomy of a Fall* is the new film from the female gaze of Justine Triet, awarded the Palme d'Or at Cannes. A writerly couple lives in an isolated chalet in the French Alps, with their eleven-year-old son who has lost his sight in an accident. The father, Vincent, is found dead in the snow in front of the house, but his fall from a window may not have been an accident. So begins a story that swings between memories from the past and the testimony at the trial of Sandra, accused of killing her husband.

The Teatro Studio Gianni Borgna will host two screenings of films in the Progressive Cinema Competition. At 6 pm, *Blaga's Lessons* by Stephan Komandarev begins with an abandoned tyre on the side of the road, at night, an envelope inside, then doggedly stalks its protagonist - played by the extraordinary Eli Skorcheva, absent from the screen for 30 years - who is constantly under the gaze of the camera. *Blaga's Lessons* is a mix of sharp social study and thriller, with touches of black humour, directed by Stephan Komandarev, who received an Oscar nomination in 2008 for *The World is Big and Salvation Lurks Around the Corner* and was in competition at Cannes in 2017 with *Directions*.

And at 9 pm, *Holiday* is the third film by Edoardo Gabbriellini (after *B. B. e il cormorano* and *Padroni di casa*). The director treats us to a noir full of surprises, where Generation Z emerges as rarely seen on screen: in all its ambitions and confusions, misunderstood but also the victim of stereotypes that it is the first to fuel. The story is told partly in flashback by stars Margherita Corradi and Giorgia Frank. Produced by Luca Guadagnino.

There are four screenings of films in the Freestyle section on Sunday.

At 3:30 pm in the Sala Petrassi, *Segnali di vita* by Leandro Picarella is a film about empathy, about the need for others to understand who we are. In the small village of Lignan, in the Saint-Barthelemy Valley in Valle d'Aosta, an astronomical observatory studies the sky every night. In the fall, astrophysicist Paolo Calcidese moves into the facility to conduct his scientific research and experiments with new technologies. A technical accident, however, forces him to devote himself to other forms of life he has not previously considered: human beings.

At 5:30 pm at the MAXXI, *Grandmother's Footsteps* by Lola Pelpoe tells the story of the director's grandmother Clotilde Brewster Pelpoe (1915-1997), a painter who lived in Italy and Greece and was

the mother of screenwriters and directors Clare and Mark Peploe. With its extraordinary characters, passionate love affairs by correspondence, and surprisingly beautiful paintings, the film also includes one of the last interviews with Bernardo Bertolucci, who was married to Clare Peploe.

There are two more Sunday screenings at the MAXXI. At 7:30 pm, *La pittrice* by Fabiana Sargentini looks at Anna Papparatti, one of the extraordinary figures that animated the avant-garde art scene in Rome in the 1960s and 1970s. She is an artist, discoverer and muse, and the long-time partner of Fabio Sargentini. At 9:30 pm, the film *Troppo azzurro* by Filippo Barbagallo is a romantic and fanciful comedy, with the rhythm and perspective of today's youth, its framing at times reduced to the format of a mobile phone, or breaking into rectangles, building an ironic, observant and involving fresco.

Isabella Rossellini, winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 18th edition of the Film Fest, receives a tribute at the Casa del Cinema for its first two screenings tomorrow, Sunday, October 22nd, in Sala Cinecittà. At 11 am, the classic *Death Becomes Her* by Robert Zemeckis sees Rossellini starring alongside Meryl Streep, Goldie Hawn, and Bruce Willis. At 5:30 pm, thanks to the Teche Rai archives, the artist treats audiences to her reports from New York, created from Renzo Arbore's TV programme "L'altra domenica".

At 7:30 pm at the Casa del Cinema, filmmakers Alexandre Gouzou and Jean-Claude Taki present a screening of *Une chronique américaine*, a film that Antonioni wrote but never made. It's an investigation into a project by the great Italian filmmaker which remained without images. At 9:15 pm, the screening of the restored version of *The Scent of the Night* by Claudio Caligari was made possible by CSC – Cineteca Nazionale in collaboration with Minerva Pictures Group. The film digs into the misery of the Roman outskirts, brutal and brutalised, telling the unfiltered story of a desperate and violent reality, an existential anguish that does not affect the marginalised alone.

Lastly, the Casa del Cinema will host three repeat screenings in the Sala Fellini: at 4:30 pm, *Medea* by Pier Paolo Pasolini; at 7 pm, *Left Luggage* by Jeroen Krabbé; and at 10 pm, the documentary *Quel maledetto film su Virzi* by Stefano Petti.

