



## ROME FILM FEST

16 | 27 October 2024

**The 19th edition of the Film Fest celebrates the world of music with a series of screenings on the life and work of artists such as Bruce Springsteen, Vinicio Capossela, Mario Merola, Franco Califano, Pivio, and Aldo De Scalzi**

**The guitarist for Talking Heads, Jerry Harrison, will meet Fest audiences on the occasion of the screening of *Stop Making Sense – 40th Anniversary* by Jonathan Demme**

**At the Teatro Olimpico, the Italian Association of Composers of Music for Film puts on an event devoted to soundtracks and film scores**

**Every day, the Fest's red carpet will thrill to the sound design of Federico Sacchi Music teller**

The 19th edition of the Film Fest, running from October 16th to October 27th, celebrates the world of music and several of its key players with a series of screenings, talks, and concerts.

It all starts on Thursday, October 17th at 7 pm, in the Sala Petrassi, with *En fanfare* [The Marching Band] by Emmanuel Courcol. In the film, music plays a central role in bonding the two very different protagonists as they journey into classical music, jazz, and marches, including a memorable rendering of Ravel's *Bolero*.

On the same day, at 9 pm, the Teatro Olimpico hosts *Natale Fuori Orario*, a mix of comedy and melancholy, fiction and documentary, which sees director Gianfranco Firriolo and singersongwriter Vinicio Capossela reunite to collaborate on a very unusual and very original hybrid between a road movie and a concert film.

On Saturday, October 19th, exactly forty years after the release of *Stop Making Sense* by Jonathan Demme, the Fest presents the newly restored version of the film in 4K, supervised by James Mockoski of American Zoetrope, with a totally remastered soundtrack curated by the guitarist of the Talking Heads, Jerry Harrison. After the screening, Harrison and Mockoski will treat Fest audiences to a talk about the film.

On Monday, October 21st at 6:30 pm, the music goes on with *Polvo serán* by Carlos Marqués-Marcet. Between Pina Bausch and *All That Jazz: Polvo Serán* turns a unique, daring and significant gaze on our inevitable death. At once a musical and a brave choral drama, it dances with death and never provokes sadness.

On the same day, at 9 pm, the Teatro Olimpico hosts *Musicanti con la pianola* by Matteo Malatesta, a documentary about the lives and career of Pivio and Aldo De Scalzi, the composers who, for the last twenty-five years, have been a fixture of Italian cinema.

On Tuesday, October 22nd at 6 pm, again at the Teatro Olimpico, a screening of *Il Re di Napoli. Storia e leggenda di Mario Merola* by Massimo Ferrari delves into the world of the Neapolitan artist and his career in singing, songwriting, theater and the *sceneggiata napoletana* genre.

And at 9 pm that night, the Teatro Olimpico hosts *Road Diary: Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band* by Thom Zimny. The documentary filmmaker Thom Zimny built this film around the band's world tour (which started in February 2023 and is still going on), filming the artists during rehearsals, backstage, and performing in front of fans all over the world.

The Fest's musical tribute continues on Friday, October 25th at 6:30 pm (Teatro Olimpico), with *Franco Califano - Nun ve trattengo* by Francesca Romana Massaro and Francesco Antonio Mondini, an intimate, vibrant portrait that explores the deep bond between the artist, his music and the cities that inspired him.

On the same day at 7 pm, the Sala Petrassi hosts a screening of *The Opera! – Arias For an Eclipse* by Davide Livermore and Paolo Gep Cucco, who transport the myth of Orpheus and Eurydice into the contemporary age, in a play of musical references that range from Puccini to Händel, from Verdi to Gluck, from Vivaldi to Frankie Goes to Hollywood.

On Saturday, October 26th, at 9 pm in the Teatro Olimpo, the event "Cinema in Concerto", arranged by the A.C.M.F., the Italian Association of Composers of Music for Film, takes audiences into the world of film scores, as conducted by Maestro Alessandro Molinari, with numerous composers in attendance.

