



**ROME  
FILM FEST**

OCTOBER 16/27 2024

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**16|27 October 2024**

**THE PROGRAM FOR FRIDAY 25 OCTOBER**

**The Film Fest presents the first two episodes of *My Brilliant Friend – The Story of the Lost Child* by Laura Bisपुरi, the fourth season of the TV series based on the novels by Elena Ferrante**

**The Progressive Cinema competition wraps up with a screening of *Bound in Heaven* by Huo Xin, a moving and provocative work, which addresses themes that are rarely explored in Chinese cinema**

**In the Grand Public section, there will be a screening of *Hey Joe*, the new film by Claudio Giovannesi, starring James Franco and Francesco Di Napoli**

**Fifty years after its release, the Storia nel Cinema section features a screening of *Watch Out, We're Mad!* in the restored version by Infinity+**

**Animator Bruno Bozzetto is one of the guest speakers at the conference ““Viaggio nel mondo dell'animazione: autori, industria e prospettive” organized by SIAE and held at the Film Fest**

Tomorrow, October 25th, the 19th edition of the Rome Film Fest hosts the premiere of the first two episodes of *My Brilliant Friend – The Story of the Lost Child* by Laura Bisपुरi, season 4 of the TV series based on the novels by Elena Ferrante. The screening will be held in the Sala Sinopoli at the Auditorium Parco della Musica Ennio Morricone at 9:15 pm. The two leads, Lila (Irene Maiorino) and Elena (Alba Rohrwacher), have reached adulthood, burdened by the weight of their tumultuous existence with its terrible failures and its unexpected rebirths. Having achieved fame as a writer, Elena got married and had two daughters; however, now separated from her husband, she has returned to Naples, attracted by an old flame who reappears in her life. Lila, on the other hand, has remained anchored to her home city, immersed in the complex family bonds and the dark intrigue of the camorra, but she has been able to reinvent herself as an IT entrepreneur. Faced by the challenges of life, both women continue to discover new sides to their personalities.

At 6:30 pm in the Sala Sinopoli, there will be a screening of *Hey Joe*, directed by Claudio Giovannesi, who also co-wrote the film with Maurizio Braucci, with whom he had already worked on *Piranhas*. In the film, an American veteran, Dean Barry, who got involved with a young woman from Naples during the Second World War, returns to Italy in the early 1970s to meet his son in the same city. Dean would like to make it up to him for being out of his life for twenty-five years, but his son is a man now: he grew up with the mob, was adopted by a mob boss and smuggler, and has no interest at all in his American father. This solid melodrama with a strong social focus flows

smoothly, ever aware of the story's pathos and its evocative settings, and maintaining a perfect balance between its two main characters.

At 3:30 pm, the Teatro Studio Gianni Borgna hosts a screening of *Bound in Heaven*, the last competition title at the 2024 Rome Film Fest. The directorial debut of Huo Xin, a successful screenwriter for auteur films such as *Shower* (1999) and of box office hits such as *Kung Fu Hustle* (2004), is a profoundly moving and provocative work, which addresses themes that are rarely explored in Chinese cinema: domestic violence and the hardships faced by a terminally ill patient in the Chinese health care system. With her confident direction and her complex and sophisticated scriptwriting, Huo brings to the screen a powerful story of love and resilience.

There are two more screenings in the Teatro Studio Gianni Borgna on Friday.

The first, at 6 pm, is *Supereroi* by Stefano Chiantini, who has crafted a highly sensitive film of regret but not resignation. Alvaro and Jenny are father and daughter. She's a rising competitive swimmer, he's a truck driver and her biggest fan. But their relationship took a hit when Alvaro left Jenny's mother, which Jenny can't forgive him for. Things change when Alvaro becomes ill, and Jenny's the only one there to help him. Forced to reconnect, they rediscover their close bond, long repressed. By dint of sacrifices, they will both gain a new future.

Following at 8:30 pm, in *Ciao bambino* by Edgardo Pistone, his feature directorial debut, Pistone returns to black and white (after his multi-award-winning short, *Le mosche*) for a story that explores the period between adolescence and adulthood. The film is also one of the last films to be produced by the late Gaetano Di Vaio of Bronx Film, whose influence is to be found in this story that unites characters deeply rooted in a harsh reality with a look and a narrative style that are unafraid of competing with big international productions.

The Sala Petrassi hosts the screenings of three Fest titles tomorrow, Friday, October 25th.

The lineup kicks off at 4:30 pm with the documentary *Come se non ci fosse un domani* by Riccardo Cremona and Matteo Keffer, about the activists of The Last Generation, the non-violent movement committed in their effort to stop the climate disaster that is affecting us all. The film, produced by Ottavia Virzi and Paolo Virzi, who coordinate the work, tells the inside story and the experiences of this group of young people brimming with determination and joie de vivre.

Next up, at 7 pm, is *The Opera! – Arias for an Eclipse* by Davide Livermore and Paolo Gep Cucco. The two directors transpose 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.

Last up in the Sala Petrassi, at 9:30 pm, *Small Things Like These* by Tim Mielants is based on the novel of the same name by Claire Keegan, and brings a painful story of extraordinary intensity to the screen: the scandal of the infamous Magdalene Laundries, institutions run by the Catholic Church that exploited unwed pregnant women, then took away and sold their infants.

