



ROME FILM FEST
16 | 27 October 2024

BERLINGUER.
La grande ambizione
by Andrea Segre

The film, in competition, opens the nineteenth Rome Film Fest

**The public and private life of Enrico Berlinguer during the most intense years
of his leadership**

Elio Germano plays Berlinguer, beside a cast composed, among others, of Elena Radonicich, Paolo Pierobon, Roberto Citran, Andrea Pennacchi, Giorgio Tirabassi, Paolo Calabresi, Francesco Acquaroli, Fabrizia Sacchi

Berlinguer. La grande ambizione by Andrea Segre is the opening film, in competition, of the nineteenth Rome Film Fest which will be held from the 16 to 27 October 2024 at the Auditorium Parco della Musica Ennio Morricone. The announcement was made by the President of Fondazione Cinema per Roma, Salvatore Nastasi, the Artistic Director Paola Malanga, and the General Manager Francesca Via.

One of the most interesting auteurs of our cinema, Andrea Segre – the director of the award-winning *Li and the Poet (Io sono Li)*, *First Snowfall (La prima neve)*, *The Order of Things (L'ordine delle cose)* and *Welcome Venice* – brings to the big screen the biography of Enrico Berlinguer's public and private life, from his journey to Sofia in 1973, when he escaped an attempted assassination by the Bulgarian secret services, to the assassination of Aldo Moro in 1978 and the consequent dramatic end to the strategy of the "Historic Compromise", the significant effort to unite the Catholic and Socialist popular forces in governing the nation.

In the film's cast, the political leader who died forty years ago is portrayed by Elio Germano. At his side, in alphabetical order: Stefano Abbati (Umberto Terracini), Francesco Acquaroli (Pietro Ingrao), Paolo Calabresi (Ugo Pecchioli), Roberto Citran (Aldo Moro), Pierluigi Corallo (Antonio Tatò), Nikolay Danchev (Leonid Brežnev), Svetoslav Dobrev (Todor Živkov), Luca Lazzareschi (Alessandro Natta), Lucio Patanè (Gianni Cervetti), Andrea Pennacchi (Luciano Barca), Paolo Pierobon (Giulio Andreotti), Elena Radonicich (Letizia Laurenti), Fabrizia Sacchi (Nilde Iotti), Giorgio Tirabassi (Alberto Menichelli).

"I wish to thank all the people who over these three long and intense years of work allowed me to tiptoe silently and with respect into the life of a man and a people who embodied an

important moment in the history of Italy, of which Italian fiction cinema had yet to tell the story”, stated Andrea Segre. “It was a journey through a piece of our history that I did not live through and which I learned to understand, as well as the discovery of a profound dialogue with the open questions of our present time and our future which this memory is unexpectedly able to engage in. Thanks to Paola Malanga and the Rome Film Fest who have enthusiastically offered such a prestigious space to present the film born out of this incredible journey”.

Berlinguer. La grande ambizione, written by Andrea Segre and Marco Pettenello, is a Vivo film and Jolefilm production with Rai Cinema, in co-production with Tarantula (Belgium) and Agitprop (Bulgaria). The film will be released in theatres on Thursday October 31st, distributed by Lucky Red.

SYNOPSIS

When a way forward seems impossible to everyone, do you have to stop? Enrico Berlinguer did not. He was the Secretary in the 1970s of the most important Communist party in the western world, with over one million seven hundred thousand card-holding members and more than twelve million voters, united by the great ambition of achieving socialism within a democracy. Challenging the dogmas of the Cold War and a world divided in two, Berlinguer and the Italian Communist Party (PCI) sought for five years to come to power, opening a season of dialogue with the Christian Democracy and coming just an inch from changing history. From 1973, when he escaped an assassination attempt by the Bulgarian secret services in Sofia, through the election campaigns and the trips to Moscow, the front pages of newspapers worldwide and the risky relationship with power, to the assassination in 1978 of the President of the Christian Democracy Aldo Moro: the story of a man and a people for whom life and politics, the private and the collective, were irremediably bound together.