*October 17th at 7 pm / Sala Petrassi (Best of 2024)*

### **EN FANFARE [The Marching Band]**

by Emmanuel Courcol, France, 2024, 103'

**Cast:** Benjamin Lavernhe, Pierre Lottin, Sarah Suco

When Thibaut, a famous orchestra conductor, is diagnosed with leukemia and needs a blood marrow transplant, he learns both that he was adopted and that he has a biological brother in the north of France, a factory worker who plays the trombone in a local band. Music, in fact, is what bonds the two protagonists of the third film directed by actor and screenwriter Emmanuel Courcol: Thibaut's refined repertoire vs. Jimmy's rough and ready versions of classical, plus jazz, marches, and a memorable rendering of Ravel's Bolero. They share music and sense they're similar, despite huge differences that take a dramatic turn and then a comic one, as a story of personal ties paints a broader social canvas, cities pitted against the heartland, the depressed north against wealthy central France. Co-written by the director and Irène Muscari, with star turns by Benjamin Lavernhe and Pierre Lottin.

*October 17th at 9 pm / Teatro Olimpico (Freestyle Arts)*

### **NATALE FUORI ORARIO**

by Gianfranco Firriolo, Italy, 2024, 85'

**Cast:** Vinicio Capossela, Christopher Wonder, Marco Cervetti, Franco Bassi

In a world where the true meaning of the holiday has been lost, three bizarre figures (a singer, a giant and a magician), who make up a sort of secular Trinity, set out to reach the club Fuori Orario, where they performed for many years to celebrate the arrival of Christmas. On top of their car, they are transporting a cabinet containing the corpse of the owner, Frankie La Luce. A mix of comedy and melancholy, fiction and documentary (including old footage of concerts by Capossela at Fuori Orario), director Gianfranco Firriolo and singer-songwriter Vinicio Capossela reunite to collaborate on a very unusual and very original hybrid between a road movie and a concert film, an elegy to the unifying power of music while also a reflection on the passing of time, all shot in the extraordinary wintertime photography of Luca Bigazzi.

*19 ottobre h. 21 | Teatro Olimpico (Special Screenings)*

### **STOP MAKING SENSE – 40TH ANNIVERSARY**

by Jonathan Demme, United States, 1984, 88'

**Cast:** David Byrne, Tina Weymouth, Jerry Harrison, Chris Frantz, Edna Holt, Lynn Mabry, Steven Scales, Alex Weir, Bernie Worrell

October 19th 1984 was the release date of *Stop Making Sense*, the historic film concert by the Talking Heads, a milestone of rock documentaries made by the Oscar®-award winner Jonathan Demme. Exactly forty years later, on October 19th, 2024, the Rome Film Fest will screen the newly restored version of the film in 4K, supervised by James Mockoski of American Zoetrope, with a totally remastered soundtrack curated by the guitarist of the Talking Heads, Jerry Harrison. *Stop Making Sense* was filmed in the course of three nights at Pantages Theatre in Los Angeles, where the director and his crew captured the energy and eccentricity of the live show, bringing it into what Spike Lee has defined as “The greatest concert film ever”.

*Following the screening, a talk with **Jerry Harrison** and **James Mockoski**.*

October 21st at 6:30 pm | Sala Petrassi (Progressive Cinema)

## **POLVO SERÁN**

by Carlos Marqués-Marcet, Spain, Switzerland, Italy, 2024, 107’

**Cast:** Ángela Molina, Alfredo Castro, Mònica Almirall Batet, Patrícia Bargalló, Alván Prado

Between Pina Bausch and *All That Jazz*: *Polvo Serán* turns a unique, daring and significant gaze on our inevitable death. It is both a musical and a brave choral drama that dances with death and never provokes sadness. When the actress and dancer Claudia – an extraordinary Angela Molina – decides not to wait passively until her illness deprives her of her every autonomy, Flavio, her life partner (Alfredo Castro), sets in motion a structured plan to end their lives together, in Switzerland. They are so involved in what they are about to embark on that they seem to forget everything around them, in a chaos of emotions and deep humanity. The director Carlos Marques-Marcet should be credited with having found the right tone for a bold and innovative approach to such a difficult theme.