Tomorrow, Sunday, October 22nd, the Teatro Palladium will hold the first of several events devoted to Michel Gondry, brilliant director and Oscar®-winning writer of *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*. The historic theater will also host an 8 pm screening of the French filmmaker's latest work, *Le Livre des solutions (The Book of Solutions)*. The film marks Gondry's return to the big screen after an eight-year hiatus. It's a startling, zany comedy that is not just "about cinema" but also about the arc of free-wheeling creativity and all its unknowns, and it embraces all forms of art and human creation – from drawing to animation and music – with a sly nod to short audiovisual works.

The programme of repeat screenings of films from the 18th edition of the Film Fest continues on Sunday. Sala 1 hosts, at 4 pm, *Segnali di vita* by Leandro Picarella; at 6:30 pm *Blaga's Lessons* by Stephan Komandarev, and at 9:30 pm *Holiday* by Edoardo Gabbriellini. Sala 3 is the venue of choice for *Io, noi e Gaber* by Riccardo Milani (at 4:30 pm), *Nuovo Olimpo* by Ferzan Ozpetek (at 7:30 pm), and *Past Lives* by Celine Song (at 10 pm). Meanwhile, in Sala 5, audiences can catch three repeat screenings: *And the King Said, What a Fantastic Machine* by Axel Danielson and Maximilien Van Aertryck (at 5 pm), *Anatomy of a Fall* by Justine Triet (at 7 pm), and *The Erection of Toribio Bardelli* by Adrián Saba (at 10:15 pm). Sala 7 will also host two repeat screenings for Fest audiences: at 3:30 pm, *Obsessed with Light* by Zeva Oelbaum and Sabine Krayenbühl, and at 5:30 pm, the documentary *Enigma Rol* by Anselma Dell'Olio.

In 2023, the Fondazione Cinema per Roma renews its collaboration with Le Donne del Muro Alto: once again this year the theatre troupe directed by Francesca Tricarico, and made up of actresses and former inmates granted alternative measures to detention in prison, will be at the Film Fest. Tomorrow, Sunday, 22 October at 3:30 pm, the auditorium at the MAXXI Museum hosts a free preview of their new play, *Olympe de Gouges*, which looks back on the last months in the life of Olympe de Gouges (1748 – 1793), a French female playwright and activist who lived during the French Revolution and devoted her life and life's work to women's rights. Based on the novel *La donna che visse per un sogno* by Maria Rosa Cutrufelli, and written and directed by Francesca Tricarico, the play will be subsequently performed in Rome at the Teatro India on November 9th and 10th and at the Teatro Vittoria on April 22nd.

For the second year in a row, the Fest programme also unfurls at the Cinema Nuovo Sacher, with a trio of Fest titles selected by Nanni Moretti. Tomorrow, Sunday, October 22nd, at 4 pm, the first up is *The Taste of Things* by Trần Anh Hùng. In late 19th-century France, Dodin Bouffant, a famous gourmet, cooks for his food-loving friends and for Eugénie, a superb chef and his life as well as cooking partner for over twenty years. Their large kitchen fills with ingredients – vegetables, meat, spices, oil, seasonings, flour – and pots and pans, utensils, and the carnal and spiritual passion kindled by the cuisine, for love stories and the love of France, its culture, countryside, its colors and painters. The next screening, at 6:30 pm, is *Un Amor* by Isabel Coixet: It is Nat's job to translate the tragic and horrific stories of immigrant women on a daily basis. Burnt out, she drops everything and goes to live in La Escapa, a small village in rural Spain. Andreas is her large-built neighbour who offers to repair the roof. In exchange for something.

Lastly at the Sacher, Michele Riondino's directorial debut, *Palazzina Laf*, will be screened at 9 pm and introduced to audiences by the director himself. LAF stands for cold rolling mill, and the LAF was the building where the owners and management of the ILVA factory in Taranto, in the 1990s, decided to put the office workers who had opposed the 'novation' of their contract, demoting them to factory workers. ILVA couldn't fire them, so they shunted them off to the LAF, to twiddle their thumbs.

Until October 24th, the cinema Barberini is holding a retrospective dedicated to master filmmaker Federico Fellini, thirty years after his death. Tomorrow, October 22nd at 3 pm, the film is *La Dolce Vita*.

This year, during the Film Fest, there's a new space in Rome devoted to cinema alone, devised in collaboration with the Fondazione Cinema per Roma. It's called Fuori Festa (roughly, "Beyond the Fest") and it's open for business at the Hotel St. Regis, in the vicinity of Via Veneto. Fuori Festa is open to all Film Fest badge-holders, guests of the hotel, and producers, distributors, and the media. Info: <https://www.fuorifesta.it/>