At 4 pm at the MAXXI, Fest audiences can catch *Archeologia dei TG*. When the evening news was in black and white and on film: thanks to the digitalization of the catalogue of news broadcasts from 1952 to 1985 on the national channel, RAI, that Teche Rai is undertaking, in collaboration with the Ministry for Culture and the Rome Film Fest, the 2024 Rome Film Fest can present a first taste of this huge and extraordinary corpus of images that tell the story of Italy, with a small selection of the 250,000 film reels rediscovered and conserved after over fifty years: clips of the RAI's evening news from the 1950s and '60s.

Next up at the MAXXI, at 6:30 pm, *Pietre e mattoni* is a documentary in which director Saeid Shahparnia turns his attention to the imposing and immortal beauty of urban architecture, in an

exploration of the relationship between his life and the history of two cities: Qazvin, in Iran, where he was born and raised, and Rome, where he has lived for fifteen years.

The last title at the MAXXI on Friday, at 9 pm, is *Ernest Cole: Lost and Found* by Raoul Peck. Winner of the L'OEil d'or Award for Best Documentary at the Cannes Film Festival, Ernest Cole: *Lost and Found* helps us to better understand the achievements of the renowned South African photographer Ernest Cole.

Two premieres will be held at the Teatro Olimpico on Friday. The first, at 6:30 pm, is *Franco Califano – Nun ve trattengo* by Francesca Romana Massaro and Francesco Antonio Mondini, is an intimate and vibrant portrait that explores the profound link between the artist Franco Califano, his music and the cities that inspired him.

The second, at 9 pm, is a screening of *Maestro, il calcio a colori di Tommaso Maestrelli* by Francesco Cordio and Alberto Manni. The directors bring to the screen the story of the revolutionary coach Tommaso Maestrelli, a pioneer of what is known as “total football” and a bold dreamer who challenged the domination of the great teams of the North, guiding the Lazio football club, then made up of unknown footballers, to the triumphal win of a historic championship.

The Casa del Cinema hosts three screenings in the Storia del Cinema section.

The first, at 4:30 pm, is the second episode of *Le mani sporche*, the first and only television show directed by Elio Petri, an adaptation in three episodes of the controversial 1948 play *Dirty Hands* by Jean-Paul Sartre that marked Marcello Mastroianni's debut in a television production.

At 6:15, as part of the tribute to Marcello Mastroianni on the one-hundredth anniversary of his birth, there will be a screening of *Everybody's Fine* by Giuseppe Tornatore. The Oscar®-winning director paints a picture of a sad, mediocre Italy turning inwards on itself, featuring a splendid turn by Mastroianni.

And at 9 pm, the last screening is *Watch Out, We're Mad!* directed by Marcello Fondato and starring Bud Spencer and Terence Hill, to the unforgettable score by Oliver Onions. Fifty years after the film's release, Fest audiences can catch the restored version, courtesy of Infinity+, and carried out at the lab Cinema Communications in Rome.

“Viaggio nel mondo dell'animazione: autori, industria e prospettive. Dalla gestione dei diritti ai trend artistici e produttivi in Italia” is the title of the conference that the Italian Society of Authors and Publishers is holding tomorrow, Friday, October 25th, at 11 am at the Casa del Cinema, as part of the Rome Film Fest. Opening the discussion, Andrea Marzulli, Audiovisual Director of SIAE, will speak about animation from the point of view of copyright issues. The second part of the event gives voice to writers and producers. Speakers on this panel include Valentina Mazzola (President, Asifa), Maria Carolina Terzi (President, Cartoon Italia), and Luca Milano (Director, Rai Kids), who will compare notes on progress achieved and yet to be achieved: goals met thanks in part to the contribution of public funds for the promotion of talent and the animation industry in Italy, but also crucial issues to be resolved. The closing speaker at the conference will be Bruno Bozzetto, cartoonist, animator, director, writer, and producer, one of Italy's key figures in animation today.

And tomorrow, Friday, October 25th, the Film Fest program at the prisons of Lazio wraps up with two screenings. The last to be held at Rebibbia's New Ward, in the new Meta Theater, is the documentary *Eroici! 100 anni di passione e racconti di sport* by Giuseppe Marco Albano, with the director and the screenwriter Shadi Cioffi in attendance. At the juvenile detention facility in Casal del Marmo, there will be a screening of *U.S. Palmese* by Marco and Antonio Mainetti.

Repeat screenings on Friday get underway at the MAXXI at 2 pm, with *Il complotto di Tirana* by Manfredi Lucibello, while the Teatro Olimpico features two: *Il re di Napoli – Storia e leggenda di*

*Mario Merola* by Massimo Ferrari (at 12 noon) and *Mani nude* by Mauro Mancini (at 3:30 pm).

The program of repeat screenings at the Cinema Giulio Cesare kick off in Sala 1 with three films: *Lirica ucraina* by Francesca Mannocchi, at 3:30 pm; *Cattivi maestri* by Roberto Orazi, at 5:30 pm; and *Architecton* by Viktor Kossakovskij, at 9:30 pm. In Sala 3, the two screenings are *Bound in Heaven* by Huo Xin (at 4:30 pm) and *Anora* by Sean Baker (at 7 pm). The only screening in Sala 7 on Friday is *Ago* by Giangiacomo De Stefano, at 4:30 pm.

The Film Fest program unfolds at the Nuovo Cinema Aquila as well, with *I nipoti dei fiori* by Aureliano Amadei, at 9 pm, while the Cinema Andromeda (at 7 pm) holds a screening of *Libre* by Mélanie Laurent.