October 21st at 9 pm | Teatro Olimpico (Freestyle Arts)

## **MUSICANTI CON LA PIANOLA**

by Matteo Malatesta, Italy, 2024, 113’

**Cast:** Pivio & Aldo De Scalzi, Alessandro Gassmann, Ferzan Özpetek, Enzo Monteleone, Manetti Bros, Cecilia Zanuso

The composers Pivio and Aldo De Scalzi and their music have been a fixture of the last twenty five years of Italian cinema. This documentary recounts their lives and career, utilizing the valuable testimonies of figures such as Ferzan Özpetek, Alessandro Gassmann, Enzo Monteleone, Giuliano Taviani, Cecilia Zanuso and the Manetti Bros. Between their time in recording studios, on film sets and in city squares, there is also space for an emotional tribute to four late artists who made an indelible mark on the pair’s artistic journey: Claudio Caligari, Ezio Bosso, Vittorio De Scalzi, and Alessandro D’Alatri. A visual and audio journey that not only celebrates the talent and creativity of Pivio and Aldo De Scalzi; the documentary also invites us to reflect on the power of music to unite, to move and to inspire.

October 22nd at 6 pm | Teatro Olimpico (Freestyle Arts)

## **IL RE DI NAPOLI. STORIA E LEGGENDA DI MARIO MEROLA**

by Massimo Ferrari, Italy, 2024, 90’

**Cast:** Gigi D’Alessio, Nino D’Angelo, Maurizio De Giovanni, Goffredo Fofi, Ernesto Mahieux, Marisa Laurito

The art of Mario Merola was multimediatric: songs, theater and cinema. But most of all, his fame and stature are linked to the musical-theater *sceneggiata* genre: a theater for the poor, an art of the common people that Merola embraced with complete dedication and authority. It was only in the 1970s that intellectuals

such as Goffredo Fofi (interviewed here along with many others, from Nino D'Angelo to Maurizio de Giovanni, began to notice his work: but not as some sort of patronising assessment from on high. In order to understand Merola, and how he was rooted in a centuries-old culture and society, one must enter into his world. This is what Ferrari's biographical documentary does, while at the same time giving space to unexpected performances such as *Westmoreland Naples* by Marcello Garofalo, in which Merola approached the world of Jean Vigo, Fassbinder and Allen Ginsberg, with, as always, extraordinary credibility and humility.

October 22nd at 9 pm | Teatro Olimpico (Freestyle Arts)

### **ROAD DIARY: BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN AND THE E STREET BAND**

by Thom Zimny, United States, 2024, 99'

**Cast:** Bruce Springsteen, Patti Scialfa, Roy Bittan, Nils Lofgren, Garry Tallent, Stevie Van Zandt, Max Weinberg

In February 2023, Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band set off on a world tour (which is still going on), around which documentary filmmaker Thom Zimny built this film, filming the artists during rehearsals, backstage, and performing in front of fans all over the world. They hadn't played together for six years when they met for early rehearsals in a theater in New Jersey, with the historic members of the band joined by new arrivals. Shortly afterwards they set out on tour, performing songs in the order established, for once, by the Boss, because the setlist represents the story he wants to tell, of "life, death and everything in between". A long-time collaborator of Springsteen's, as the director of his concert films, here Zimny captures the human and artistic energy that continues to give life to the band, and the strong relationship that is created with the audience, night after night.

October 25th at 6:30 pm | Teatro Olimpico (Freestyle Arts)

### **FRANCO CALIFANO - NUN VE TRATTENGO**

by Francesca Romana Massaro, Francesco Antonio Mondini, Italy, 2024, 67'

**Cast:** Lele Vannoli, Claudia Gerini, Francesco Rutelli, Barbara Palombelli, Antonello Mazzeo, Alberto Laurenti, Antonella D'agostino, Enrico Giarretta, Noyz Narcos

Set over the course of a single night, the story begins in the studios of Radio Radicale, where an announcer pays homage to Franco Califano's artistic journey, suspended between Lazio and Campania. Meanwhile, the actor Lele Vannoli undertakes a journey in a vintage car, tuning into that same radio frequency, crossing a dream-like Rome that offers up locations linked to the life of the lyrical master, a true star of Roman nights. Inside the radio station, various voices alternate, recalling memories and recounting anecdotes about Califano, whose voice fills the airwaves and drags the spectator into a secret vortex. In this way, the film becomes an intimate and vibrant portrait that explores the profound bond between the artist, his music and the cities that inspired him.

October 25th at 7 pm | Sala Petrassi (Special Screenings)

### **THE OPERA! - ARIAS FOR AN ECLIPSE**

By Davide Livermore, Paolo Gep Cucco, Italy, 2024, 106'

**Cast:** Valentino Buzza, Mariam Battistelli, Vincent Cassel, Fanny Ardant, Caterina Murino, Erwin Schrott, Rossy De Palma, Angela Finocchiaro

Two lovers on their wedding day; a cruel fate; a journey beyond life. This is the eternal story of Orpheus and Eurydice, separated on their wedding day, which the authors tell in an opera-musical with an immersive and

transmedial language. The myth is transposed into the contemporary age: Charon is a taxi driver (Vincent Cassel) and we go from Paris half under water to the stage of the Teatro Regio in Turin, in a play of musical references that range from Puccini to Händel, from Verdi to Gluck, from Vivaldi to Frankie Goes to Hollywood. And the images fuse words, lyric opera, fashion (the costumes are by Dolce & Gabbana) and the visual arts, between the real and the virtual. Fanny Ardant is Prosperpina, Rossy de Palma is Atropo, and Angela Finocchiaro is Orpheus' mother.

October 26th at 9 pm | Teatro Olimpico (Altri eventi)

## **CINEMA IN CONCERTO**

A.C.M.F., the Italian Association of Composers of Music for Film, presents an event centered on the world of film music. Conducted by Maestro Alessandro Molinari with many of the composers in attendance, the performance will feature works by Braga & Bossi, Buonvino, Caputo, Capogrosso, Catalano, Farri, Fornaci, Fresa, Guastella, Guerra, Mainetti, Marianelli, Marchitelli, Mechelli, Molinari, Morricone, Nair, Nervi, Nunzi, Piccioni, Pivio & Aldo De Scalzi, Piotta, Reali, Roberto, Sakamoto, Sensini, Simonetti, Rustichelli, Taviani, and Tomio. A.C.M.F. pursues the path it undertook eight years ago, when a group of Italian composers created an association that promotes, supports and protects the art of film music. Since then, it has grown in membership and representativity, expanding its horizons to artists such as Hans Zimmer, Michael Nyman, Roger Waters. With the support of Nuovo Imaie, Digital Records and the labels Alabianca, Bixio, Cam Sugar, Curci, Emergency, Flipper, FM Records.

**26/10** Teatro Olimpico **7 pm** Piazza G. da Fabriano, 17

## **The Fest's red carpet thrills to the sound design of Federico Sacchi Music teller**

The 1,300 sqm of the walkway leading to the Cavea of the Auditorium will turn into one of the world's largest red carpets. In 2024, as last year, the sound design for the red carpet comes courtesy of Music teller Federico Sacchi, author, director and star of the original performance *L'esperienza d'ascolto*: live documentaries that blend storytelling, music, theater, video, and new technologies. Each day Fest guests and audiences will be enveloped in the compositions chosen by Sacchi, hours and hours of music tailored to the films and the careers of the talent walking the red carpet, in a magnificent musical journey that will make the festival experience all the more immersive and enthralling. The playlists will be available for the duration of the Film Fest on the Spotify profile Federico Sacchi Music teller.